

13.4 Fascism and rural modernisation revisited

Room 202

Conveners: Miguel Cabo, Lourenzo Fernández Prieto, and Juan Pan-Montojo

Chair: Zsuzsanna Varga

In rural and contemporary history there has been a tendency to qualify the policies of fascist and fascistised regimes in twentieth-century Europe towards agriculture as being ‘anti-modern’ or reactionary. However, recent accounts have detected ‘modern’ aspects of agricultural regulation under fascist rule. These revisions evolve from the replacement. Thus, besides industrialisation and democratisation other pathways of agrarian modernisation – including those developed under the influence of fascism or authoritarianism – have come to the fore of ‘modernisation theory’ by approaches acknowledging the ‘ambivalence’ of modernity. The contributors to this panel aim at addressing the relationship of fascism and agrarian modernisation in several European countries in the first half of the twentieth century from a comparative perspective. The guiding questions are: first, by what indicators can ‘modernity’ be identified in the respective country or region and period? Second, to what extent had fascist agricultural policies a modernizing effect? Third, was agrarian modernisation intended by the regime or an unintended consequence? Fourth, was there a duality/contradiction between a ruralist discourse emphasizing anti-urban, anti-industrial and anti-capitalist elements, and agrarian policies aiming at the transformation of agricultural practices and rural identities?

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13.41 Ernst Langthaler – Fascism and modernity revisited: the case of agricultural development in German-annexed Austria, 1938-45

According to the mainstream of historiography, agricultural development in Nazi Germany can hardly be assessed in terms of ‘modernisation’; on the contrary, the failure of the state-led food production campaign and inefficient institutions such as the Reich Hereditary Farm Law seem to prove its ‘anti-modern’ character. However, this debate suffers from the both theoretical and empirical shortcomings which the proposed paper aims to revise. At the theoretical level, ‘modernisation’ needs to be re-conceptualised according to notions of modernity stressing its ‘ambivalence’. At the empirical level the narrow focus on political-economic aspects ought to be widened to include social and cultural aspects as well. Seen from this doubly-revisionist perspective, agricultural development in Nazi Germany as exemplified by the case of Austria 1938-45 was less ‘anti-modern’ and more ‘modern’ than claimed so far.

Ernst Langthaler studied history at the University of Vienna (master 1995, PhD 2000, habilitation 2010). He is currently senior researcher at the Institute of Rural History in St. Pölten, lecturer at the University of Vienna and the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna and guest professor at the University of Innsbruck. His fields of research cover farming styles, agrosystems and food regimes in nineteenth and twentieth century Europe.

13.42 Daniel Lanero Táboas and André Taboada Casteleiro – The Portuguese ‘Estado Novo’: programmes and hindrances for agrarian modernisation, 1932–1974

This paper aims to study the proposals and actual achievements of the modernisation schemes of the Portuguese agriculture displayed by the dictatorship under the Estado Novo (1932–74). Firstly, the agrarian policy of the first years of the Portuguese dictatorship will be analysed, in the context of the international zenith of Fascism. To which degree the Portuguese projects were inspired by those applied in Germany, Italy or Spain will be discussed. Secondly, we will focus in the modernisation programmes for agriculture after 1945, in a completely changed international context (the triumph of democracy and the development of the Welfare State in Europe). It is open to debate if the modernisation of the agrarian sector can be achieved without a simultaneous political reform, and if so, how this could be carried out and what kind of resistance and social support it met.

Daniel Lanero Táboas got his Ph.D. in History at the University of Santiago de Compostela. He is currently a researcher in the Department of Contemporary and American History of the University of Santiago. His main fields of interest are Agrarian History and Social History of the rural world from a comparative perspective, focusing in the Francoist dictatorship and the early years of the Democratic period. He has been invited researcher at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais (ICS) of the University of Lisboa, the Instituto de História Contemporânea of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, the Dipartimento di Discipline Storiche (Università di Bologna, Italy) and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He has written or edited an ample number of publications in both Spanish and international journals and publishing houses.

André Taboada Casteleiro: He has a degree in History and a Master in Contemporary History at the Department of Contemporary and American History in the University of Santiago de Compostela. He is currently writing his Ph.D. on the Francoism and the Transition to Democracy in the rural world.

13.43 Ana Cabana Iglesia and Alba Díaz Geda – Agrarian technicians and the modernisation of agriculture in Francoist Spain (1936-75)

This paper aims at studying the evolution of agrarian policies during the four decades of Francoism, from the autarchic model of the forties inspired by Fascist and Nazi examples, to a completely different one applied with the help – and following the model – of the United States, with the 1950s as transition. The role of the agrarian technicians and the patterns of relationship with the agrarian producers suffered a dramatic evolution, as well as the balance of power and the rivalries among technicians, Francoist syndicalists and the different factions within the Franco Regime.

Ana Cabana Iglesia wrote her PhD in 2006 and is currently Assistant Professor at the Department of Contemporary and American History in the University of Santiago. Her research focuses in the social attitudes in the Galician countryside before the Francoist dictatorship, particularly around the forest policies.

Alba Díaz Geda is a junior research student at the Contemporary and American History Department, University of Santiago de Compostela. She was Bachelor in History with a National award for academic excellence (2007–08). She did the Masters degree in Contemporary History, University of Santiago (2009) with a final investigation on: ‘The countryside in movement: the role of country unions in the rural Galician area during the last times of the Franco dictatorship and the first period of the new democracy, 1964–1986’, which is in the process of being published. She is doing a PhD about changes in the Galician rural area from the sixties until it became part of the EU. Her fields of interest are rural history, social movements, social and cultural change in the Spanish countryside.

