



LSE Space for Thought lecture series

Keeping Score: new approaches to the standard of living

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Keeping Score: New Approaches to the Standard of Living

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Keeping Score in Personal Health

- Temperature
- Blood Pressure
- Pulse
- White blood cell count
-and so forth



Social Performance of a Country

➤ Economics

- National income accounts: GDP

➤ Demography

- Life table: average length of life
- Morbidity: sickness or disability

➤ Anthropometric measures

- height, BMI

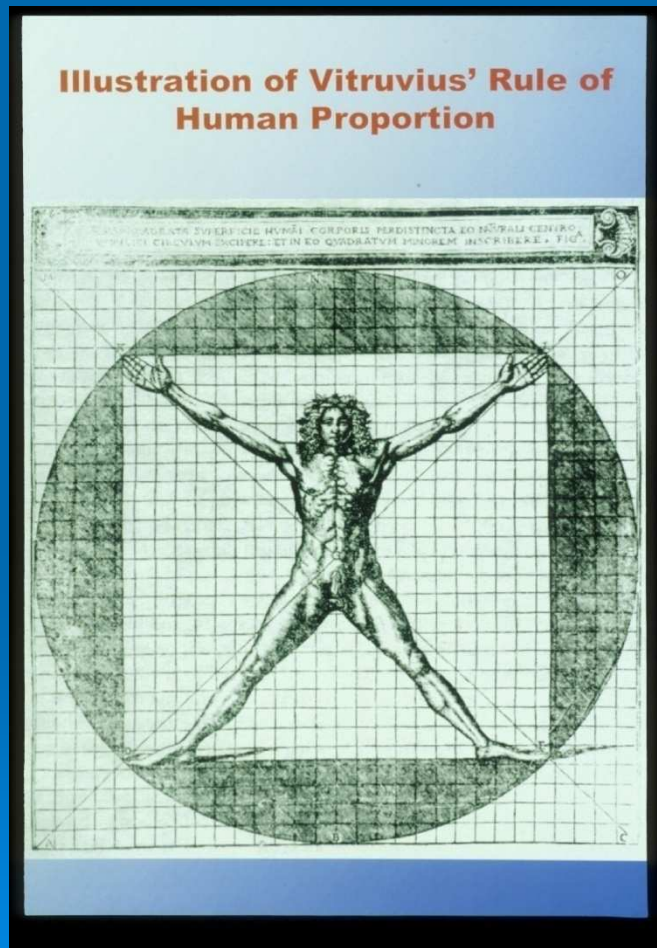
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- Origins in late 1600s
- Modern concepts in late 1800s
 - Market value of goods and services
- Implementation
 - Great Depression
 - World War II

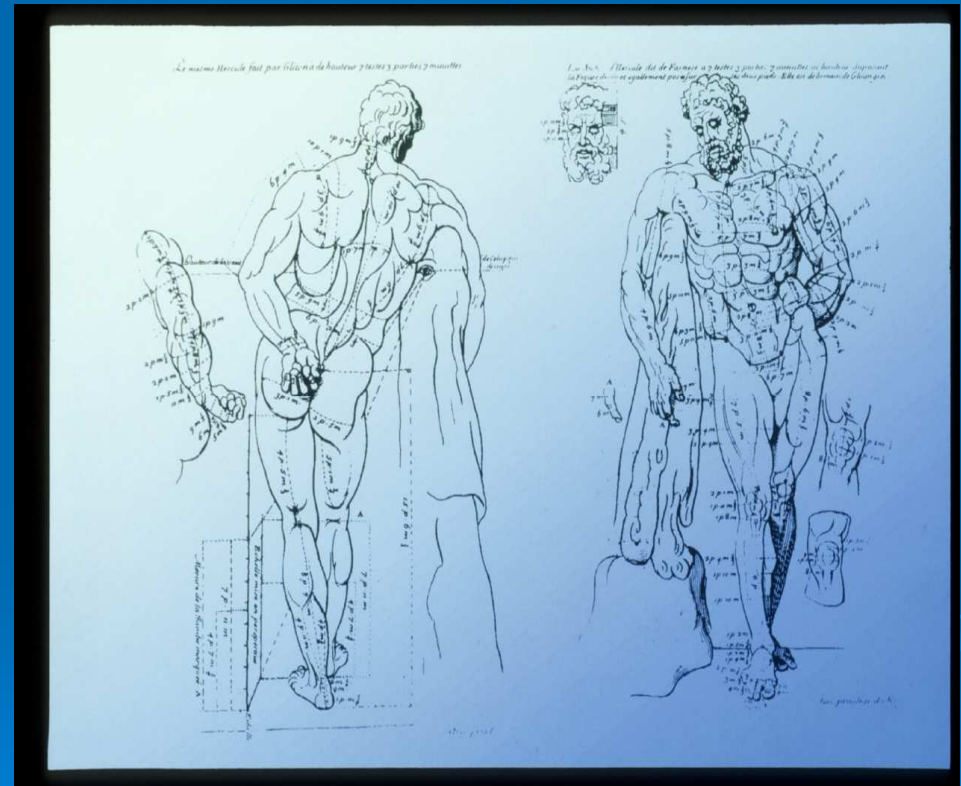
Demography

- System of vital registration
 - Origins in early 1800s
 - Number of deaths by age and sex
- National censuses
 - Number of people at risk by age and sex
- Life table: based on death rates
 - Average length of life
- Morbidity: illness or disability
 - Days lost from work or school

