

TOPICAL STUDIES AND REFERENCES ON THE ECONOMIC HISTORY OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE pdf

1: USDA ERS - Topics

*Topical Studies and References on the Economic History of American Agriculture - Scholar's Choice Edition [Louis Bernard Schmidt] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it.*

When the Treaty of Rome took effect at the beginning of , agriculture was subsidized in all six member countries. The various price-support mechanisms differed substantially, as did foreign-trade policies and tariff levels. The cumulative impact of governmental intervention of various kinds overâ€ Peasant agriculture One characteristic of undeveloped peasant agriculture is its self-sufficiency. Farm families in those circumstances consume a substantial part of what they produce. While some of their output may be sold in the market, their total production is generally not much larger than what is needed for the maintenance of the family. Not only is productivity per worker low under those conditions, but yields per unit of land are also low. Even where the land was originally fertile, the fertility is likely to have been depleted by decades of continuous cropping. The available manures are not sufficient, and the farmers cannot afford to purchase them elsewhere. Peasant agriculture is often said to be characterized by inertia. The peasant farmer is likely to be illiterate, suspicious of outsiders, and reluctant to try new methods; food patterns remain unchanged for decades or even centuries. Evidence, however, suggests that the apparent inertia may be simply the result of a lack of alternatives. If there is nothing better to change to, there is little point in changing. Moreover, the self-sufficient farmer is bound to want to minimize risks; since a crop failure can mean starvation in many parts of the world, farmers have been reluctant to adopt new methods if doing so would expose them to greater risks of failure. The increased use worldwide of high-yielding varieties of rice and wheat from the s showed that farmers were willing and able to adopt new crops and farming methods when their superiority was demonstrated. Those high-yielding varieties, however, required increased outlays for fertilizer, as well as expanded facilities for storage and distribution, and many developing countries were unable to afford such expenditures. The labour force As economic development proceeds, a large proportion of the farm labour force must shift from agriculture into other pursuits. That fundamental shift in the labour force is made possible, of course, by an enormous increase in output per worker as agriculture becomes modernized. That increase in output stems from various factors. Where land is plentiful, the output per worker is likely to be higher because it is possible to employ more fertilizer and machinery per worker. The remainder is either in forests or is not being used for agricultural purposes. There are great differences in the amount of arable land per person in the various regions of the world. The greatest amount of arable land per capita is in Oceania; the least is in China. No direct relationship exists between the amount of arable land per capita and the level of income. The relationship between land, population, and farm production is a complex one. In traditional agriculture, where methods of production have changed little over a long period of time, production is largely determined by the quality and quantity of land available and the number of people working on the land. That generally involved a shift to crops that would yield more per unit of land and required more labour for their cultivation. Wheat , rye , and millet require less labour per unit of land and per unit of food output than do rice , potatoes , or corn maize , but generally the latter yield more food per unit of land. Thus, as population density increased, the latter groups of crops tended to be substituted for the former. That did not hold true in Europe, where wheat, rye, and millet expanded at the expense of pasture land, but those crops yielded more food per acre than did the livestock that they displaced. Harvesting wheat on a farm in the grain belt near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. A potash mine appears in the distant background. George Hunter As agriculture becomes modernized, its dependence upon land as well as upon human labour decreases. Animal power and machinery are substituted for human labour; mechanical power then replaces animal power. The substitution of mechanical power for animal power reduces the need for land. The increased use of fertilizer as modernization occurs also acts as a substitute for both land and labour; the same is true of herbicides and insecticides. By making it possible to produce more

