

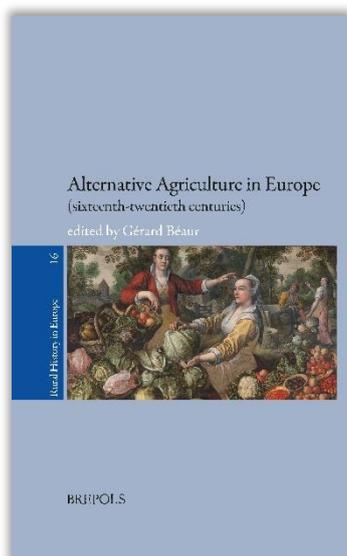
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## ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE IN EUROPE (SIXTEENTH-TWENTIETH CENTURIES)

Edited by Gérard Béaur

approx. 350 p., 57 b/w ills, 35 b/w tables, 156 x 234 mm, 2020, PB, ISBN 978-2-503-58674-8, €80 (price excl. VAT)

Scheduled to be published June 2020



The issue of long-term agricultural transformations remains a hot topic in historiography. The texts of this book intend to take this debate seriously into account by putting several models of alternative crops to facts.

The treatment of long-term agricultural transformation remains a lively topic for historians. Much debate arose when agricultural development patterns were discovered that did without a dominant, production-oriented cereal crop, even when it was accompanied by livestock farming.

Joan Thirsk hoped to conclude this debate by putting forward the hypothesis that such "alternative agriculture" was the farmers' way of responding to the difficulties caused by periods of low agricultural prices. This theory stirred up controversy and arguments both for and against.

The contributions to this volume take this hypothesis seriously and attempt to assess its validity. Examining a large number of "alternative agricultures" over the long term, from the fifteenth to the twentieth century, they discuss the issues encountered in tracing the links between the spread of alternative crops, such as fruits and vegetables, flowers, and industrial crops, and the general economic environment, across a vast swathe of territory stretching from Flanders to Spain and from France, through Italy and Switzerland, as far as Russia.

**Gérard Béaur** is Directeur de Recherches «*émérite*» at the French CNRS and Directeur d'études at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales. He is currently president of the European Rural History Organisation (EURHO). His research focus mainly about the history of the countryside and more precisely about land market, credit and agriculture. He has recently co-edited *Property rights, land market and economic growth*, and *Measuring agricultural growth. Land and labour productivity in Western Europe from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth century (England, France and Spain)*, in 2013 and 2014.

(Table of Contents: see verso)



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# Table of Contents

Gérard Béaur. *Introduction «Alternative agriculture» or «alternative crops»?*

## **The debate**

Jean-Pierre Poussou. *Another look at Joan Thirsk's concept of «Alternative Agriculture», and why it should be discarded*

## **Alternative agriculture and the city**

Michael Limberger. *Turnips, flax and clover. Farmers, Landowners and Agricultural Innovation in the Antwerp countryside in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*

Hervé Bennezon. *Adapting to the Paris Market: Montreuil in the Second Half of the Seventeenth Century*

Nadine Vivier. *Was Horticulture an alternative crop? A case study of Parisian horticultural suburbs in the nineteenth century*

## **Crises and alternative agriculture**

Caroline Le Mao. *War, crisis and alternative crops: The Case of Hemp and Wine in France from 1688 to 1697*

Gabriel Jover Avellà. *Was there an agrarian crisis in the Mediterranean world during the last third of the seventeenth century? The case of the island of Majorca*

Niccolò Mignemi. *The Battle of Wheat and Other Fascist Battles in Italian Agriculture (1920s-1930s)*

## **Alternative Agriculture and Growth**

Tim J. A. Le Goff. *Alternative Agriculture in Northern Burgundy: the Wines of the Hôpital Général of Dijon in the Eighteenth Century*

Emmanuelle Charpentier. *The Emergence of the Breton "Golden Belt": The Region of Saint-Malo in the Eighteenth Century*

Luigi Lorenzetti. *Between Conversion and Innovation: Alpine Fruit Growing in Trentino-South Tyrol and the Valais, 1860-1960*

## **Changing Alternative Crops**

Salvador Calatayud. *New crops in the crisis of Mediterranean agriculture: Valencia, 1800-1950*

Anne-Lise Head-König. *Alternative agricultural production in Switzerland, sixteenth to twentieth century: successes and failures*

David Celetti. *Considerations on Hemp and Alternative Agriculture in Italy, France and Russia from the Seventeenth to the Nineteenth Century*

Salvatore Ciriaco, *Conclusion*