Auxology is the study of human growth, which had origins in art

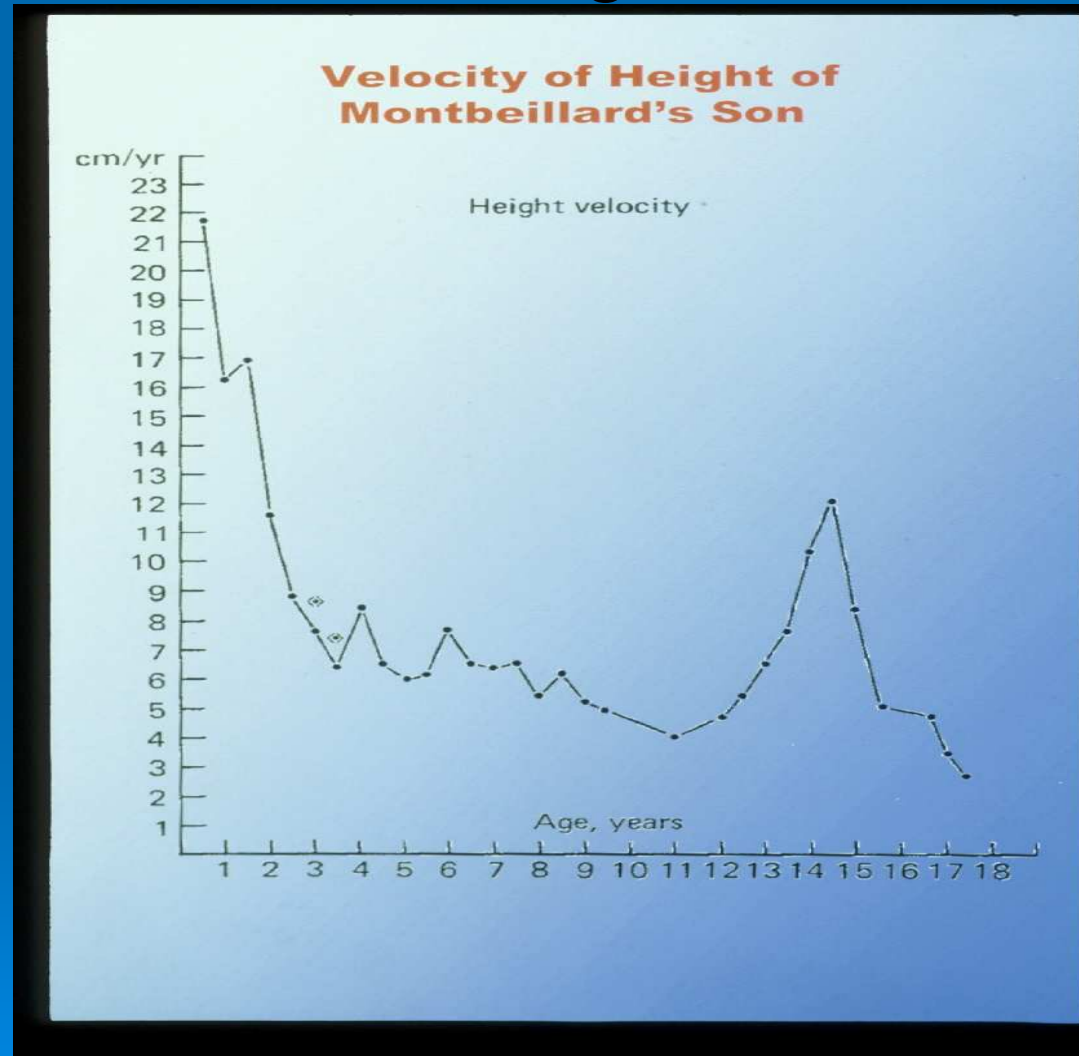


by Cesariano, 1521



Audran's measurements of the
stature of Hercules, 1683

Intellectual Curiosity and the Study of Human growth



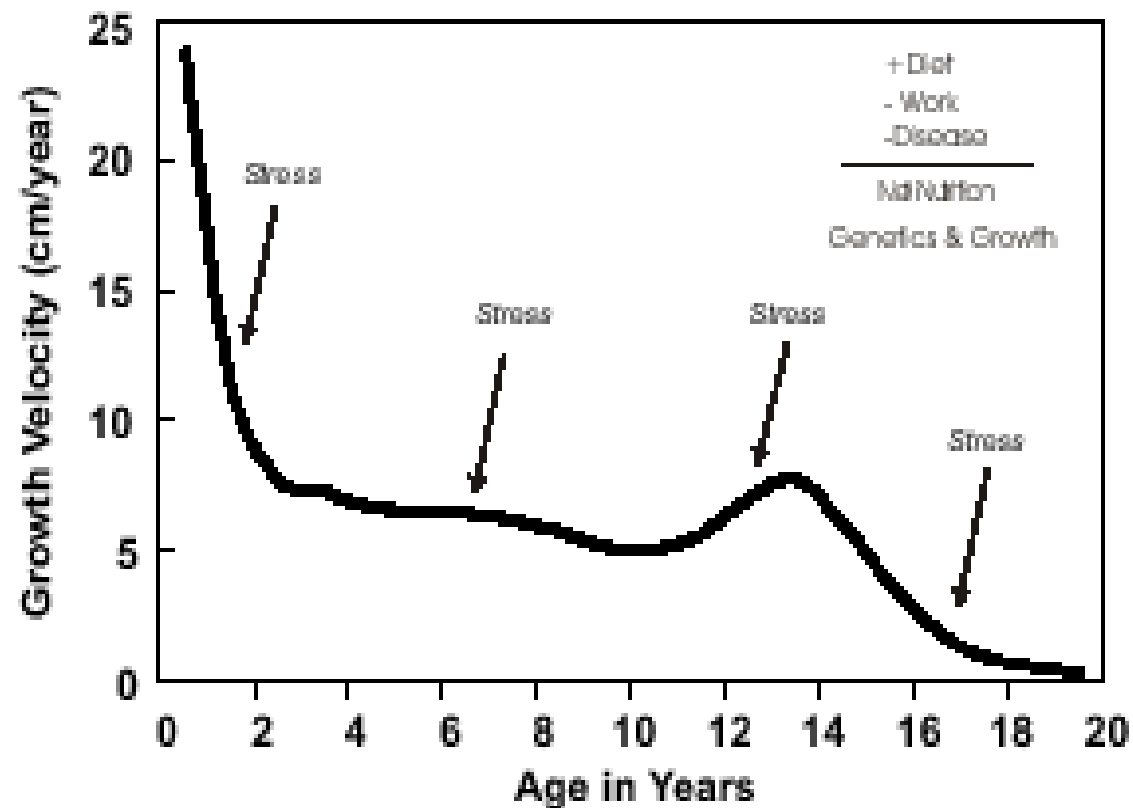
Measurements taken 1759 - 1777

Goethe's drawing:
the measurement of troops, 1779
(used for identification purposes)

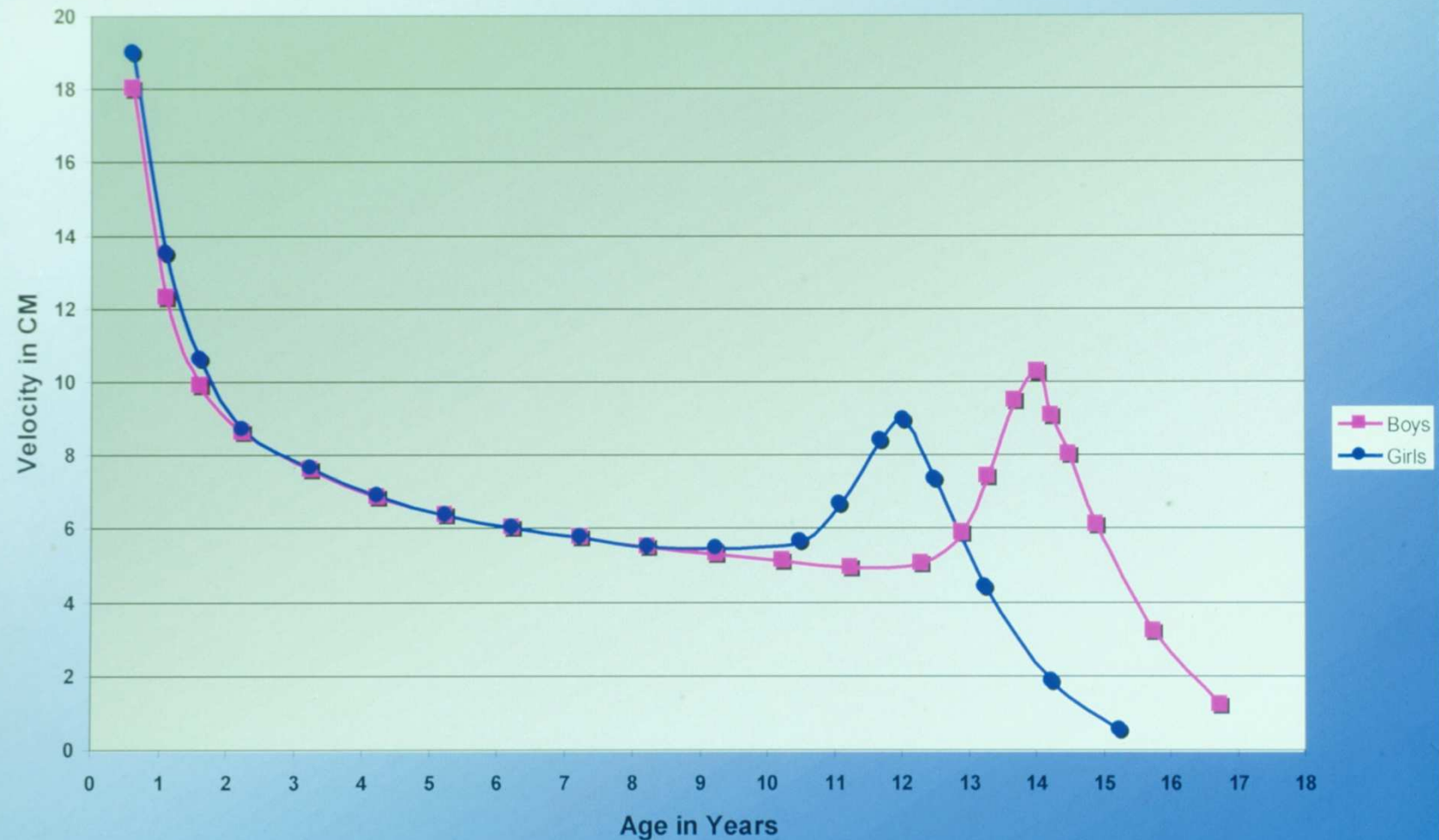


Drawn while in the service of Karl August, Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach

Growth Velocity under Good Conditions

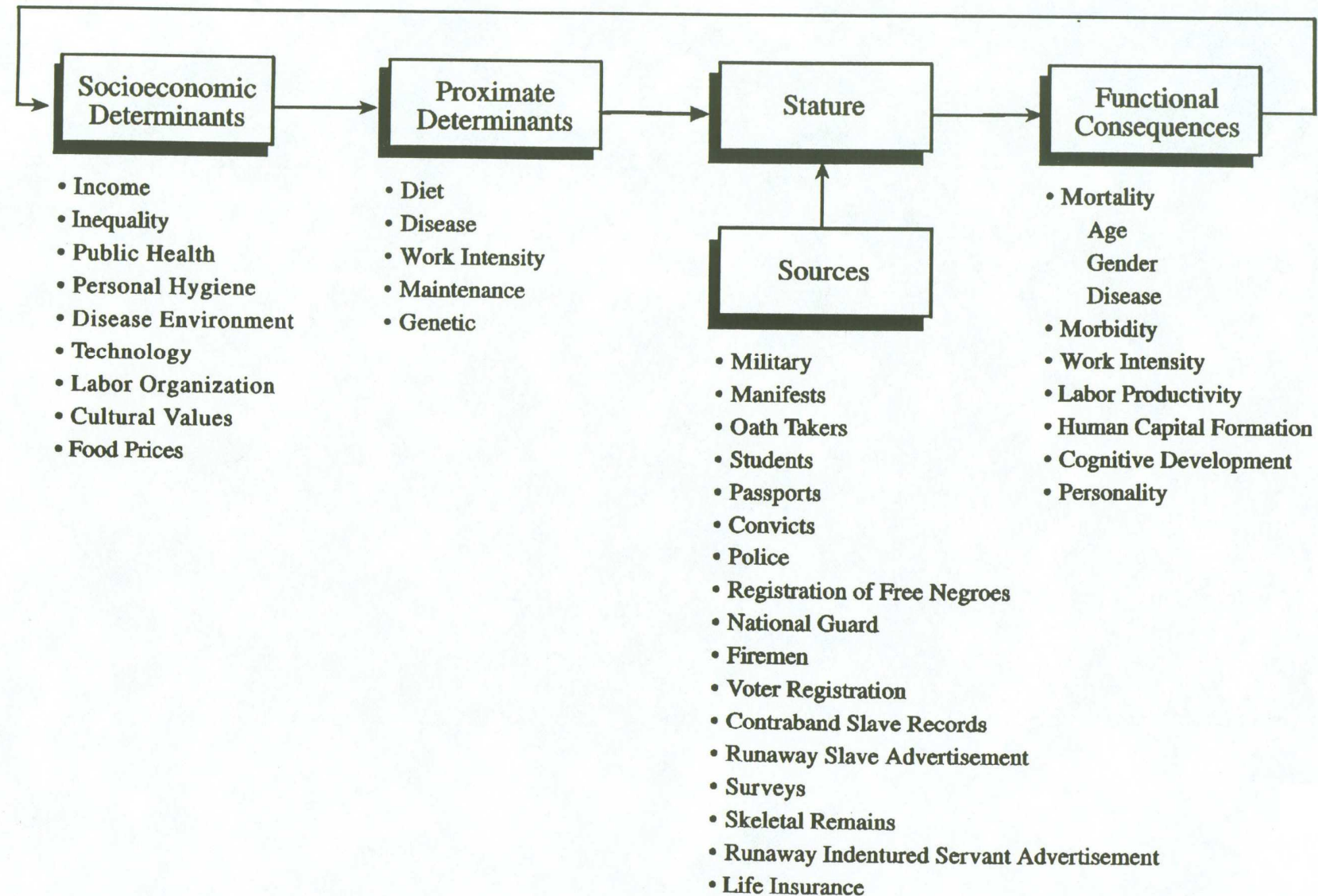


Velocity of Boys and Girls Under Good Conditions



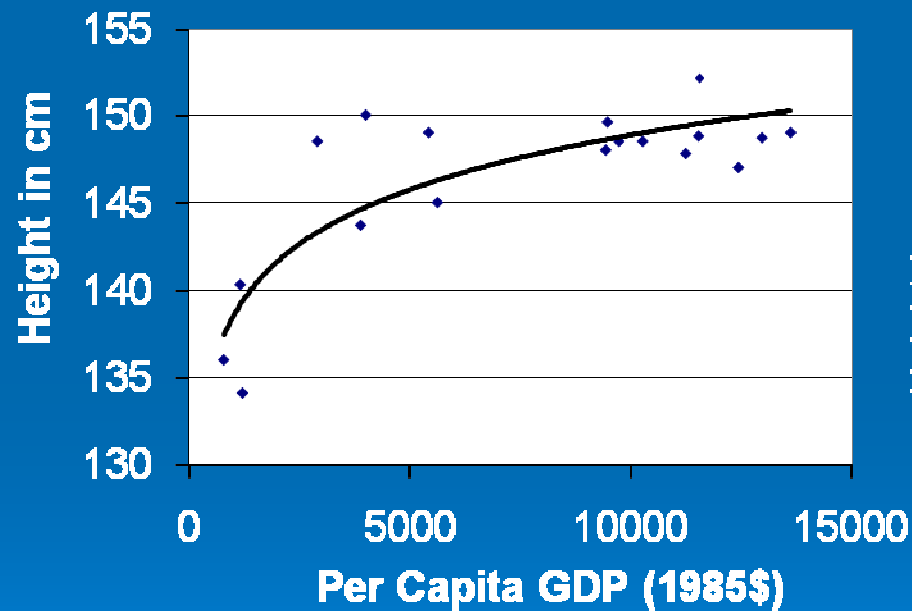
Net nutrition: diet, disease and work. Genetics