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per unit of land and per hour of work, less land and labour are required for a given amount of output. Efforts to control prices and production In the second half of the 20th century, governments undertook to control both prices and output in the agricultural sector, largely in response to the pressures of the farmers themselves. In the absence of such control, farm prices tend to fluctuate more than do most other prices, and the incomes of farmers fluctuate to an even greater degree. Not only are incomes in agriculture unstable, but they also tend to be lower than incomes in other economic sectors. The problem Instability of prices The instability of farm prices results from several factors. One is the relative slowness with which farmers are able to respond to changes in the demand for their product. Farmers generally must produce on the basis of expectations, and if their expectations turn out to be wrong, the resulting surplus or shortage cannot be corrected until the beginning of the next production cycle. Once a crop is planted, very little can be done to increase or decrease production in response to market prices. As long as prices cover current operating costs, such as the cost of harvesting, it pays farmers to carry through their production plans even if prices fall to a very low level. It is not unusual for the prices of particular farm products to vary by a third or a half from year to year. That extreme variability results from the relatively low responsiveness of demand to changes in priceâ€”i. Instability of income The instability of farm prices is accompanied by instability of farm income. While gross income from agriculture generally does not vary as much as do individual farm prices, net income may vary more than prices. In modern agriculture, costs tend to be relatively stable; the farmer is unable to compensate for a drop in prices by reducing his payments for machinery, fertilizer, or labour. The incomes of farm workers are generally below those of other workers. There are two major reasons for that inequity. One is that in most economies the need for farm labour is declining, and each year large numbers of farm people, especially young ones, must leave their homes to seek jobs elsewhere. The difference in returns to labour is required to bring about that transfer of workers out of farming; if the transfer did not occur, farm incomes would be even more depressed. The second major reason for the income differences is that farm people generally have less education than do nonfarm people and are able to earn less at nonfarm jobs. The difference in education is of long standing and is found in all countries, developed and undeveloped; it also exists whether the national education system is highly decentralized, as in the United States, or highly centralized, as in France. Government intervention Governments have employed various measures to maintain farm prices and incomes above what the market would otherwise have yielded. They have included tariffs or import levies, import quotas, export subsidies, direct payments to farmers, and limitations on production. Tariffs and import quotas can be effective only if a country normally imports some of its supply. Export subsidies result in higher prices to domestic consumers than to foreign purchasers; their use requires control over imports to prevent foreign supplies from entering the domestic market and bringing prices down. Direct payments to farmers have been used to maintain prices to consumers at reasonable levels, while assuring farmers a return above world-market levels. Limitations on production, intended to reduce supply and thus increase prices, have been used in Brazil for coffee and in the United States for major crops. Accomplishments The effects of price and income policies are difficult to assess. The policies have unquestionably worked to raise agricultural production in the countries where they have been applied, but their usefulness as a means of enhancing the economic well-being of farm people is debatable. The governments of the industrial countries have been able to raise the returns from agriculture above the levels that would have prevailed in the absence of such intervention. In addition to maintaining prices, they provide subsidies for agricultural inputs such as tractor fuel and chemical fertilizers; they also gave assistance in consolidating small farms into larger ones and in improving farm buildings. The level of income and the economic well-being of farm people in general are determined by many factors, including not only the prices they receive for their output but also the rate at which the economy in general is growing, the ease with which people can move from farm to nonfarm jobs, the prices they must pay for their productive inputs, and their level of education. With respect to average income per person, as distinguished from total income, the prices received and paid are probably less important than the other factors mentioned. That becomes obvious when one compares farm incomes in developed countries with those in less-developed

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ones; the differences in real income have to do mainly with the levels of economic development and not with farm prices or subsidies. Government efforts to increase farm prices are likely to be offset, in the long run, by an increase in the number of persons engaged in farming, and that tends to keep the returns to farm labour from rising much faster than they would in the absence of such policies. There are two other reasons for believing that the income effects of higher farm prices or subsidies are relatively insignificant in the long run compared with other factors affecting incomes of farm workers. One is that an increase in farm prices induces farmers to use more fertilizer, machinery, fuel and oil, and other items. If a significant part of any increase in gross income is used for such things, the absolute increase in net farm income is much smaller than the increase in gross farm income. The second reason is that a given increase in government-supported farm prices generally occurs only once. After the increase in returns has been realized, the higher farm prices contribute nothing further to incomes. In contrast, general economic growth along with the continued reduction of the farm labour force has cumulative effects on the return to farm labour. If the returns to farm labour were to grow at an average annual rate of about 3 percent, for example, farm prices would have to increase at least 3 percent annually assuming other prices did not change to have the same effect on returns to farm resources.

