

5.8. Agricultural exports and economic growth during the first wave of globalisation, 1850-1929. Part II

Panel organiser: Kuntz-Ficker, Sandra, El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico // Pinilla, Vicente, Universidad de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain



Chair: Brassley, Paul, University of Exeter, UK

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5.8.1. The impact of export booms on the structure of land tenure: the case of tobacco in Montes de María (Colombia), 1850-1917

Colmenares, Santiago, Universitat Pompeu i Fabra, Spain

During the so-called first globalization (1850-1914), Latin American countries specialized in the export of primary products. One of the issues raised by this configuration of Latin American economies is the effect of commercial agriculture over land property and distribution of land. In this paper we seek to explore the connection between land ownership and agricultural exports for the case

During the first wave of globalization (1850-1929), many countries participated in international trade mainly as exporters of primary products and importers of manufactured goods. The consequences of such participation have been the subject of much controversy in the economic literature over the past decades. Nowadays, the predominant although not exclusive view is that these countries had a favorable opportunity for economic development, at least from the middle of the nineteenth century up to the collapse of international trade following the 1929 crash. This opportunity consisted of developing an export sector that specialized in the production of primary products to supply the rapidly growing markets of the industrialized countries. The contribution of such specialization to their economic development varied greatly, depending on very diverse factors, with its overall effect being influenced by the relative importance of the export sector to the rest of the national economy. In this context, the purpose of this panel is to analyze cases of countries or groups of countries that fit into this typology.

of the Caribbean region of Colombia, specifically the tobacco-growing sub-region, Montes de María. In previous work I have identified that under the conditions of the late-nineteenth century European tobacco market, only those regions of Latin America where peasants had relatively free access to land, combining the cultivation of tobacco with subsistence crops, became competitive in those markets. However, this does not mean that the 'tobacco-type' agrarian structure configured a static landscape characterized exclusively by smallholdings. The main hypothesis of the paper is that in the case of Montes de María, the process of capital accumulation brought about by the export of tobacco was translated into a process of land accumulation by a certain class of prosperous peasants, traders and foreign merchant houses. I present new quantitative data on land holdings by different social classes, prices of the land, and distribution of incomes among peasants and traders derived from the tobacco business, in order to support this hypothesis.

5.8.2. Agro-climate suitability and comparative advantage in Mexico's agricultural exports during the first export era (1870-1929)

Kuntz-Ficker, Sandra, El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico

During the first globalization, about 25 percent of Mexico's exports consisted of agricultural products. Their importance was twofold. First, they represented a more profitable alternative to traditional agriculture, showing higher productivity and providing higher wages and spillovers upon the rest of the local or regional economy. Second, they were considerably diversified, including about twenty products that originated in as many regions within the country. Sometimes, their significance at the local or regional scope was much higher than what is suggested by their overall share in Mexico's export basket. By 1930, 67 percent of the Mexican population lived in the countryside; however agriculture contributed only 14 percent to GDP. Export agriculture represented a rather small share of total agricultural product, but grew at more than triple the rate of traditional agriculture (a yearly average rate of 4.7% against 1.5% between 1895 and 1910). Because of its slow growth and its backward technological traits, traditional agriculture was a huge burden for Mexico's economic development. Had export agriculture expanded more than it did, the contribution of the rural sector to Mexico's economic growth would have been larger than it was. The purpose of this paper is to assess, for a sample of agricultural export activities, the potential for expansion provided by the natural resource endowment of the country, and more specifically, by its agro-climate suitability (ACS) for the production of those crops with the technological traits prevailing at that time.

5.8.3. Tobacco exports and economic growth in Greece (ca 1900-1940)

Petmezas, Socrates, University of Crete, Greece

Oriental tobacco was a high value labour-intensive agricultural export from the Ottoman Balkans (1900-1912) and the basic exported good from Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey (countries that divided the former Ottoman exporting provinces between themselves) in the Interwar period. A large part of the total value of Greek exports and GDP, of rural and urban employment and industrial processing was directly depending on the world demand of tobacco, and the 1929 depression heavily influenced social and economic equilibria in Greece and the neighbouring oriental-tobacco-exporting countries (Bulgaria and Turkey). Clearing treaties (with Germany) and the re-structuring of the commercial-export sector (both in terms of cutting down the cost of processing – i.e. wages – and squeezing profits/commissions of the commercial intermediaries) was part of the answer in Greece. In the long run changes in the demand side condemned small-size and low-productivity producers. After 1945, tobacco never again resumed its place as prime export locomotive of the Greek economy and the large scale rural emigration wave towards Central and Northern Europe in the 1960s marked the end of the intensive oriental-tobacco production and exports.

Participants

Brassley, Paul

Senior Research Fellow in the University of Exeter, and a former chair of the British Agricultural History Society. His research interests lie in British agricultural history. He is author of several books and numerous papers in academic journals on these issues. He is co-editor of the book *War, Agriculture and Food Rural Europe from the 1930s to the 1950s* (Routledge, 2012).

Colmenares, Santiago

MA, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona. Teacher Assistant at the University Pompeu Fabra and PhD candidate in Economic History at University of Barcelona. He recently received an honorary mention in the Ramón Carande Prize 2013 (Spanish Economic History Association), with the paper "La inserción de economías regionales periféricas al mercado mundial: América Latina en el mercado mundial de tabaco, 1850-1900". He has translated into Spanish a book containing a collection of the most outstanding articles of Jeffrey G. Williamson (Prensas Universitarias de Zaragoza, 2012). He has published two book chapters on the economic history of Colombia.

Kuntz-Ficker, Sandra

Professor of Economic History at El Colegio de México. She has been Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Chicago, and the University of California at San Diego; Tinker Visiting Professor at Stanford University and at the University of Texas at Austin, and is currently a National Fellow in the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Her research work deals with the economic history of Mexico from the mid nineteenth

to the mid twentieth century, particularly with topics related to the economic impact of railroads, Mexico's foreign trade and commercial policy, and Mexico's economic development during the first globalization.

Petmezas, Socrates

Socrates Petmezas teaches economic and social history in the University of Crete and is also a collaborating faculty member of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies -FoRTH. He has published widely on the history of Modern Greece and the Ottoman Empire (17th-20th centuries). His research interests focus on proto-industrialization, agricultural history and the cultural history of nationalism in Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans.

Pinilla, Vicente

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Zaragoza 1990. Professor in Economic History at the University of Zaragoza, Spain. His research interests lie in international trade in agricultural products, Spanish agricultural production and migration. He is author of several books and numerous papers in academic journals on these issues. His latest book is *Peaceful Surrender. The depopulation of rural Spain in the twentieth century* (with F. Collantes) (2011). He held appointments at the University of Bristol, London School of Economics, University of California at Davis, University of Maastricht and Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris.