6.6.2. Changing Colors: the Green Law of 1955 and the Integration of introduced from abroad improve agriculture and rural life or were thought to give pre-eminence to industry and urban inhabitants?

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

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6.6.2. Agricultural and rural policies in the Netherlands from World War II till 1957

Fernández Prieto, Lorentzo, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia, Spain

The aim of this paper is to explain, compare and discuss the franquist agricultural policy from the beginning of the regime to the economic reforms implemented at the end of the 1950s (Plan de Estabilidad/Stabilizing Programme). We will examine the agricultural sector as a whole (productivity and production statistics; prices; labour markets; most important policies; settlement policy; market regulations?) and the environmental conditions. We will pay special attention to the technological (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 abroad in this period. We will try to answer the question of why and how did 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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6.6.3. International recommendations and national decisions: Portuguese agricultural policies after World War II

Freire, Dulce, Instituto de Ciências Sociais, 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 some 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 1940s 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, resilience strategies adopted by dictatorship regime in a European context characterized by the consolidation of democratic values and international cooperation.

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

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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 WW2 till 1957 were a continuation of the policies since the Depression and the Second World War. The fragmentation meant that the main institutional developments of this period were the establishment of 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 1948 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.

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

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6.6.5. Historical approaches to agricultural politics in France and England 1850-1950

Lanero Táboas, Daniel, Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

This paper analyses the political dimension of agricultural policies in France and England during the 1850-1950 period, with special emphasis on the referendum of 1881 and the National Agricultural Exhibition of 1862. The aim is to study how agricultural politics have been shaped by the sociopolitical changes of the period and by the agricultural and economic transformations that have taken place during this time. The paper also intends to contribute to the historical debate on the relationship between agriculture and industrialisation, and the role of agricultural politics in shaping the agrarian structures of these countries.

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

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6.6.6. 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 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 appeared, and wages for industrial workers, and life styles in the countryside were altered. This paper will examine these dramatic changes in the context of post-war West German society. It will analyse how the new agricultural policies were worked out, what role agricultural organizations played in the process and how the transformation occurred without major social conflict or political radicalization.

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

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6.6.7. 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 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 appeared, and wages for industrial workers, and life styles in the countryside were altered. This paper will examine these dramatic changes in the context of post-war West German society. It will analyse how the new agricultural policies were worked out, what role agricultural organizations played in the process and how the transformation occurred without major social conflict or political radicalization.