Seeds of the Kingdom

Anna L. Peterson

Seeds of the Kingdom explores the utopian religious ethics practiced in Amish settlements in the United States Midwest and in former war zones in El Salvador. These communities stand as a counter-example to dominant trends not only in agriculture and economics, but also in political and religious culture. Residents organize their lives according to social ethics drawn from the Anabaptist and progressive Catholic streams within Western Christianity. Out of these traditions, they have developed a this-worldly Christian utopianism that provides both a guide for everyday life and a long-term vision of a possible future. This book offers a detailed portrait of these communities’ histories, environmental and social practices, religious values, and hopes for the future. It compares the differences and commonalities in their ethical systems, in the context of the larger religious traditions and social movements out of which they emerge. Another important area of comparison is the communities’ efforts to develop sustainable farming practices, as part of a larger argument about the importance of agriculture for both social and environmental ethics. Although the Amish and Salvadoran communities differ in many important aspects, their collective experiences suggest that efforts to create more environmentally sustainable practices and societies have a greater chance of success if they share certain common traits. These include a strong collective identity and commitment to the common good; deep attachment to local landscapes and species combined with awareness of larger dynamics; a desire to preserve non-human as well as human lives; and a utopian horizon that provides both goals and the hope of reaching them.
This chapter suggests ways in which we can utilize models to quantify agricultural economic activity in Egypt and, on the basis of the available documentation, including tax records, to build up a detailed picture of the distribution and productivity of villages landholdings in particular areas and the level of urbanization.

Pre-Aryan India 1
Deepak Lal

This chapter begins with a discussion of the geographical environment of Pre-Aryan India. It then discusses the emergence of pastoralism and agriculture, this is followed by a look at the development of the Indus valley civilization. This was the first urban civilization on the subcontinent, which was based on the agriculture and animal husbandry of the Indus flood-plain which appears to have been similar to that of recent centuries in the Indus valley.

Policy Networks in British Government
David Marsh and R. A. W. Rhodes (eds)

Policy is not made in the electoral arena or in the gladiatorial confrontations of Parliament, but in the netherworld of committees, civil servants, professions, and interest groups. This collection explores the private world of public policy. It provides a survey of the literature on the concept of policy networks and demonstrates its importance for understanding specific policy areas. The case studies cover policy-
making in agriculture, civil nuclear power, youth employment, smoking, heart disease, sea defences, information technology, and exchange rate policy. Finally the book attempts an overall assessment of the utility of the concept, focusing on such questions as why networks change, which interests dominate and benefit from networks, and the consequences of the present system for representative democracy.

Introduction
Thirsk Joan

in Alternative Agriculture: A History: From the Black Death to the Present Day

Published in print: 2000 Published Online: October 2011
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198208136.003.0001

This introductory chapter sets out the purpose of the book, which is to survey people's past experience of alternative agriculture. This survey is important in order to place the present phase in better perspective. It also allows people to repeat some of their past without any strong sense of being condemned to a sorry fate.

Innovation and IPR in a Catch-Up-Falling-Behind Process: The Argentine Case
Andrés López

in Intellectual Property Rights, Development, and Catch-Up: An International Comparative Study

Published in print: 2010 Published Online: May 2010
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199574759.003.0008

This chapter first points out that, for Argentina, the twentieth century was the period of falling behind. Although catch-up occurred during 1860–1929, the economy at the time was mainly based on agriculture. By contrast, industrialization and technological capability building took place while the overall economy was falling behind following the government's import substitution policy and macro instability. The chapter examines technology transfer, learning, and innovation in the country's catch-up and falling-behind processes, and the role of intellectual property regime. It is argued that the IPR regime had little impact except for on agriculture and pharmaceuticals. These two industries are analyzed in detail to suggest that the domestic pharmaceutical firms failed to accumulate technological capabilities
even in the absence of product patents and that genetically modified soybeans diffused widely because the American inventor, Monsanto, failed to secure a patent for it in Argentina.