Costs The costs of the agricultural price and income policies of industrial countries are substantial; they include not only direct governmental outlays but also the increased costs to consumers in those countries, as well as the losses to developing countries of potential export markets. The organization of farming

Ownership Except in the few countries with communist governments, most farmland is privately owned. That does not mean, however, that the land is owned by those who farm it. In most countries a major aspiration of farm people has been to achieve the ownership of the land they work. After World War II, for example, Japan and Taiwan underwent land reforms that were intended to broaden ownership, and similar reforms have been advocated in other countries. On a cooperative farm the land is owned jointly by the members of the group who farm it. The cooperative generally also owns all the major means of production, and the members supply all or most of the labour. While there are examples of cooperative farms in many countries, they loom large only in Israel, where the kibbutzim control about one-tenth of all agricultural land. In a collective farm, at least as organized in the former Soviet republics, the land was owned by the state but was permanently leased to the kolkhoz collective farm. The kolkhoz owned its own equipment and livestock and was required to meet certain commitments to the state in the form of deliveries of farm products. In theory, the members of the kolkhoz were to elect the officers of the farm and establish the procedures by which the net product was to be divided among the members for services performed. In practice, however, their autonomy was severely limited by the economic plans. In most cases these plans were incredibly detailed, specifying the crops to be grown, the times of plowing, planting, and harvesting, the quantities of fertilizer and manures to be used, and the kinds of livestock to be maintained. On state farms the land and all other means of production are owned by the state. The workers are paid in wages, and management decisions are made by individuals directly responsible to the state.

Kinds of farm operation If a family farm is defined as one for which the farm operator and family members supply at least half of the labour, the majority of farms in the world are family farms. Family farming is carried on under a wide range of conditions, from the small farms of Asia to the highly mechanized farms of Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The family farm may be owned by the farmer or rented. The most rapidly expanding type of tenure in the United States is that in which the farmer owns part of the land and rents the remainder; almost one-third of all farmland in the United States consists of part-owner farms. This arrangement enables the farmer to increase the size of the farm through renting and to invest capital in machinery and livestock. Family farms may be large in terms of total assets or sales. The relative importance of family farms among the largest farms in the United States has increased over the past few decades. One of the more striking changes in industrial countries has been the increased importance of nonfarm income received by farm families.

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2: USDA ERS - Ag and Food Sectors and the Economy

