

Soviet Zone was clearly a missed opportunity. Munich was a much-desired spot, but the city housing office was uncooperative, and neither Held nor the mayor's office was able to provide housing and facilities to aid and encourage relocation there. The lack of housing also discouraged any influx of new writers and artists.

Krauss's criticisms, however, are often buried under the mass of detail. Indeed, for a study of the postwar years, this account is remarkably passionless, even lifeless. Only an occasional aside, such as a mention of the cancellation in April 1948 of the programs of the city theaters because of mass influenza (a result of poor housing and food for the actors), reveals the extraordinary character of the times. Krauss argues that party politics played little role in cultural policy, even in such actions as the purging of the public libraries of books tainted by Nazism (25 percent of the collections) or in restrictions on certain authors because of their writings under the Nazis, and that city policy marched in perfect harmony with the American occupiers, who seldom intervened in cultural matters. This picture is too simple. Why were the mayor and Held unable to persuade the housing office to support their cultural policies? In fact, throughout Germany the reconstruction, repair, and allocation of housing brought out bitter political strife. Krauss sees as "a typical example" of American policy "the melting down of the printing plates for *Mein Kampf* for the first edition of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*" (p. 49). But American policy was rather more ambitious than that, as for example in the attempts to reform the school system. Finally, because of the limited perspective in this book, many potentially interesting issues, such as conflict between generations of artists and writers, are not explored. Much more remains to be done on culture in postwar Germany.

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CHRISTIAN PFISTER. *Das Klima der Schweiz von 1525–1860 und seine Bedeutung in der Geschichte von Bevölkerung und Landwirtschaft*. Volume 1, *Klimageschichte der Schweiz 1525–1860*; volume 2, *Bevölkerung, Klima und Agrarmodernisierung 1525–1860*. (Academica Helvetica, number 6.) Bern: Paul Haupt. 1984. Pp. 184; 163. Tables 34.3; 7.2.

A great deal has been written during the last decades about European weather anomalies prior to systematic weather observations (1659 in England, 1864 in Switzerland). This research points to better growing seasons during the High Middle Ages and substantially cooler conditions beginning with the late sixteenth century. The work has been of highly variable quality and tended to overgeneralize from

sparse or local data. Christian Pfister has now provided a model study, based in good part on exhaustive archival research, which yielded some thirty-three thousand weather records (comprising eighty thousand observations), and has critically processed them on a monthly basis, differentiated for thirteen areas within Switzerland. These records include specific weather observations and measurements as well as proxy data such as dates for the blooming and maturing of certain plants, official dates for grain auctions and grape harvests, information on quality and quantity of the wine yield, and observations of glacier fluctuations, location and duration of snow covers, high- and low-water stages, and other indirect consequences of weather.

The Swiss data are spotty for the period 1525–49, increasingly diversified during the seventeenth century, and abundant beginning in the mid-eighteenth century. In his first volume Pfister meticulously sorts out these materials by computer and presents estimates of deviations in temperature and precipitation (against twentieth-century averages) for each month and year since 1525. Longer-term trends that extend to all Switzerland emerge from the curves of eleven-year means and include: a warm climate (1530–64); a cooling trend (1565–1629), intensified after 1601 and with unusual variability from 1585 to 1616; dry winters and springs (1630–87); extremely cold winters after 1677, with maximum cold, primarily winter and spring, from 1688 to 1701 (climax of the "Little Ice Age"); warming springs and longer, drier summers (1702–30); cold winters and warm, increasingly wet summers (1731–1811); and a second, very cold period (1812–60), with cool summers and early frosts. Pfister then draws on other European evidence to reconstruct broader weather patterns for several anomalous years and to provide generalizations more valid than have previously been possible for temperate Europe.

In his second volume Pfister tackles the more difficult problem of interpreting the impact of these climatic trends and shorter perturbations with respect to agricultural and demographic trends. He has a special advantage in that the timing, duration, and quality of each growing season can be estimated with considerable precision. He begins by investigating the systemic feedback relationships between nutrition and mortality; he then evaluates the potential productivity of the different components of the past agricultural systems (grains, grapes and other fruits, and milking), their contributions to diet and monetary economy, and strategies for minimizing risks in the various Swiss economic sectors. Consequently, in reconstructing the changing productivity of cereals, wine, and dairy products over time, he is able to avoid the pitfalls of simplistic correlations. Furthermore, Pfister focuses on the

weather of the growing season, changes in agricultural technology and strategies, longer-term demographic trends, as well as the interdependence of all these factors.