Enclosure and the Yeoman

Robert C. Allen

This book traces the shift from medieval to modern institutions in English agriculture. It explores their importance for productivity growth, income distribution, and the contribution of agriculture to British economic development. The author study shows that, contrary to the assumption of many historians, small-scale farmers in the open-field system were responsible for a considerable proportion of the productivity growth achieved between the middle ages and the nineteenth century. The process of enclosure and the replacement of these yeomen by large-scale tenant farming relying on wage labour had relatively little impact on the agricultural contribution to economic development during the Industrial Revolution. Enclosures and large farms enriched landowners without benefiting consumers, workers, or farmers.

Rationalized Production:

Vaclav Smil

Mechanization — a key trend of pre-WWI technical advances — intensified in all industrial sectors and reached new levels with automation and robotization after WWII. Major advances made in coal mining, oil and gas extraction, and in key manufacturing sectors such as car making benefited not only from ingenious robotization, but also from new methods of organization and flexible production. Agriculture also became much less labor intensive thanks to new high energy subsidies for machines and agrochemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides).
Organic Darwinian evolution is over, having been brought to an end by the vast explosion of technology that enables people to determine which species shall survive and which perish. This includes the evolution of people themselves. Though we live now in groups of many millions, the evolutionary stage at which we are stuck is that of the forty-member hunter-gatherer band. Edifying high beliefs, providentially there already when agriculture and civilization began, took on vastly enhanced importance as the social glue making cities and states and empires possible. And instead of the individual shaman of the band, civilization required and produced a class of professional priests, whose prestige and livelihood was bound up with the preservation of high beliefs. Political units in Egypt and the East were huge, whereas in the West they seldom exceeded the bounds of individual cities. This difference had a profound effect on the conceptions of the universe current in them.


Evan Mawdsley and Stephen White

Although there was turmoil in this period with the rise and fall of N. S. Khrushchev, there was stability in the role and make up of the Central Committee elite. The events of 1957 and the ‘anti-party group’ strengthened the power of the CC elite as a collective. That the membership was similar to that of the late Stalin years is shown by the careers of N. I. Zhurin, V. N. Novikov, and N. G. Egorychev, representative of regional agricultural leaders, technocrats, and the party bureaucracy, respectively. The CC elite saw itself as more of a coherent and privileged group during this period.
Contrasting Theory and Practice: The World Bank and Social Capital in Rural Mexico

Jonathan Fox

This chapter continues the emphasis on cross-regional comparison, addressing the role of both transnational and national actors by focusing on World Bank-funded rural development projects. The question is to what degree the World Bank's ostensibly new-style projects actually contributed to the ‘enabling environment’ that allow poor people to consolidate representative organizations. The term ‘enabling environments’ refers to the institutional context that either facilitates or blocks the collective action that is critical to providing leverage and voice to under-represented people. The study documents whether or not enabling environments were in fact created by assessing the degree to which the projects complied with the World Bank's own policy reforms involving public information disclosure and informed participation by indigenous peoples. The study documents outcomes, both across projects and across regions within projects. With few exceptions, the projects did not significantly improve the enabling policy environment for the organizations of the rural poor.

Conclusion

Judith Pallot

This book concludes that, notwithstanding the larger than expected numbers of peasant households coming forward to adopt the Stolypin Land Reform, the likelihood that an agricultural advance in Russia would be based on the farms formed under the reform's provisions was limited. There were alternatives that might have done as much, or more, to increase peasant farm productivity, as has been observed by a number of historians. After 1910, the principal government effort in agriculture passed to agrotechnological measures which reached numbers of
peasant households far in excess of those who could be reached through programmes targeted solely on enclosed farms. As for the peasants, their preferred solution to their problems remained, as it always had been, the black repartition, as was so obviously demonstrated in 1917. This book also shows that, in understanding the peasants' responses to the Stolypin Land Reform, both history and geography matter.

