

**ECO 2210Y**

**Topics No. 23-24: Agrarian Modernization: The 'New Husbandry in the Low Countries, and England: 1400-1750**

1. B. H. Slicher-Van Bath, The Agrarian History of Western Europe, 500-1850 A.D. (1963), section D, pp. 195-220, 239-61. Also Wilhelm Abel, Agricultural Fluctuations in Europe (London, 1980, chapters 4-6 (in Part II), pp. 90-193.
2. B.H. Slicher-Van Bath, 'The Rise of Intensive Husbandry in the Low Countries,' in Bromley and Kossman, eds., Britain and the Netherlands, Vol. I (London, 1960), pp. 130-53.
3. Jan de Vries, The Dutch Rural Economy in the Golden Age, 1500-1700 (New Haven, 1974), especially pp. 119-73 (in chapter 4).
4. A.R. Bridbury, 'Sixteenth Century Farming,' Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 27 (1974), 538-56.
5. R. B. Outhwaite, 'Progress and Backwardness in English Agriculture, 1500-1650,' Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 39 (1986), 1-18.
6. Mark Overton, Agricultural Revolution in England: The Transformation of the Agrarian Economy, 1500 - 1800, Cambridge Studies in Historical Geography (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), especially pp. 147-82 (which goes up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century).
7. Bruce M. S. Campbell and Mark Overton, 'A New Perspective on Medieval and Early Modern Agriculture: Six Centuries of Norfolk Farming, c.1250 - c.1850,' Past & Present, no. 141 (November 1993), 38 - 105.
8. Bruce M. S. Campbell and Mark Overton, eds., Land, Labour and Livestock: Historical Studies in European Agricultural Productivity (Manchester and New York, 1991):
  - (a) Mark Overton and Bruce Campbell, 'Productivity Change in European Agricultural Development,' pp. 1 - 50.
  - (b) Robert S. Shiel, 'Improving Soil Productivity in the Pre-Fertiliser Era,' pp. 51 - 77.
  - (c) Bruce M.S. Campbell, 'Land, Labour, Livestock, and Productivity Trends in English Seigneurial Agriculture, 1208 - 1450,' pp. 144 - 82.
  - (d) Gregory Clark, 'Labour Productivity in English Agriculture, 1300 - 1860,' pp. 211 - 35.
  - (e) Robert Allen, 'The Two English Agricultural Revolutions, 1450-1850,' pp. 236-54.
9. Eric Kerridge, The Agricultural Revolution (London, 1967); or his The Farmers of Old England (London, 1973), chapter 4, pp. 103-29.
10. Gregory Clark, 'Yields per Acre in English Agriculture, 1250 - 1860: Evidence from Labour Inputs,' Economic History Review, 2nd ser. 44 (August 1991), 445 - 60.
11. Robert C. Allen, 'The Growth of Labor Productivity in Early Modern English Agriculture,'

Explorations in Economic History, 25 (April 1988), 117-46. See also Clark (1991) and Allen (1991); and Robert Allen, Enclosure and the Yeoman: the Agricultural Development of the South Midlands, 1450 -1850 (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992).

- \*12. Robert Allen, 'Tracking the Agricultural Revolution in England,' The Economic History Review, 2<sup>nd</sup> ser., 52:2 (May 1999): 209-35. A dispute with Mark Overton, in which he places the crucial stages of the 'revolution' much earlier, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- \*13. Ann Kussmaul, 'Agrarian Change in Seventeenth-Century England: The Economic Historian as Paleontologist,' Journal of Economic History, 45 (March 1985), 1 - 30. See also: Ann Kussmaul, A General View of the Rural Economy of England, 1538 - 1840 (Cambridge University Press, 1990).
- 14. Joan Thirsk, 'Farming Techniques,' in Thirsk, The Agrarian History of England and Wales, IV: 1500-1640, (1967) chapter 3, 161-99.
- 15. Joan Thirsk, 'Agricultural Innovations and Their Diffusion,' in Joan Thirsk, ed. Agrarian History of England and Wales, V.ii: 1640-1750 (1985), pp. 533-89.
- 16. Susann Wade Martins and Tom Williamson, 'Floated Water-Meadows in Norfolk: A Misplaced Innovation,' Agricultural History Review, 42:I (1994), 20 - 37.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How, when, where, and why were new farming techniques introduced into (a) the Low Countries, and (b) England? In the late medieval or early modern eras? In England, did such techniques have native medieval origins (in East Anglia); or were they reintroduced from the Low Countries? When was the chief period of English diffusion: 16th, 17th, or 18th centuries?
2. Explain the importance of: multiple course crop rotations, convertible husbandry, floating meadows, the new fodder crops, marling and chalking.
3. What factors were chiefly responsible for the introduction and/or diffusion of the 'New Husbandry': relative price changes (price-cost 'scissors'), demographic factors, growth of urban markets, enclosures? Which conditions were more conducive for such changes: demographic and agrarian expansion or agrarian recession; rising or falling grain prices? Did they require enclosed farming units? Large scale units?
4. Were the chief agricultural innovations more important in increasing labour productivity or the productivity of land (per acre?). How were these economies achieved?
5. Did English arable agriculture experience diminishing returns during the Tudor-Stuart era? If so, how do you reconcile that phenomenon with the evidence for the diffusion of agricultural innovations?