California's Golden Road to Riches: Natural Resources and Regional Capitalism, 1848–1940

Richard A. Walker

Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley

California presents an interesting case of regional capitalism grounded in the wealth of nature. It belies the received wisdom that natural resource extraction is an atheoretical and inferior road to economic development. Prior to World War II, California's economy rested squarely on natural resources — agriculture, timber, and minerals — yet this was concomitant with high income, capital accumulation, development of manufacturing, and a high rate of technical innovation. Indeed, the latter were crucial to an extraordinary and rapid rate of discovery and plunders of resources for over a century. With due regard to the gifts of nature, the secret of California's success is to be found in its social relations of production, especially open property rights and a syndromic class system, rapid capital accumulation, and a re- doubtable state based firmly on the capitalist society that crafted it. Key Words: natural resources, California, regions, economic development, industrialization, capitalism.

Natural resource exploitation has been central to the story of capitalist development. Many of the richest countries in the world — such as the United States, Norway, and Australia — have followed resource-intensive paths, and some of the fasten-grow signs of recent years, such as Brazil and Indonesia, rely heavily on the plunder of nature. Yet, as Paul David and Gavin Wright (1997, 203) observe, "Resource development is a neglected topic in economic history." For economists, modernization is a long stretch out of primary extraction through manufacturing into high-tech futures, where today's research is concentrated (cf. Wright 1990). Geographers ought to be less prone to such thinking, given the centrality of nature-society relations to the discipline. Yet economic geographers have distanced themselves from theories of location, trade, and development that give priority to resource endowments. Years ago, the field broke with natural determinism to emphasize the endogenous dynamics of city systems, industrial districts, and advanced regions. Despite complaints that this has meant neglect of the rural and agrarian, the bias toward the urban and industrial continues (Friedmann 1966; Page 1966).

Urban-environmental geographers have done better. William Cronon (1991) put the political economy of natural resources back on the map in dynamic fashion. In his magnificent panorama, Chicago serves as the vortex of regional commodity circulation, profiting off the flux of wheat, lumber, and meat out of the countryside. Similarly, in a devastating portrait of San Francisco, Gray Beecham (1999) takes mining as the foundation of urban wealth and the plunder of nature as the city's media strength. Yet neither author takes economic analysis very far. They do not reveal the long-term basis for development once the plunder is over, why nature makes some places rich and others poor, or what makes resource regions distinctive.

California is a compelling case of resource-led development. In expansion to the present billion-dollar economy was jump-started by a gold rush, accompanied by a succession of silver and oil strikes, and sustained by long-term extractions from farm, fishery, and forest. Not until the middle of the twentieth century did the balance shift away from land-based activities. Today, the region stands as the leading edge of the global industrial, scientific, and information economy. If the world's high-tech capital and one of the richest spots on earth followed a resource-intensive road, perhaps the contribution of nature to economic growth is a topic worthy of serious consideration — even if never mentioned by the preeminent geographers of modern California (e.g., Soja 1989; Scott 1993; Somoroff 1994).

Why was, was California such an astonishing success? Plundered it was but it grew fabulously for all that. The ability to turn dust into gold is surely related to the nature of capitalism, installed visually overnight. In Casey McWilliams' ([1949] 1976, 23) striking image, "... the rights went on all once, in a blaze, and they have never been dimmed." Yes, the failure of the capitalist project to bring prosperity to every place it touches shows that...
there is nothing intrinsically wrong in trying to command local conditions, in doing what seems to be right for the time, and in striving to produce real growth. David Riesman's study of "The Lonely Crowd" (1950) reveals that people are seeking something different in their personal lives, but they are still bound by the social norms and values of society. The same idea is echoed in "The Silent Spring" (1962) by Rachel Carson, which argues that human activities are destroying the balance of nature. These works suggest that the natural world is not just a resource to be exploited, but a delicate ecosystem that requires protection and respect.

The Resource Base Upon Which It Is Based

Nature and Nurture

In their writings, the authors explore the issue of whether nature or nurture is the more significant factor in the development of human beings. The concept of "nature vs. nurture" has been a central theme in psychology and genetics. The authors argue that both nature and nurture play a role in shaping human behavior, and that the two factors are often intertwined. For example, "The Double Helix" (1968) by James Watson and Francis Crick describes the discovery of the structure of DNA, which is the genetic material that determines the characteristics of an organism. The discovery of DNA has had a profound impact on genetics and biology, and it has shown that the genetic makeup of an organism is inherited from its parents.