Determinants and Consequences of Height

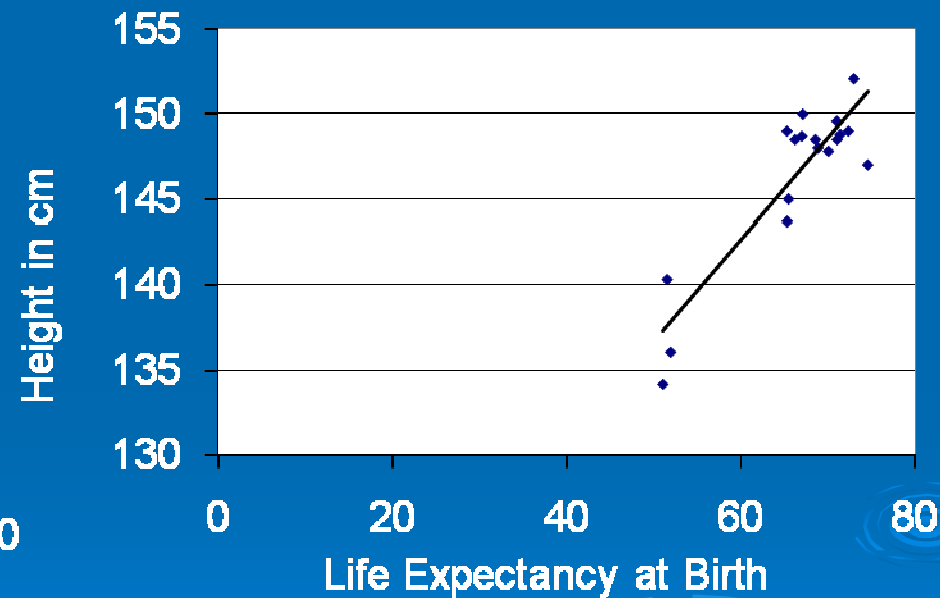


Comparisons with Traditional Measures

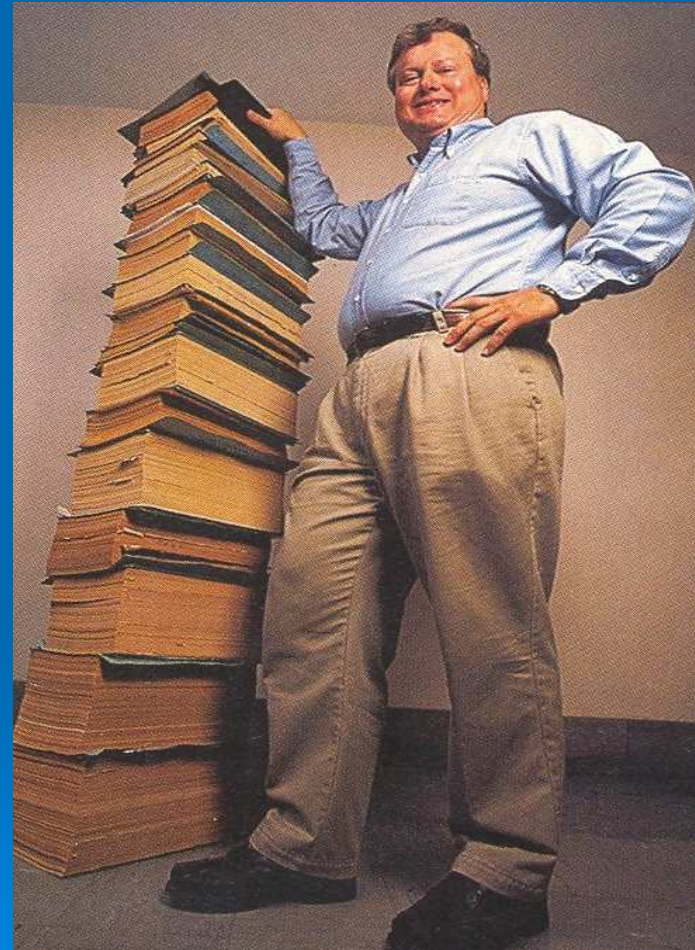
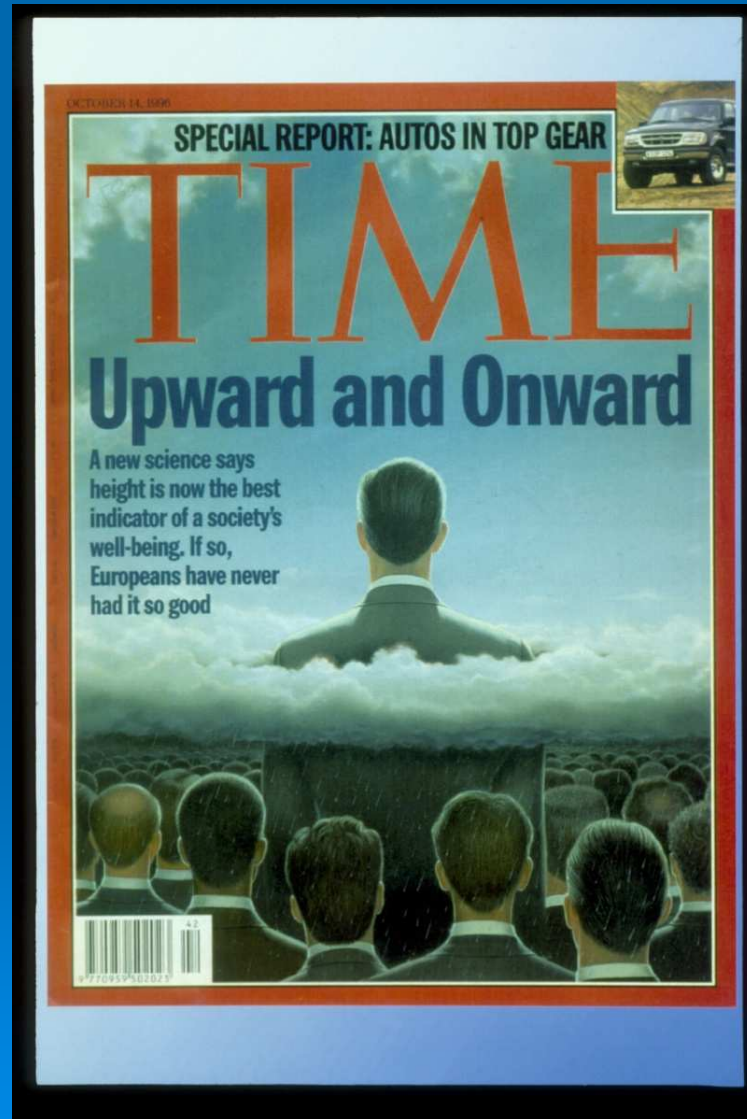
Per Capita GDP and Height at Age 12 (Boys)



