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Sustainability in **History 350 Global Economic History (Flow House, Vienna)**

**Below is an explanation of the readings related to sustainability highlighted in yellow on the course syllabus.**

In the course, we are exploring sustainability in numerous ways. First, in Week Three we examined how medieval Austrian peasants developed sustainable practices of agriculture, for example by raising carp in ponds next to their fields and using the muck from the ponds as fertilizer. As part of an excursion, we visited the area where farmers conducted such practices (as described in an assigned reading). While there, we also visited the library at a prominent abbey that holds texts used and annotated by medieval landowners and farmers.

As part of a combined excursion with Flow House's Economics course in Week Four, students visited an organic farm and winery, learning about the farm's sustainable practices and the opportunities it creates for local farmers.

In Week Six, the class will spend two days at the Milan World Expo, which embraces sustainability as one of its key themes. During their time at the expo, the students will consider how a certain commodity (maize, legumes, rice) is presented at the expo and how sustainable practices are emphasized.

In Week Seven, the course will also explore how the inability to maintain sustainable agricultural practices, along with population pressures, shaped economic change in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

In Week Nine, we will examine the history of petroleum production and consumption, and will visit the headquarters of OPEC, which is based in Vienna.

Continuing on the energy theme, in Week Twelve we will examine the forces that led to greater petroleum consumption over coal, and the resulting environmental impacts. During the same week, we will consider the economy of second-hand clothing consumption in parts of Africa, considering how such practices may be a model for future, more sustainable consumption patterns.

In the concluding week, we will examine the idea of the Anthropocene as a possible new epoch in world history.