Title. Topical studies and references on the economic history of American agriculture, By. Schmidt, Louis Bernard.
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Seuss Went to War: Our Favorite Websites American Memory: This expansive archive of American history and culture features photographs, prints, motion pictures, manuscripts, printed books, pamphlets, maps, and sound recordings going back to roughly 1789. Currently this site includes more than 9 million digital items from more than 100 collections on subjects ranging from African-American political pamphlets to California folk music, from baseball to the Civil War. Most topical sites include special presentations introducing particular depositories or providing historical context for archival materials. Visitors can search collections separately or all at once by keyword and type of source photos and prints, documents, films, sound recordings, or maps. In addition, the Learning Page provides well-organized help for using the collections, including sample teaching assignments. History includes individual annotations for many of the current collections. Website last visited on 10/10/01. This impressive site presents a rich array of primary and secondary material designed to foster electronic learning. Three additional sections--entitled "Community," "Curriculum," and "Technology and Learning"--offer a wealth of material concerning developments in the field of American Studies and teaching with new technologies, including essays, syllabi, bulletin boards, and newsletters. Making of America University of Michigan. This site is a "digital library" of thousands of primary documents in American social history from the Antebellum period through Reconstruction. The result of a collaborative project between the University of Michigan and Cornell University, begun in 1995, it currently offers more than 3 million pages of text from 11, volumes and 50, journal articles. A recent addition includes volumes on New York City, some from the early 20th century. Searchable by word or phrase, the site provides a complete bibliography of books and journals, organized by author. Well-designed and executed, this is an excellent collection of material. This exhibit, curated by Carl Smith, a professor at Northwestern University, commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. Offers an array of primary sources selected from materials in the Chicago Historical Society and arranged into two sections. This section is organized into six chapters, each devoted to a particular theme, including eyewitness accounts, popular illustrations, journal articles, "imaginative forms such as fiction and poetry and painting," and the legend of Mrs. Both sections furnish galleries of images and artifacts, primary texts, "special media" such as songs, a newsreel, and an "Interactive Panorama of Chicago, ," and chapter-specific, authoritative background essays that explore the social and cultural contexts of this catastrophe. Also includes a bibliography of 20 sources. A well-designed site that provides a wide range of diverse sources useful for studying Chicago in late 19th century and the ways that the story of the catastrophe subsequently has been told. An indispensable resource for teachers and scholars in a wide variety of fields, but especially for historians. H-Net--an international interdisciplinary organization of scholars and teachers--contains sections on "H-Net Reviews," which publishes and disseminates reviews of books, films, museums, software, sound recordings, and websites; "Discussion Networks," a gateway to more than 100 academic discussion networks administered by H-Net via email; "H-Net Papers on Teaching and Technology," presenting 10 discussion panels on multimedia teaching; academic announcements of professional organizations, conference programs, fellowships, and prizes; employment listings; and additional websites from various H-Net special projects. This database presents nearly 1,000 primary documents about the American South in the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Presenting the beginnings of the University of North Carolina, "The First Century of the First State University," offers "materials that document the creation and growth" of the University. First-Person Narratives of the American South, offers approximately diaries, autobiographies, memoirs, travel accounts, and ex-slave narratives, and concentrates on women, blacks, workers, and American Indians. See separate History Matters entry for more details. And the "Library of Southern Literature" makes available an additional 51 titles in Southern literature. Finally, "True and Candid

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Compositions: The projects are accompanied by essays from the Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, and are searchable by author, keyword, and title. They reflect a larger effort, begun in , to digitize the Southern collections at UNC. Holocaust Memorial Museum U. Introduces the activities of the U. Holocaust Memorial Museum, located in Washington, DC, and its important collections, in addition to presenting interactive exhibitions and providing resources for study of the Holocaust and related subjects. The site is composed of five sections: The education section includes material to introduce the subject of the Holocaust to middle- and secondary-level students; the full text of a resource book for teachers; information on publications, programs, fellowships, and internships for scholars, faculty, and university students; and 45 bibliographies arranged by country. The history section includes the Holocaust Learning Center, with images, essays, and documents on 75 subjects such as anti-semitism, refugees, pogroms, extermination camps, and resistance. The remembrance section provides material on a recent commemorative ceremony undertaken by high school students from Germany, Luxembourg, Washington, D. The final section, devoted to the "Committee on Conscience" contains information on current genocidal practices in Sudan. An invaluable site for students as an introduction to Holocaust-related subjects, for scholars as a resource for further studies, and for others as a way to acknowledge the presence of the Holocaust in contemporary culture. Valley of the Shadow: Thomas, University of Virginia. Conceived by Edward Ayers, Hugh P. Kelley Professor of History at the University of Virginia, this site is a massive, searchable archive relating to two Shenandoah Valley counties during the Civil War period--Augusta County, Virginia and Franklin County, Pennsylvania--divided by miles and the institution of slavery. Offers both a narrative "walking tour" and direct access to the archive. Also presents bibliographies, a "fact book," student essays and projects, and other materials intended to foster primary-source research. This is an important and innovative site, particularly valuable to historians of 19th-century American life. A database of more than 20, items relating to the New Deal. The "Photo Gallery" of more than 5, images is organized into five units--"Culture," "Construction," "Social Programs," "Federal Agencies," and miscellaneous, including photos from 11 exhibitions and five series of photoessays, and images of disaster relief and public figures. The site additionally offers featured exhibits, many with lesson plan suggestions. Presently, the features section includes "The Magpie Sings the Depression," a collection of poems, articles, and short stories, and graphics from a Bronx high school journal published between and with juvenile works by novelist James Baldwin, photographer Richard Avedon, cultural critic Robert Warshow, and film critic Stanley Kauffmann; "Dear Mrs Roosevelt" with selected letters written by young people to the first lady; "Student Activism in the s," which contains 38 photographs, graphics, and editorial cartoons, 12 American Student Union memoirs, 40 autobiographical essays, and a 20,word essay by Robert Cohen on s campus radicalism; 17 selected interviews from American slave narratives gathered by the Works Progress Administration; and an illustrated essay on the history and social effects of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Includes approximately annotated links to related sites. Of great value for teachers, students, and researchers interested in the social history of the New Deal era. Features audio files, abstracts, transcriptions of oral arguments, and written opinions on more than 3, Supreme Court cases. Includes more than 3, hours of audio of arguments in selected cases going back to and all cases since Users can access cases through keyword searches or a list of 13 broad categories, including civil rights, due process, first amendment, judicial power, privacy, and unions. Wade abortion , Gideon v. Wainwright right to counsel , Plessy v. Ferguson segregation , Grutter v. Bollinger racial preferences in school admissions decisions , and Bush v. Gore-- determined by numbers of hits to the site. Also offers images and biographical outlines for every justice who has served on the Court. The site also includes a "virtual tour" of the Court building; links to all the written opinions of the Court since ; and audio of speeches by a handful of justices. Of great value for those practicing law and studying its history. An annotated gateway to thousands of online lesson plans, curriculum units, and other teaching resources in subjects such as history, art, religion, social studies, economics, and gender studies. Organized according to six sections: Furnished by ERIC, "a federally funded, nationwide information network designed to provide you with ready access to education literature. Both the main site and this one specializing