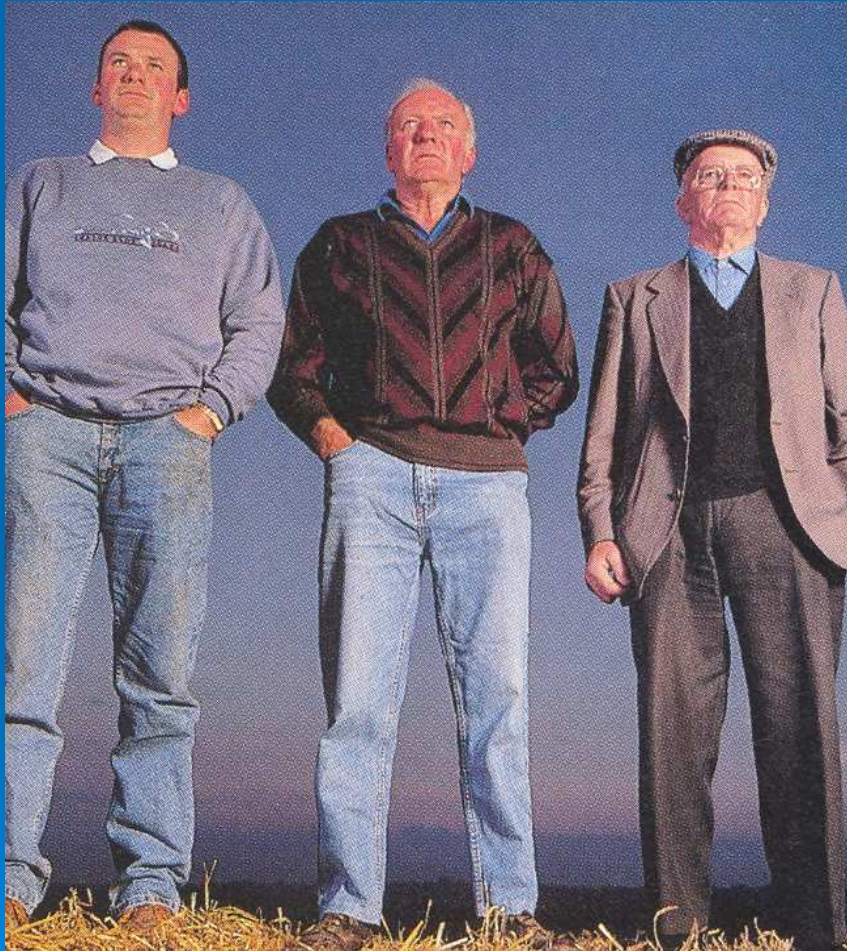
Life Expectancy at Birth and Height at Age 12 (Boys)