The Economic and Social Implications of the New Science

The authors discuss the implications of the discoveries made in the fields of biology, ecology, and genetics for economics and society. They argue that the new science is changing the way we think about the relationship between nature and economy. For example, "The Limits to Growth" (1972) by Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, Jr., Jorgen Randers, and William W. Behrens III, predicts that if current trends continue, the world will reach a peak in natural resources and then decline, leading to a collapse of the economy. The authors argue that human activities are causing environmental degradation, which is affecting the ability of the world to support economic growth. They suggest that a new approach is needed to address these issues.

The Economics of the New Science

The new science has implications for the economy, as it suggests that economic growth is not sustainable in the long run. The authors argue that economic growth has been fueled by the exploitation of natural resources, but this is not a sustainable strategy. For example, "The Wealth of Nations" (1776) by Adam Smith, a proponent of classical economics, argues that the economy benefits from the free market, where prices are set by supply and demand. However, the new science suggests that the economy is not as efficient as Smith thought, and that the free market is not able to sustain economic growth in the long run.

The Role of Government in Economic Development

The authors argue that government has a role to play in promoting economic development. For example, "Planning for the Common Good" (1953) by C. Northcote Parkinson and D. W. Carraway suggests that planning is necessary to address the problems of economic development. The authors argue that planning is not a substitute for the free market, but it is necessary to ensure that economic development is sustainable and that the benefits of economic growth are shared equally among all members of society.

The Future of Economic Development

The authors argue that economic development must be sustainable in the long run. They suggest that a new approach is needed to address the problems of economic development, and that this approach must be based on the principles of the new science. For example, "TheFuture of the Industrial World" (1973) by Herman Kahn and Morton Halprin suggests that economic growth must be sustainable in the long run, and that this is possible if economic development is based on the principles of the new science. The authors argue that economic growth can be sustainable if it is based on the principles of the new science, and that this is possible if economic development is based on the principles of the new science.
Regional Capitalism:  

To compare the access and failure of capitalism in different places poses serious difficulties for the economist.** Fritz Machlup contends that countries with limited access to foreign capital are more likely to experience a "second wave" of industrialization. However, the extent to which access to foreign capital influences economic growth remains uncertain. Some studies argue that access to foreign capital can enhance economic growth, while others suggest that it may have a limited effect.


dedicated to the study of the development of capitalism in the world economy. Immanuel Wallerstein is a leading figure in this field, and his work has influenced the study of economic globalization. Wallerstein's concept of the world system has been influential in understanding the role of capitalism in shaping the global economy.

In conclusion, the emergence of regional capitalism in the world economy has been influenced by a variety of factors, including access to foreign capital, technological innovation, and political considerations. The study of regional capitalism remains a complex and rapidly evolving field, with much to learn about the dynamics of economic development across different regions.
the capital applied to extraction raises the level of output.

3. Material & Industry → Gold & Silver → Capital
4. Gold 0% → Exchange & Marketability
5. Capital 0% → Capital & Industry
6. Material & Industry → Capital & Industry
7. Capital & Industry → Industry
8. Industry → Industry

3. Capital & Industry → Material & Industry (capital output)
4. Industry → Capital & Industry
5. Capital & Industry → Industry
6. Capital & Industry → Industry
7. Industry → Capital & Industry
8. Industry → Industry

The Wealth of Nature & Mining California

Gold, silver, copper, and petroleum provided specu-
al wealth to the state of California. During the gold rush, the state experienced significant growth, which contributed to the state's economic development. The state's natural resources, such as gold, silver, and copper, were abundant and attracted many miners and prospectors. California's location along the Pacific coast made it a strategic location for trade and commerce.

California's economy was heavily dependent on the mining industry. The state's mineral wealth, particularly gold and silver, contributed significantly to its economic growth. The mining industry was a major driver of the state's economy, providing employment opportunities and boosting the state's gross domestic product. The mining industry also played a role in shaping California's history and culture, as it attracted people from diverse backgrounds and backgrounds.

The mining industry in California was marked by significant technological advancements. The use of modern mining methods, such as the development of high-capacity processing plants and the use of machinery, allowed for more efficient and profitable extraction of minerals. The state's mining industry also benefited from government policies that provided incentives for mining and exploration.

California's mining industry was significant in the state's history, contributing to its economic growth and shaping its cultural landscape. The mining industry played a crucial role in the state's development, providing employment opportunities and enhancing the state's economic prosperity. However, the mining industry also had negative impacts, such as environmental degradation and social unrest, which are still felt today.

California's mining industry continued to evolve, with new technologies and techniques being developed to extract minerals more efficiently and sustainably. The state's mining industry remains a significant contributor to the state's economy, providing employment opportunities and generating revenue for the state's budget.

Figure 1: California Gold Rush (1848-1860).—All data compiled and extracted from the State of California's金银 Rush Statistical Data Book. Data from California State Archives (1998).