The Politics of Precaution
David Vogel

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: October 2017
Item type: book

This book examines the politics of consumer and environmental risk regulation in the United States and Europe over the last five decades, explaining why America and Europe have often regulated a wide range of similar risks differently. It finds that between 1960 and 1990, American health, safety, and environmental regulations were more stringent, risk averse, comprehensive, and innovative than those adopted in Europe. But since around 1990 global regulatory leadership has shifted to Europe. What explains this striking reversal? This book takes an in-depth, comparative look at European and American policies toward a range of consumer and environmental risks, including vehicle air pollution, ozone depletion, climate change, beef and milk hormones, genetically modified agriculture, antibiotics in animal feed, pesticides, cosmetic safety, and hazardous substances in electronic products. The book traces how concerns over such risks—and pressure on political leaders to do something about them—have risen among the European public but declined among Americans. The book explores how policymakers in Europe have grown supportive of more stringent regulations while those in the United States have become sharply polarized along partisan lines. And as European policymakers have grown more willing to regulate risks on precautionary grounds, increasingly skeptical American policymakers have called for higher levels of scientific certainty before imposing additional regulatory controls on business.

Darwinian Agriculture
R. Ford Denison

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As human populations grow and resources are depleted, agriculture will need to use land, water, and other resources more efficiently and without sacrificing long-term sustainability. This book presents an entirely new approach to these challenges, one that draws on the principles of evolution and natural selection. It shows how both biotechnology and traditional plant breeding can use Darwinian insights to identify promising routes for crop genetic improvement and avoid costly dead ends. It explains why plant traits that have been genetically optimized by individual selection—such as photosynthesis and drought tolerance—are bad candidates for genetic improvement. Traits like plant height and leaf angle, which determine the collective performance of plant communities, offer more room for improvement. Agriculturalists can also benefit from more sophisticated comparisons among natural communities and from the study of wild species in the landscapes where they evolved. The book reveals why it is sometimes better to slow or even reverse evolutionary trends when they are inconsistent with our present goals, and how we can glean new ideas from natural selection's marvelous innovations in wild species.

From Marx and Mao to the Market
Johan F.M. Swinnen and Scott Rozelle

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Item type: book

The changes which led to the emergence of China as a global economic powerhouse, the integration of ten Central and Eastern European countries into the European Union (EU) and the uncertain path of Russia towards a market economy all started with the agricultural reforms in the Chinese countryside in the late 1970s. Since then, the changes have occurred so fast and the impact has been so vast that the importance of understanding the forces that unleashed this process, how these changes became possible, and the lessons for other developing countries cannot be overestimated. This book analyzes the economics and politics of agricultural reforms by comparing reform processes, their causes and effects across this vast region. The authors draw on a wide range of studies and new data, which compare reforms and economic impacts in more than 25 countries. They present a series of conclusions and implications on the role of economic reforms in growth, and the importance of initial conditions and political constraints in explaining the choices that were made and their effects.
This chapter explores the timing of and evolutionary forces involved in our domestication of animals and plants. How many and which genes were involved? How long ago did these changes occur? Can we detect positive selection at the genetic loci involved? This chapter focuses on dogs and maize domestication. Dogs are derived exclusively from wolves, but are not wolves. Contrary to some early studies, it is now clear that dogs evolved only about 15,000 years ago and arose multiple times. The chapter also discusses results from the recently completed dog genome project. The timing and location of maize domestication are also discussed, as well as one gene that may have played a role in morphological changes as maize became domesticated. It concludes with a discussion about how patterns of human genetic variation may have been affected during the transition from a hunter-gatherer to an agriculture-based lifestyle.

Introduction

Johan F. M. Swinnen

Patterns of Transition

Johan F. M. Swinnen
This chapter documents the changes in agricultural output and productivity that occurred during transition for 25 countries, and identifies several transition patterns.

A Model of Agricultural Transition
Johan F. M. Swinnen

in From Marx and Mao to the Market: The Economics and Politics of Agricultural Transition

Published in print: 2006 Published Online: May 2006
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This chapter develops a model of agricultural transition. The model is used to illustrate the technical and allocative inefficiencies under Socialism, and to explain how efficiency changed during transition with privatization, land reform, disruptions, and other reforms. It provides an empirical illustration how different initial conditions could lead to different patterns of transition.

THE TOOLS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
Pamela C. Ronald and Raoul W. Adamchak

in Tomorrow's Table: Organic Farming, Genetics, and the Future of Food

Published in print: 2008 Published Online: May 2008
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195301755.003.0003

This chapter gives a history of organic farming and the biological technologies that organic farmers rely upon. Based on present trends, consumer demand and organic-based research are likely to increase. This raises the question of whether GE varieties can help forge a future sustainable agriculture.