Media Attention to Heights



Heights by Generation in Ireland and Japan

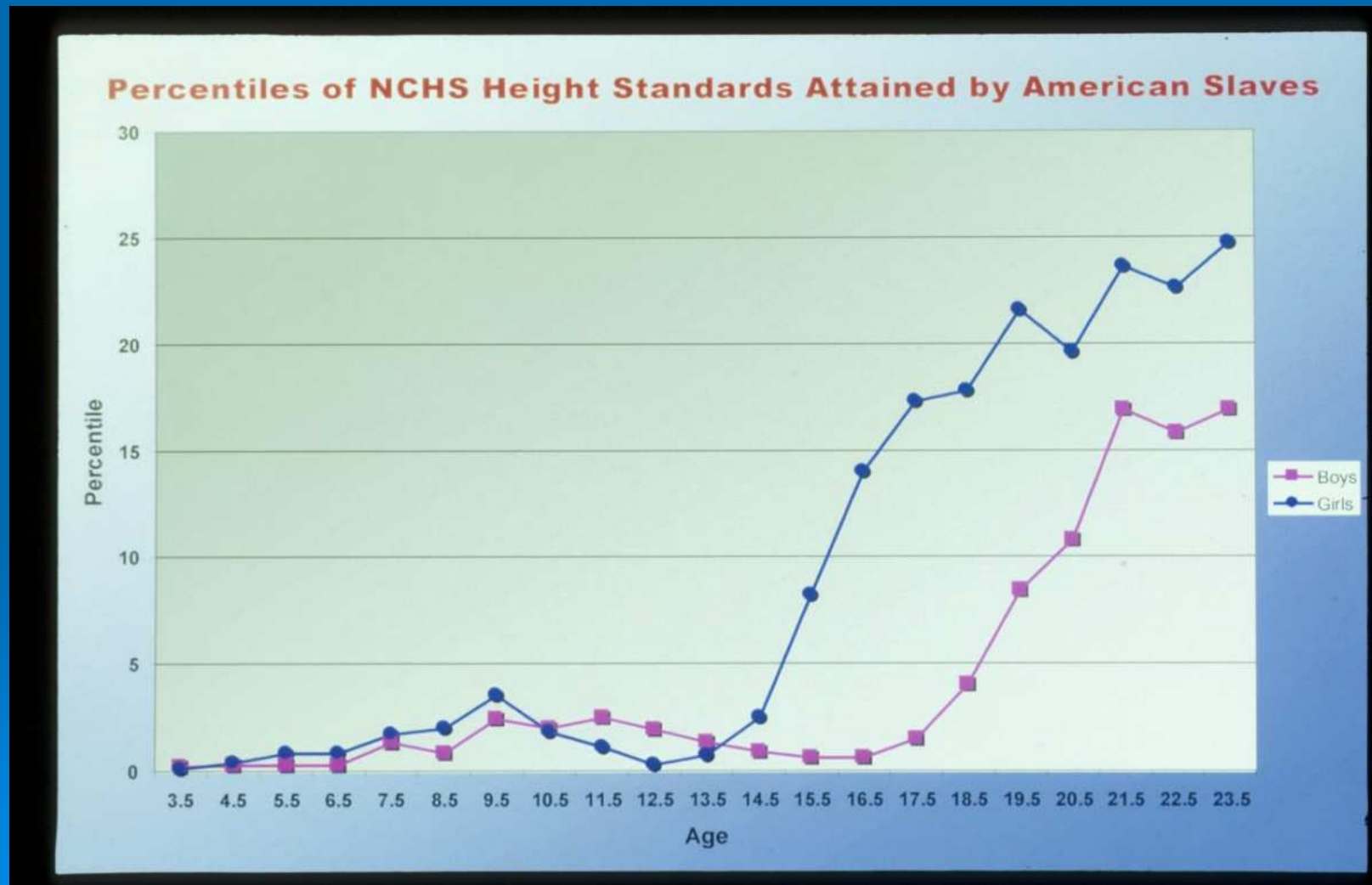


Advantages of Heights

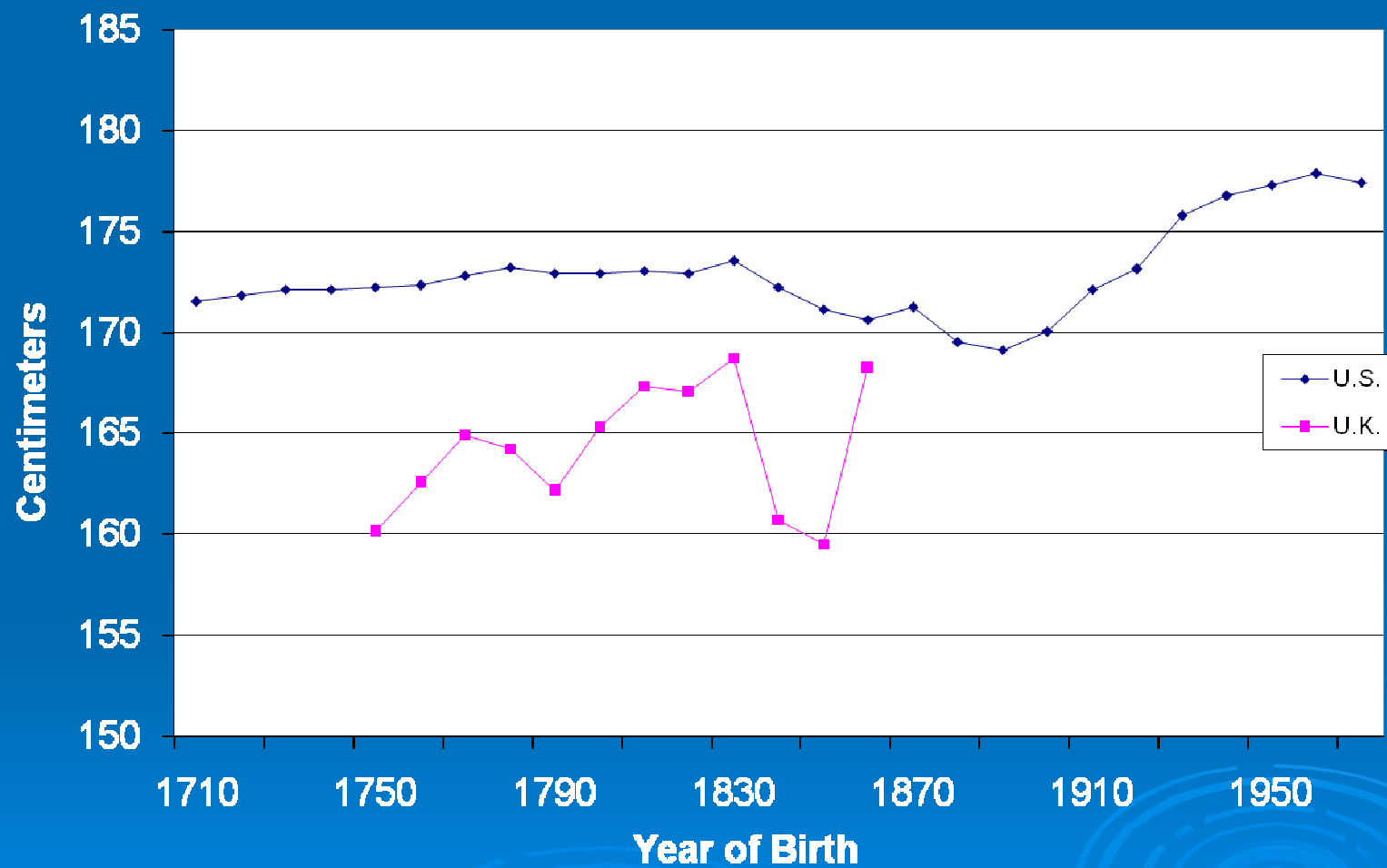
- Abundant data, back to the 1700s
 - Even earlier, from skeletons
- Easy to collect
- Comparable over time and space



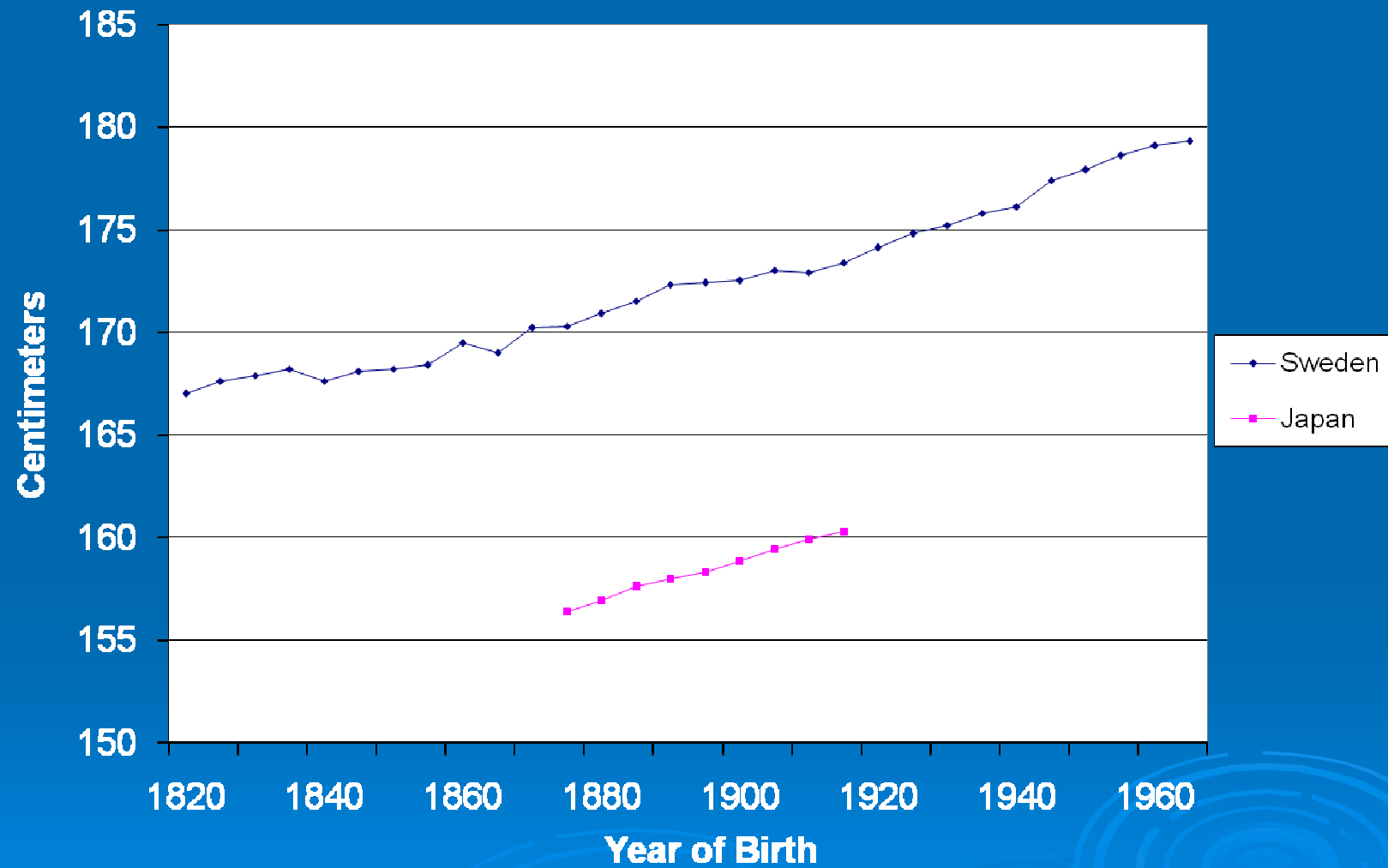
Applications in History: Study of American Slavery