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in teaching resources are searchable. They are of exceptional value to teachers in all disciplines. Materials also encourage students to appreciate the value of studying the past through activities that involve them personally, such as connecting family history with larger narratives and conducting oral histories with older people they know. This collection of approximately 65, documents written by or to George Washington is the largest collection of original Washington documents in the world. It includes "correspondence, letterbooks, commonplace books, diaries, journals, financial account books, military records, reports, and notes accumulated by Washington from through Unfortunately, many of the documents are available only as page images--often with difficult to decipher handwriting--rather than as transcribed text. Transcripts, however, do exist for all of the diary pages and for additional selected documents. The site includes a number of helpful features: This well-developed, easily navigated site presents images and database information for more than 7, advertisements printed primarily in the United States from to Material is drawn from the J. The advertisements are divided into 5 main subjects areas: Radio including radios, radio parts, and radio programs ; Television including television sets and programs ; Transportation including airlines, rental cars, buses, trains, and ships ; Beauty and Hygiene including cosmetics, soaps, and shaving supplies ; and World War II U. Government ads, such as V-mail or bond drives. The ads are searchable by keyword, type of illustration, and special features. A timeline from to provides general context for the ads with a chronology of major events. Excellent archive of primary documents for students of consumer and popular culture. Listen to the audio review: Your browser is unable to play the audio element. Try updating to the latest version of your browser. Law professor Douglas Linder created this exceptional legal history site. It includes fascinating treatments of over 50 of the most prominent court trials in American history, including: Most trial pages include a word essay on the historical background of the case, links to biographies roughly words of key figures in the trials, and approximately primary documents related to each trial, including transcripts of testimony, media coverage, depositions, and government documents. Cases also contain images, links to related websites, and a bibliography of scholarly works. There are also links to biographies of 5 "trial heroes," including famous trial lawyer Clarence Darrow, and a "Exploring Constitutional Law" site that offers 83 important constitutional topics for class discussion, such as gay rights, student searches, and the electoral college debates. Each topic includes a word introduction to the issue and links to roughly ten related primary documents and court opinions. These topics are designed for classroom use and include issue questions for discussion. Another link explores the Supreme Court and includes items such as biographies of past and present justices, a virtual tour of the Supreme Court building, and a term calendar. Three interactive learning sites on the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, and the Founding Fathers are also offered. This exceptional site can serve as a valuable resource for studying many aspects of legal and constitutional history. Developed by the Film Study Center at Harvard University, this site is an experimental, interactive case study that explores the remarkable 18th-century diary of midwife Martha Ballard.

