

6.6. Agricultural politics in Europe between World War II and 1957.
Part II

Panel organiser: Martiin, Carin, Agrarian History, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; Pan-Montojo, Juan, Departamento de Historia Contemporánea, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

The session is a two-part panel with contributors representing various parts of Europe. The overall aim is to discuss and compare agricultural politics in the early years just after World War II, and the two panels will bring international and national approaches together in a comparative perspective. Beginning in 1945, or even with the Hot Springs Conference in 1943, and ending in the late 1950s before the creation of CAP, the session will highlight times and processes that have often been overshadowed by wartime food and farming, and by the introduction of the CAP. More than a decade passed in between, however; a decade that saw new political climates, the emergence of the Cold War, and the implementation of new national agricultural programmes in many European countries. Early post-war agriculture can be studied from an international perspective that brings to the forefront the international context of the 1940s and 1950s; the reorganisation of food exchanges; bilateral agreements, and agrarian policies, including the development of the FAO and the programmes designed within the framework of the Marshall Plan. Post-war agriculture can also be examined from the national perspective by looking at national food production, structural policies, and market regulations. Agricultural policies cannot, however, be analysed without taking into account more general political factors: the new understanding of socio-political integration and the role of farmers/peasants after the experience of the 1930’s and the war; the electoral realities of various political forces and the reshaping of political coalitions in European democracies; the ruralist discourse of Southern-European authoritarian regimes; and the position of peasant parties in “popular democracies”. Among the many issues to discuss are: When and how were agricultural programmes worked out? What were their short and long-term purposes? What role did agricultural organisations and factors play in the political coalitions after the war? What was the impact of pre-war plans, war-related agricultural problems and the Marshall Plan at the international, national and local level? What were the technological trends and policies across Europe and how did the US influence these trends? How did agricultural productivity, food supply and nutritional standards change during the first decade after the war? Did newly introduced policies favour agriculture, or were industry and urbanization given priority at the expense of farming and rural societies?

Chair: Brassley, Paul, Centre for Rural Policy Research, University of Exeter, UK

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6.6.1. Agriculture and agricultural policies in Spain (1939 - 1959)

Fernández Prieto, Lourenzo, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain
Cabana Iglesia, Ana; Díaz Geada, Alba; Freire Cedeira, Araceli; Lanero Táboas, Daniel; Soto Fernández, David

The aim of this paper is to explain, compare and discuss the francoist agrarian policy from the beginning of the regime to the economical reforms implemented at the end of the 1950s (Plan de Estabilidad/Stabilizing Programme). We will examine the agricultural sector as a whole (production and productivity statistics; prices; labour markets; most important policies (settlement policy, market regulations?) and the environmental conditions. We will pay special attention to the technological framework (state innovation system and its post-war development) and to the well known self sufficiency policies as well as the new agrarian models imported from the USA fitting in very well with the post-fascist European paradigm. However, we would also like to analyse the social and political conditions, i.e. the dictatorship's attempts in order to obtain the socio political integration of peasants after the democratic experience of the 1930s and the ‘trauma’ of Civil war; the new institutional structures created for their categorizing; the rural resistences against francoist agricultural policies, etc. Therefore, the main objective of the paper is to provide a general (but original) overview on the evolution of the Spanish agricultural sector and rural world over the period to answer an outstanding question: Did new policies introduced from abroad improve agriculture and rural life or were thought to give pre-eminence to industry and urban inhabitants?

6.6.2. Changing Colors: the Green Law of 1955 and the Integration of German Peasants

Gerhard, Gesine, University of the Pacific, California, USA

Over the last decade, historians have scrutinized agricultural politics during the Nazi era. The relationship between the “Green”

and the “Brown” has been analyzed carefully and light has been shed on the role played by the agricultural sector during the Third Reich. The process of European economic integration that started in the late 1950s has also received considerable scholarly attention. The implementation of a supra-national economic community marked the beginning of a new era for agricultural politics. The most dramatic changes for German peasants, however, occurred in the decade between the end of the Second World War and the start of European economic integration. Small farms disappeared in great numbers, tractors and machinery replaced horses, peasants became industrial workers, and life styles in the countryside were altered. This paper will examine these dramatic changes in the context of postwar West German society. It will analyze how the new agricultural programs were worked out, what role agricultural organizations played in the process and how the transformation occurred without major social conflict or political radicalization.