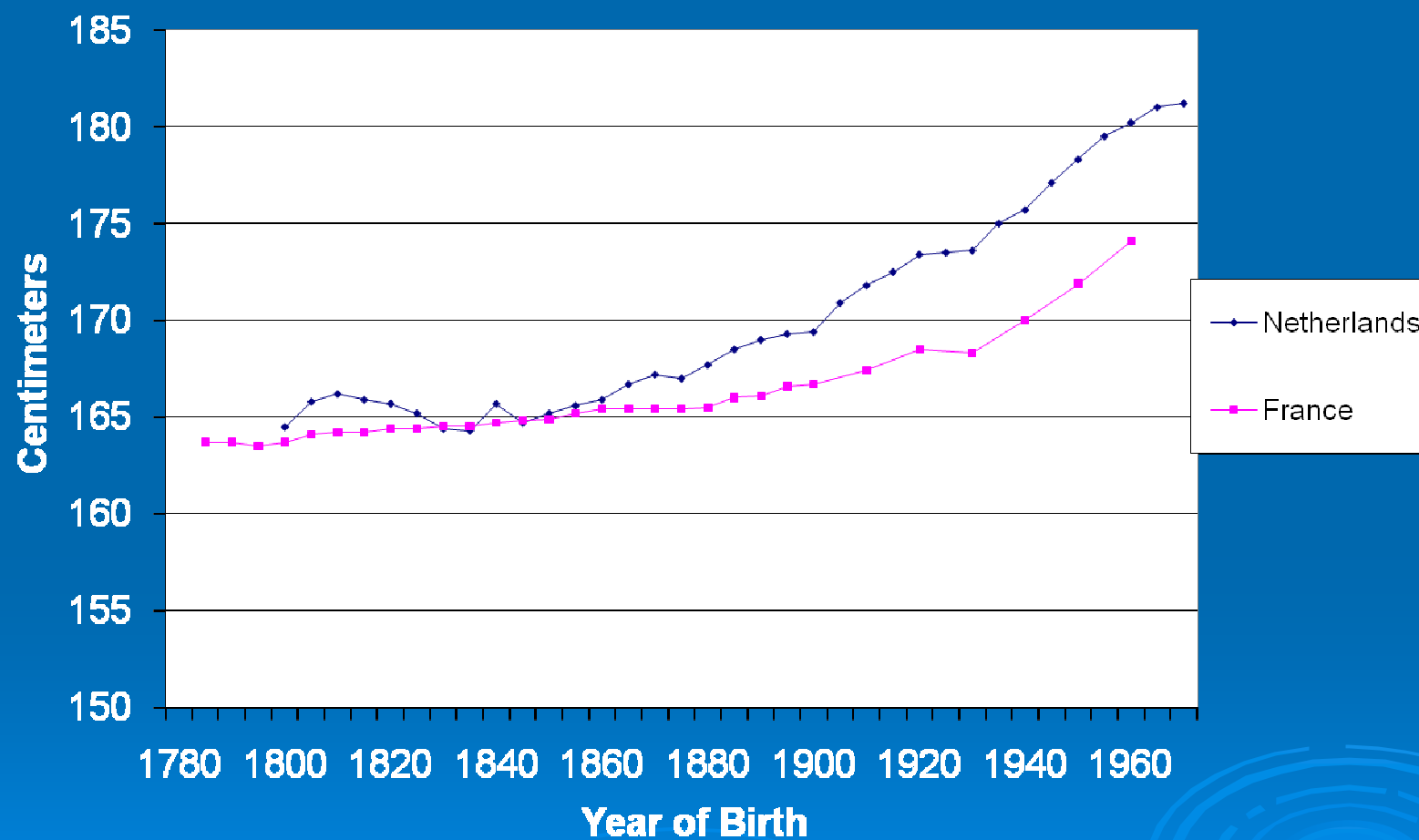
Average Height of Soldiers in Britain and of Native Born American Soldiers



