Critically evaluate the productivity performance of British Service sector before WWI?

1. Critically evaluate the productivity performance - British Service sector before WWI?

2. Explain Britain's relative economic decline and attributability to its large-scale methods and hierarchical management structures across different areas of the service sector?

Shipping: Britain rules the waves

British ruled the waves pre-1914. Broadberry (1994) notes that total factor productivity growth was 1% per annum between 1870 and 1914. Britain's navy dominated in shipping, which is related to a switch from sail to steam. However, sail was still used by British ships on some routes well past 1910. Economists believe that this technological transition occurred relatively rapidly. Britain's dominance in transport was thus much more securely based on its seafaring tradition than American leadership in railways.

Overseas banks built up resilient network based systems that capitalised on Britain's dominance in world trade, Empire overseas banks and 'Marshallian' district where networks of trust meant information aggregated in London transformed it into a nexus of finance.

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