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3: AJAE | Agricultural & Applied Economics Association

Topical Studies and References on the Economic History of American Agriculture by Louis Bernard Schmidt. Topical Studies and References on the Economic History of.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Economics, politics, and agriculture Agriculture has always been influenced by the actions of governments around the world. Never has this been more evident than during the first half of the 20th century, when two major wars profoundly disrupted food production. In response to the tumultuous economic climate, European countries implemented tariffs and other measures to protect local agriculture. Such initiatives had global ramifications, and by the mid-century various international organizations had been established to monitor and promote agricultural development and the well-being of rural societies. Western Europe, as the 20th century opened, was recovering from an economic depression during which most of the countries had turned to protecting agriculture through tariffs, with the major exceptions being Great Britain, Denmark, and the Netherlands. In the first decade of the century there was an increasing demand for agricultural products, which was a result of industrialization and population growth, but World War I produced devastating losses in land fertility, livestock, and capital. The resulting shortage of food supplies did, however, benefit farmers for a time until, in the 1920s, expanded production and a generalized recovery across Europe depressed prices. Agricultural tariffs, generally suspended during the war, were gradually reintroduced. The Great Depression of the 1930s brought a new wave of protectionism, leading some industrial countries to look toward self-sufficiency in food supplies. In countries such as France, Germany, and Italy, where agriculture was already protected, the tariff structure was reinforced by new and more drastic measures, while countries such as Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Belgium abandoned free trade and began to support their farmers in a variety of ways. The United States first raised tariffs and then undertook to maintain the prices of farm products. Major exporters of farm products, such as Argentina, Brazil, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, tried a number of plans to maintain prices. Although used in only a few European countries in the 1920s, this device became customary in Europe and also in some non-European countries from up to World War II. Import quotas, adopted on a large scale across Europe and elsewhere, also became a major protective device during the 1930s. The most radical measures, however, were undertaken in Germany under Adolf Hitler, where the Nazi government, seeking self-sufficiency in food, fixed farm prices at relatively high levels and maintained complete control over imports. Some exporting countries adopted extreme measures during the Depression in an attempt to maintain prices for their commodities. Brazil burned surplus coffee stocks, destroying more than eight billion pounds of coffee over 10 years beginning in 1930. An Inter-American Coffee Agreement, signed in 1933, assigned export quotas to producer countries for shipment to the United States and other consuming countries and was effective during World War II. Other commodity agreements met with very limited success. Agricultural production declined in most of the European countries; shipping became difficult; and trade channels shifted. In contrast, agriculture in the United States, undisturbed by military action and with assurance of full demand and relatively high prices, increased productivity. The United States, Great Britain, and Canada cooperated in a combined food board to allocate available supplies. Through postwar assistance given primarily by the United States and the United Nations, recovery in Europe was rapid. Western Europe was greatly helped from on by U. In September this organization was replaced by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development OECD, which subsequently pursued agricultural programs that dealt, for example, with economic policies, standardization, and development. Most developed countries continue to offer some type of protection to their farmers—price supports, import quotas, and plans for handling surplus production. Notable examples are the agricultural programs run by the U. Department of Agriculture and by the European Union. On the other hand, many of the developing countries have had food deficits, with little in the way of exportable goods to pay for food imports. Several national and international organizations have been established in an effort to deal with the

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problems of the developing countries, and direct assistance has also been provided by the governments of developed countries. Individual farmers in the countries where commercial agriculture is important have been forced to make changes to meet problems caused by world surpluses and resultant low world prices for farm products. Thus, in many countries, farmers have increased productivity through adopting advanced technology. This has permitted each worker, generally speaking, to farm larger areas and has thus reduced the number of farmers. In some countries, commercialization has led to farming by large-scale corporations, and since the late 20th century, the world tendency increasingly has been toward larger farms. Nevertheless, in the early 21st century, the farm operated by a single family remained the dominant unit of production in most of the developing world.

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