6.6.3. International recommendations and national decisions: Portuguese agriculture policies after World War II

Freire, Dulce, Instituto de Ciências Socias, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

After World War II, Portugal continued to be ruled by the fascist dictatorship, that had been instituted in the 30s. But, alongside with democratic regimes, Portugal participated actively in international organizations and programs that emerged after the war. The country became a member of the FAO in 1946, and the OEEC in 1948 (when joined the Marshall Plan). As the two organizations gave special attention to agriculture and development, this paper aims to assess the impact of international recommendations in the formulation of national policies for the primary sector, during the decades of 40 and 50. This analysis contributes, firstly, to know the capacity of international organizations to influence the decisions of authoritarian governments and, secondly, to identify adaptation or resilience strategies adopted by dictatorship regime in a European context characterized by the consolidation of democratic values and international cooperation.

6.6.4. Agricultural politics in the Netherlands from World War II till 1957

Schuurman, Anton, University of Wageningen, Netherlands

Agricultural politics in the Netherlands from WWII till 1957 were a continuation of the policies since the Depression and the Second World War. In this contribution I will highlight the main institutional developments of this policy. This implies that I will describe the different institutional actors like the government, the rural organisations and the agrarian business community, and agrarian research and education. This period is particularly interesting because during the whole period Sicco Mansholt was the minister of agriculture. From 1958 till 1972 he would become the first agricultural commissioner of the European Economic Community. In this period the main goal was to make agriculture more efficient and productive. The main problem was the structure of agriculture with many small farms.

Participants

Brassley, Paul
Paul Brassley is a visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Rural Policy Research at the University of Exeter, UK. Since 2009 he has been working there on a project to investigate the process of technical change in English agriculture between 1935 and 1985. He has previously produced studies on rural issues in the Second World War, the interwar period, and the late nineteenth century. His most recent book (edited with Yves Segers and Leen Van Molle) is War, Agriculture and Food: rural Europe from the 1930s to the 1950s (Routledge, 2012).

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Freire, Dulce
Dulce Freire is research fellow at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa. Degree in History and a PhD on Economic and Social Contemporary History. Research in Portuguese and Iberian rural and agricultural history, analyzing public policies and institutional frameworks, social movements, memory, technological innovation. Visiting scholar in the Institute of European Studies, University of California at Berkeley (2001), École de Hautes Études en Science Sociales (2005) and Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (2006). Coordinates the research project: Agriculture in Portugal: food, developing and sustainability (1870-2010).

Gerhard, Gesine
Gesine Gerhard is an associate professor of history at the University of the Pacific in California. She completed her dissertation at the University of Iowa in 2000. She earned a M.A. degree from Technical University Berlin, Germany. Her research focuses on German agricultural history, food studies and the connection between food policy and war. She is currently working on a book on food in the Third Reich.

Lanero Táboas, Daniel
Daniel Lanero got his PhD in History at the University of Santiago de Compostela. He

is currently postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Contemporary of the University of Santiago and Scientific Manager of HISTAGRA research Group. His fields of interest are Agrarian History and Social History of the Rural world from a comparative perspective, focusing on the Francoist dictatorship and the early years of the Democratic period. He has been invited researcher at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais of the University of Lisbon, the University of Bologna and the London School of Economics and Visiting fellow at King’s College London. He has written or edited an ample number of publications in both Spanish and international journals and publishing houses.

Martiin, Carin
Carin Martiin is Associate Professor in Agrarian History in the Department of Economics at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden. She is agronomist, PhD in Agrarian History and docent in Economic History. Among the publications are the textbook ‘The World of Agricultural Economics: An introduction’ (Routledge, April 2013) and articles in Brassley, Segers, Van Molle ‘War, Agriculture, and Food’ (Routledge 2012), Rural History (2010) and Agricultural History Review (2008). Her main research interests include cattle husbandry and dairy production, and 20th century agricultural politics in Sweden and internationally.

Pan-Montojo, Juan
Juan Pan-Montojo (1962), Graduate in Philosophy and Letters and Economics. PhD in Modern History (1992). Visiting researcher at the LSE, London, (1988), the New School for Social Research, New York, (1995), and the Friedrich-Alexander Universität of Erlangen-Nürnberg (2003). Since 1997 Associate Professor of Modern History at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Among others he has published La bodega del mundo. La vid y el vino en España, 1800-1936 (1994), and Apostolado, profesión y tecnología. Una historia de los ingenieros agrónomos en España (2005). Currently the editor of the academic journal Historia agraria.

Schuurman, Anton
Anton Schuurman is associate professor at the Chair for Rural and environmental History from Wageningen University. He publishes on rural history and the history of consumption.

Soto Fernandez, David
David Soto holds a PhD in Contemporary History from the University of Santiago de Compostela with a thesis entitled “Productive transformations in contemporary Galician agriculture. From organic agriculture to the green revolution”. In 2007 he became Associate Professor of Contemporary History at the University Pablo de Olavide of Seville. His main research focuses on the analysis of Agrarian History from the environmental perspective. His work has focused on the study of sustainability of agricultural systems and evolution of environmental conflicts.