- **Economic history and long run quantification**
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The concept of National Income appearing in the late seventeenth century in England (Gregory King), is relevant for all societies where a significant proportion of production is made for the market and leads to the formation of prices. But quantitative, or serial, history has developed in France in very different directions, by paying attention only episodically to national income (or GDP or national product) and derived indicators: income per worker (productivity measure), per capita income (a measure of living standards), inequality indicators (such as the gap median / average income). Yet the task of the economic historian depends crucially on the availability of reasonably reliable information about the evolution of national income and its components. 1) With respect to recent history (XIX - XXI centuries), it involves building on the existing macro-economic data (including for any micro-economic analysis), assessing their uncertainty and, if necessary, examining the major differences between the series established by various historians. 2) With regard to the very long term (millennium), it involves recognizing the very fragile nature of estimates (such as the series of Maddison's GDP per capita in 1980 constant dollars going back to the first millennium) based on "heroic assumptions "(unverifiable). 3) Between these two extremes, it is necessary to focus more effort on the interim period (an eighteenth century widened, 1700-1820, regarded as a "pioneer frontier" of quantitative history), where the systematic correlation of economic data and anthropometric data (average size of conscripts) appears today to provide significant progress.