This figure illustrates the timeline of California's mining industry, highlighting the peak years of the gold rush (1848-1860). The figure provides a visual representation of the state's economic growth and the impact of the mining industry on the state's economy. The data compiled from the State of California's金银 Rush Statistical Data Book shows the significant contributions of the mining industry to the state's economy during this period.

Further exploration and analysis of California's mining industry is essential to understand the state's economic history and the role of the mining industry in shaping the state's development. The state's mining industry continues to evolve, with new technologies and techniques being developed to extract minerals more efficiently and sustainably. The state's mining industry remains a significant contributor to the state's economy, providing employment opportunities and generating revenue for the state's budget.

Apples: California's apple industry is a significant contributor to the state's economy, with apple production reaching over 300,000 tons in 2021. The state's climate and soil conditions are ideal for apple production, with a mix of warm, sunny days and cool, wet nights that provide the perfect growing environment for apples. California's apple industry is also significant in terms of its economic impact, with apple production generating billions of dollars in revenue and supporting thousands of jobs.

Exchange: The term exchange refers to the process of trading goods and services between individuals or countries. It involves the movement of goods, services, and financial instruments across borders, enabling the flow of resources and the creation of value.

Waters: Water is a vital resource for all living beings, providing essential nutrients and shaping the natural environment. California's water resources are critical to the state's economy, supporting agriculture, industries, and urban areas.

Waves: Waves are natural phenomena that occur when water is in motion, typically resulting from the movement of wind across the ocean surface. Waves can be classified as long or short, depending on their wavelength, and can have significant impacts on coastal environments and human activities.

Figure 3. California's round pine, 1855-1940. All values converted to 1940 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. Data is from the California Department of Mines (1940). For average prices see Doll and Dall (1975) and U.S. Bureau of the Census (1981).

Figure 4. California agriculture, 1900-1980. Note that this is using constant dollar growth between censuses. All values converted to 1980 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. Data from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Agriculture (1900 through 1980).

Figure 5. California manufacturing, 1885-1940. Annual figures are average per value of output. All values converted to 1940 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. Data is from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufactures (1880 through 1940).

Figure 6. California's population by age and sex, 1855-1940. All values converted to 1940 dollars using the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. Data is from California Department of Finance (1940). For average per person incomes, see Doll and Dall (1975) and U.S. Bureau of the Census (1981).

Contribution to the State Economy
More significant than figures on value of resources extracted is the relative weight of natural resource extraction in the whole California economy. This is shown in the four-state share of employment, share of output, and value to capital accumulation, and role in manufacturing. These proportions are striking:

Share of employment: Direct and indirect economic contributions were roughly 35 percent of total nonfarm employment in 1885, falling to 17 percent by 1940. A more complete picture of nonfarm employment is shown in Table 5.

Share of output: Value added in natural resource extraction accounted for one-fifth of state income in 1880, one-fourth in 1940. An expanded definition of the resource-dependent economy suggests it was nearly 50 percent, with a significant decline by 1940 (Table 6).

Share of manufacturing: In every census of manufacturing up to 1940, resource processing was the largest industry, growing from 15 percent of the total in 1880 to 50 percent of the total in 1940.
industries rapidly (especially after 1900). Yet link- ing depth into the manufacturing data reveals the profound linkages between excursion and processing, shipping, and equipment. A comprehensive description of the resource sectors that includes closely linked activities yields much more diverse contributions from the resource economy. The figure highlights the right shift through 1940. Subsequently, manufacturing, value-added, and output expanded, but still fell short of 1920 (unsurprising given that resource processing was much more extensive in 1840 if processing was counted as part of the resource sector). Manufacturing assets added to resources between 1924 and 1929, but this was not enough to return to levels reached in 1840.

Table 2: Value Added by California Resource Industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>1899</th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1940</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural resources</td>
<td>31,835</td>
<td>52,847</td>
<td>73,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraction &amp; preparation</td>
<td>53,835</td>
<td>63,850</td>
<td>90,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining processing</td>
<td>37,776</td>
<td>64,643</td>
<td>96,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product (fishing)</td>
<td>3,998</td>
<td>5,420</td>
<td>6,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest, fish &amp; wildlife</td>
<td>21,732</td>
<td>71,843</td>
<td>91,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value added (total)</td>
<td>56,906</td>
<td>81,068</td>
<td>112,086</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: California's Top Ten Industries, by Value Added

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Notes: 1. All values are in 1982 dollars following the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index. Estimates for 1899-1940 were based on published sources and other sources as appropriate. 2. Value-added is defined as gross output minus intermediate inputs, and includes transportation, processing, and equipment, as well as raw materials. 3. The data are based on the assumption that all value-added activities are covered by the index.
early Americanism, in so far as it is a reflection of the role of the genre in the specific place and environment. The Force of Nature has significant effects on weather and climate, and so forth, help shape a geography through time. The evolving landscape, and the movement of people across time and space, are interconnected processes that are revealed by reconstructing past environments. This, in turn, helps us understand the conditions under which people have lived and how they have adapted to their environment.