Average Height of Conscripts in Sweden and in Japan

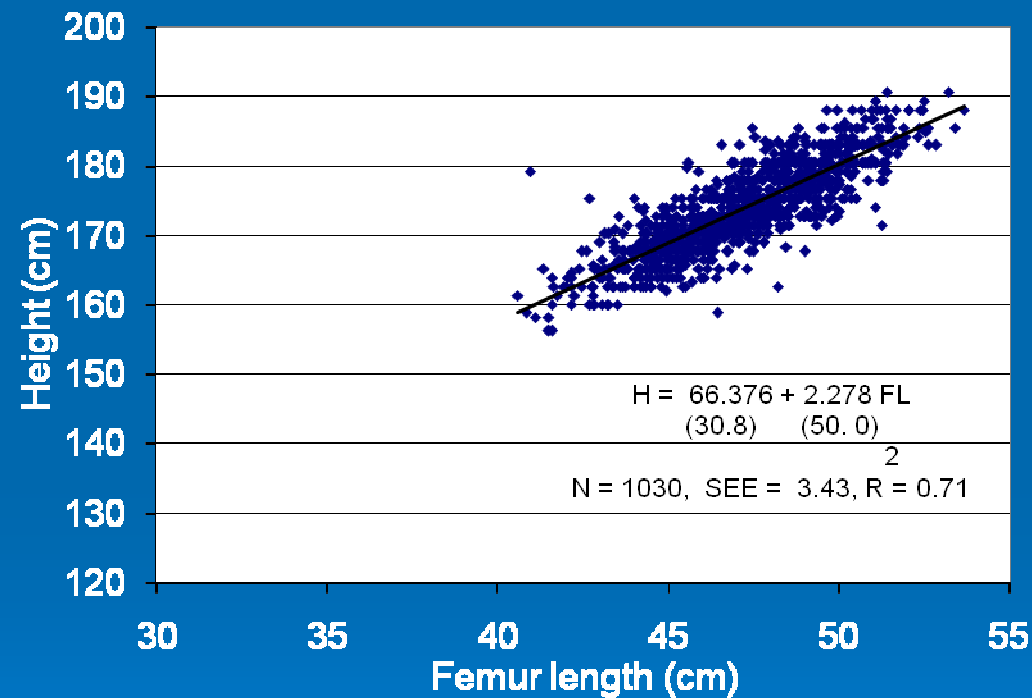


Median Height of Conscripts in the Netherlands and in France



Estimating Height from Femur Length

Height and Femur Length
of White Men

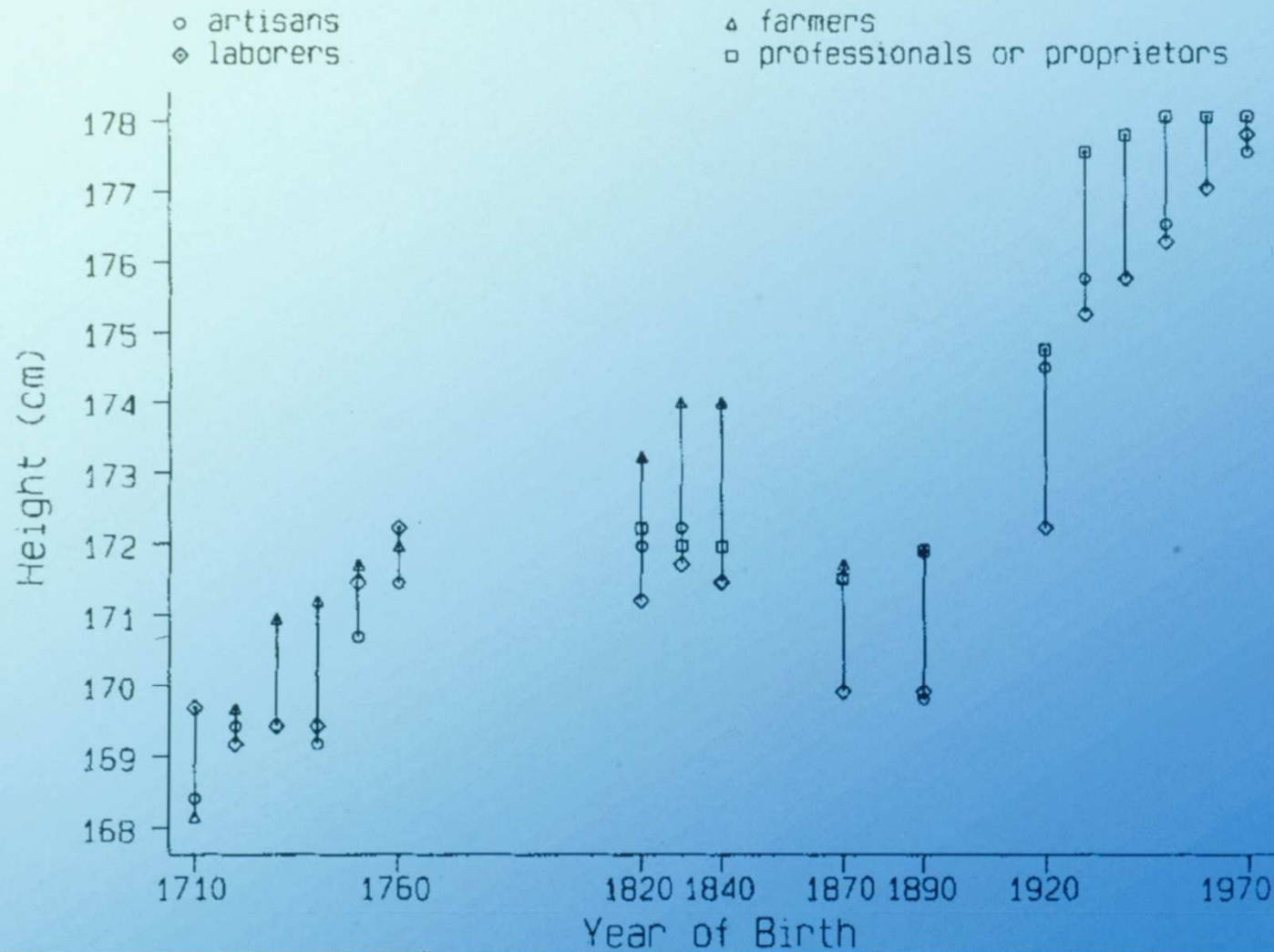


Source: WWII U.S. soldiers, Trotter and Gleser (1952) data.

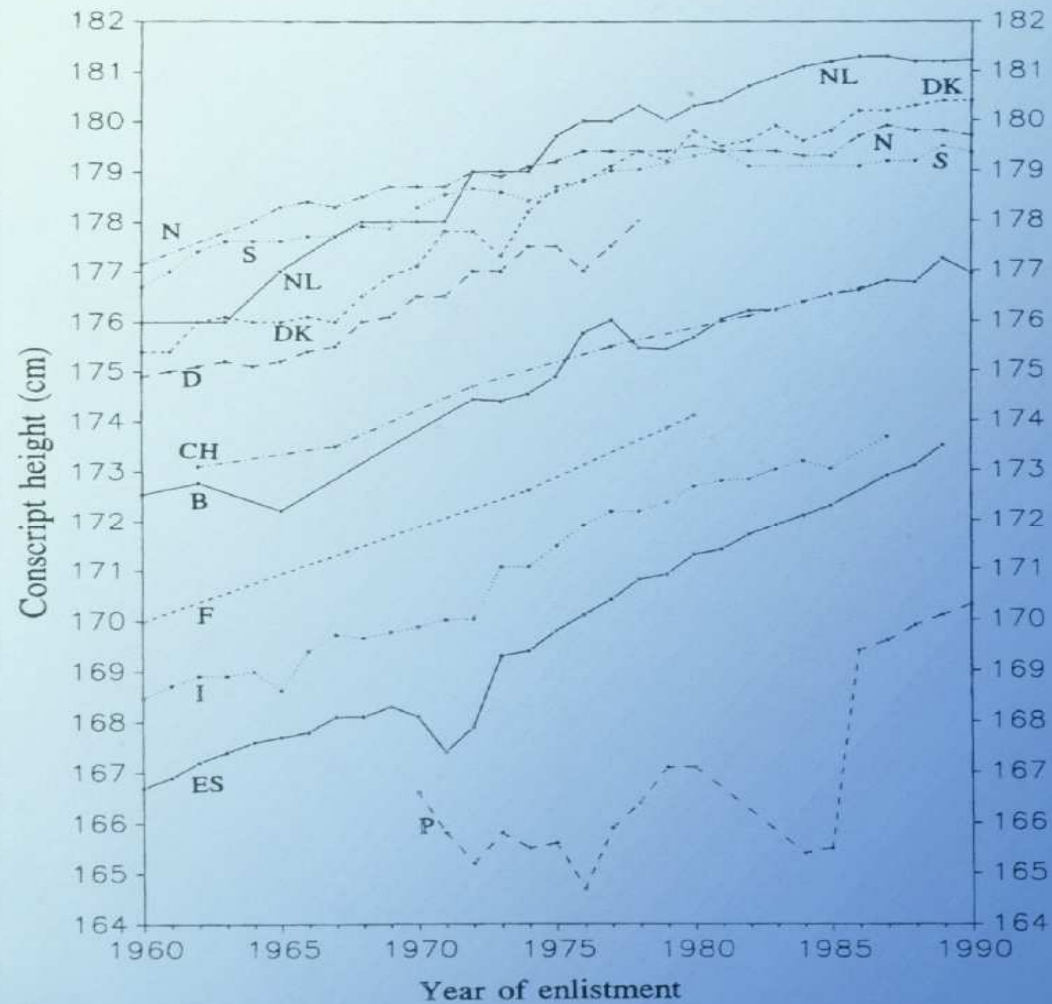
Adult Male Height Trends in Northern Europe

Era	Place	Average Heights (cm)
9-11 th C	N. Europe	173.4
12-14 th C	N. Europe	171.5
Middle Ages	N. Europe	171.4
17-18 th C	N. Europe	167.5
18 th C	N. Europe	166.2
17-19 th C	N. Europe	169.8
Late 19 th C	Sweden, Netherlands, Britain	169.7
1930	Sweden, Netherlands	172.5

Mean Height Differentials by Occupational Class and Birth Cohort



Mean Conscript Height in 11 European Countries



Height Trends in North and South Korea