13.44 Miguel Cabo Villaverde, Lourenzo Fernández Prieto and Juan Pan-Montojo – Fascism and modernity in the European countryside: a reconsideration

This paper aims at giving a global view of both the agrarian policies applied by fascist or fascistised regimes and the social attitudes (consent and/or open or passive resistance) of the farmers and peasants. It addresses and wants to review the classical theses developed around the

role of agrarian policies, theoretically put into place to win the allegiance of rural societies, in Italy under fascism and Germany under the Third Reich as well as under authoritarian regimes developed with the strong influence of classical fascism (Spain, Vichy France, the Portuguese *Estado Novo*...). The achievements of these policies in economic and political terms will be as well analysed. Comparativism will therefore be the central element of this paper, which seeks to act as a kind of provocative statement for the global discussion of the panel.

Miguel Cabo Villaverde is Associate Professor at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain) and has been a Visiting Professor in the Universities of Rennes II (France) and Pollenzo (Italy). He has co-chaired the Rural History network within the European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC) in the 2002, 2004 and 2006 editions and has been between 2002 and 2009 a member of the Editorial Board of *Historia Agraria*. His main fields of interest are associations and collective action in the rural world, Spanish political history between 1874 and the Franco dictatorship, and nation-building processes. He has written a number of articles and books on these topics, including recently “‘The Long and Winding Road of Nationalization’”. Eugen Weber’s *Peasants into Frenchmen* in European modern history (1976-2006)’ (co-authored with Fernando Molina – *European History Quarterly* 39:2 2009); ‘Quelle nation dans les campagnes? État et nation-building en Espagne, un débat ouvert’, in Jean-Luc Mayaud and Raphael Lutz (ed., 2006), *Histoire de l’Europe rurale contemporaine. Du village à l’État*, and ‘Agrarisme et agrariens en Galice’, in Pierre Alphanhéry, Hugues Lamarche and Jean-Luc Mayaud (ed., 2007), *Agrariens et agrarismes, hier et aujourd’hui, en France et en Europe*.

Lourenzo Fernández Prieto is Full Professor at the Department of Contemporary and American History in the University of Santiago. He is the author of a series of articles and books in the fields of agrarian and political history. He is currently the director of a research team on the repression in Galicia during the Civil War and the Francoism.

Juan Pan-Montojo, Graduate in Philosophy and Letters (Modern History), 1986, and Economic Sciences (Economic Sociology), 1987, and doctor in Modern History, 1992, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He has worked as a visiting researcher in the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, London, in the New School for Social Research, New York, and in the Friedrich-Alexander Universität of Erlangen-Nürnberg. He has been Lecturer (1990-1997) and is Associate Professor (1997 until the present day) of Modern History at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. He has done most of my research in agrarian and rural history (wine sector, agrarian policies, agricultural engineering, agrarian associations...) and history of the public economy (state building, tax reforms, government expenditure...). He has published more than 60 articles in specialised journals and in different collective academic publications. He is the author of the books: *Carlistas y liberales en Navarra, 1833-1839* (Pamplona, 1990), *La bodega del mundo. La vid y el vino en España, 1800-1936* (Madrid, 1994), and *Profesión, apostolado y tecnología. Una historia de los ingenieros agrónomos en España* (Madrid, 2005), and he has coordinated *Más se perdió en Cuba. España, 1898 y la crisis de fin de siglo* (Madrid, 1998), *Bodegas, vinos y mercados. El cambio técnico en la vitivinicultura española, 1850-1936* (Zaragoza, 2001), *Los inspectores de hacienda en España: una mirada histórica* (Madrid, 2007), and (with Frederik Pedersen) *Communities in European History. Representations, Jurisdictions, Conflicts* (Pisa, 2007). He is currently co-editor of the journal *Historia Agraria* and member of the scientific committee of *Zeitschrift für Agrargeschichte und Agrasozologie*.

13.45 Tatsushi Fujihara – ‘*Erbhofgesetz*’ in Manchukuo: a case study of the acceptances of the Nazi agricultural ideology by the Japanese Empire

On 13 November 1941, the Reclamation Farm Law (*Kaitakunôjohô*) was proclaimed in *Manchukuo*, which was a virtual puppet state of the Japanese Empire. The empire had already forced hundreds of thousands of poor peasants to move from Japanese villages to various areas in *Manchukuo*. The policy specified that the Korean peasants who cultivated the paddy fields were to be controlled by Japanese public corporations. The policy purposed to improve the agricultural structure of Japanese villages and to create an anti-capitalistic utopia for Japanese peasants in the puppet state. Therefore, the law prohibited not only the buying and selling of land estates but also their partition in *Manchukuo*. That is to say, it limited ownership, the most important condition of capitalism, for the purpose of protecting the new farms from a market mechanism.

What must be noted, is that this was modelled on the Hereditary Farm Law (*Erbhofgesetz*) proclaimed on 1 October 1933 in Nazi Germany. In those days, the National Socialists’ anti-capitalism ideology and policies were enthusiastically introduced to Japan by many agronomists.

The *Erbhofgesetz* was one of the most important acceptances of National Socialism by the Japanese Empire.

Why was the *Erbhofgesetz* chosen? It was not in Japan; so why was it in *Manchukuo*? This paper will consider these questions by focusing on the similarities and differences in agricultural structure between Japan, *Manchukuo* and Germany.

Dr Tatsushi Fujihara is a Lecturer in Laboratory of Agricultural History, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tokyo. From 2006 to 2007 he was Visiting scholar, Institute for the History of Medicine, Stuttgart Germany and from 2002 to 2009, Research assistant, Institute of Research in Humanities, Kyoto University. His research interests include agricultural policy and ideology in the Third Reich, the food crisis during WWI in Germany, rice breeding in the Japanese Empire and agronomists in the Japanese Empire.