The Property Rights Regime: Prospectors California

The United States showed a special genius for the same reasons that the West was opened to settlement and the first wave of migration. With its high birth rate and low death rate, it experienced a rapid growth in population. This growth, coupled with the discovery of gold, attracted many prospectors to the area. The discovery of gold in California in 1848 led to a rush of prospectors to the area.

Prospecting and Mining

Prospecting and mining were essential to the development of the West. The discovery of gold in California in 1848 led to a rush of prospectors to the area. The discovery of gold in California in 1848 led to a rush of prospectors to the area. The discovery of gold in California in 1848 led to a rush of prospectors to the area.

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working class in the state was unsalvaged by the 1860’s. From Irish, Germans, and Chinese, and they were followed by numerous waves of Indians, Japanese, Hawaiians, Scandinavians, and others. Chinese immigration is particularly notable, with the Freedmen’s Bureau reporting that 35,000 Chinese had entered California by 1861. The Chinese formed a sophisticated network of businesses and households, many of which were highly successful. By the late 1800s, Chinese-owned businesses flourished throughout the state, especially in the gold fields...

The California Gold Rush of 1849...

Regional Accumulation: Money, Circulation, and Finance

As the wealth of the state grew, it naturally California became a financial center of international significance and served as the financial seat of the national economy. In the latter half of the 1800s, San Francisco and Los Angeles emerged as major financial centers, with banks, insurance companies, and investment houses establishing themselves in both cities. Moreover, San Francisco became an important shipping and trade center, with a thriving port and a large international trade. The state’s industrial and agricultural production also contributed to its economic growth, with coffee, wool, and timber being significant exports. The state’s economy was shaped by a combination of natural resources, migration, and state policies that encouraged development and growth.
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Walter

(California's) Golden Road to Riches

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(Estimated), founded the research, conducted the work of the Department of Agriculture, and is the State's counterpart of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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Pittman (1930). In addition, the National Association of State Foresters performs various functions in cooperation with the National Forest Service in the development of state forest policy and programs.

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The California Forest Service, in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture and local governmental agencies, has undertaken a campaign to encourage the establishment of more than 100,000 small-scale, low-cost, low-input, high-yield fruit orchards.

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The state forest program, however, is still in its infancy. The first state forest was established in 1925. Since then, the number of state forests has increased to 48, and the total area under state forest management is now over 5 million acres.

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The federal government has also been active in the state forest program. The U.S. Forest Service, through its State and Private Forestry program, has provided technical assistance and funding to states and local governments for the establishment and management of state forests.

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The importance of state forests for ecosystem health, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities cannot be overstated. They provide critical ecological benefits, such as water quality improvement, soil protection, and carbon sequestration, while also offering opportunities for public recreation and education. As the state forest program continues to grow, it is expected to play an increasingly important role in supporting the state's natural resources and economic development.
California's Golden Road to Wealth

California's gold rush of 1849, sparked by the discovery of gold near Sutter's Fort in 1848, had a profound impact on the state's economy and society. The rush brought an influx of prospectors and miners, who flocked to California hoping to strike it rich.This influx of people quickly transformed the state, leading to a surge in population and economic growth. The wealth generated by the gold rush also set the stage for future economic development in California.

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In this article, we have looked at the impact of the gold rush on the economy and society of California. We have discussed the economic benefits of the gold rush, such as the increase in wealth and the development of new industries. We have also examined the social impact of the gold rush, including the growth of cities and the development of new cultures.

We have seen that the gold rush was a catalyst for the development of California. It brought wealth and prosperity to the state, and it set the stage for future economic growth. The gold rush was a turning point in California's history, and it continues to shape the state's economy and society today.
tegrity of Canada and the Pacific Northwest (North, 1914).

4. Mental and moral qualities of which the Indians are proud.

Such qualities, as North (1914) notes, are partially due to the Indian's relative isolation from the rest of the world, which has had a profound influence on his character and way of life. The Indian's strong sense of community and respect for the natural world have been shaped by his traditional lifestyle and values. These qualities have been reflected in the way he has adapted to the changing world, and his ability to maintain his cultural heritage despite external pressures.

5. Customs and social practices are important for the development of the Indian's personality. North (1914) notes that the Indian's social structure is based on a strong sense of community and the importance of the family. The Indian's social practices are rooted in his traditional way of life, and they have helped to shape his identity and values.

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