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Walter J. Meyer* (meyer1@adelphi.edu). *The Long Birth of Modern Algebra for Undergraduates.*

Modern Algebra is usually thought to begin with Galois in the early 19th century – although it is reasonable to say it was not yet very modern back then. However one might quibble on that matter, plenty was known about groups and rings, and some things about fields as well, by the beginning of the 20th century, quite enough for undergraduate courses. But we have assembled data from the Cajori Two Project to show that undergraduate courses did not appear in appreciable numbers till after World War II. (Our data confirms a personal impression noted by G. D. Birkhoff.) This may seem like a long time, but another interpretation is possible. However you view it, it is natural to wonder what made these courses appear when they did. This paper is a data-based investigation, resting on work by historians of mathematical research, on the Cajori Two curriculum survey, and on consideration of the external factors impinging on mathematics in the 20th century. (Received September 21, 2015)