Subsistence crises, associated with sharply reduced births and increased mortality, were found to be associated less with longer trends than with short runs of extremely cold springs and wet summers (in 1569–74, 1586–89, 1593–97, 1626–29, 1688–94, 1769–71, 1816–17, and 1854–55). Trends in per capita agricultural output were indeed linked with more persistent climatic anomalies but cannot always be isolated from positive changes in agricultural technology. Pfister has also identified qualified relationships between agricultural output and trends of population growth or decline, although the demographic data are spotty. For example, population growth was stimulated by good growing seasons in the periods 1530–59, 1632–87, and 1720–68, although the pace of growth was ultimately dominated by agricultural modernization during the mid-eighteenth century and, especially, the nineteenth century. The overall result is a cautious interpretation of climatic impacts on agricultural productivity and demographic change, presented in the context of a first-rate analysis of agricultural history.

This major work deserves widespread attention by interdisciplinary historians. The extended summaries in French and English, in conjunction with the graphic data and models and the copious numerical documentation in the appendixes, should not preclude its use by anglophone readers.

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ANDREAS SUTER. "Troublen" im Fürstbistum Basel (1726–1740): Eine Fallstudie zum bäuerlichen Widerstand im 18. Jahrhundert. (Veröffentlichungen des Max-Planck-Instituts für Geschichte, number 79.) Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht, 1985. Pp. 436. DM 90.

During the 1720s the rural communities along the northern reaches of the Jura Mountains successfully rebelled against the episcopal absolutism of the ecclesiastical princes of Basel, developed autonomous, democratic forms of government, engaged in an independent foreign policy, and, for a brief time, developed an alternative social vision to both the absolutism of their prince and the traditional forms of peasant life. Andreas Suter's "case study" is a broad investigation into the events and peasant actions of a rebellion that occurred amid changes in imperial and French politics and in the regional and European economies, whose inexorable progress together undermined and destroyed this attempt at

an independent peasant republic. The study seeks to dispel an image of peasants as merely reactive and irrational, as reactionary and violent, seduced into opposition by an outside leadership. It is true that the peasants' movement was a reaction to the usurpations of the episcopal state, they did follow an urban magisterial leadership that invoked legal documents nearly two centuries old, and they engaged in many violent acts. Nonetheless, Suter recasts this story in a comprehensive and generally satisfying explanatory framework that does justice to the rational, independent, progressive, and irenic dimensions of the peasants' activities. This is clearly a significant addition to the history of eighteenth-century rural politics in an area where the economic, military, political, and social practices propping up the *grosse Politik* of the empire, France, and the Swiss cantons may be observed.

Extractive industries, smelting, and large-scale livestock farming yielded the highest rates of return in the region's economy, and the episcopal princes began after about 1650 to appropriate the necessary land and forest resources to control these sectors. In the process they built an alternative body of property law that contradicted and undermined communal use rights in favor of the state's claims of eminent domain. By the early eighteenth century the peasants found that their economic base of mixed farming, which depended on the use of the commons, could no longer compete in the most profitable sectors. The authorities' overgrazing of the commons, the emergence of an advantaged class of householders who served as the state's agents in the villages, and the forced settlement by the authorities of immigrants who did not acquire full communal status and were not bound by communal rules compelled the peasant leadership to take extreme action in defense of their right to use communal property: "To the degree that the bishops in the course of their political interests had to get rid of the village commune, so the peasants in turn, recognizing their interests, had to get rid of the state" (p. 337).

While their leaders were attempting to create a politically unified regional movement, most of the peasants pursued their goals in their immediate communities through tax resistance, violations of game laws, expulsions of outsiders from commons, reclamations of land and other resources, charivaris, fence and roof dismantling, "house running," and so on. This, the heart of Suter's work, is based mostly on administrative documents from the episcopal archives at Pruntrut; the many microanalyses he contributes alone make this book essential reading. He provides useful tables and lists. Serious problems, however, mar Suter's approach and arguments; he underplays aspects of his sources that

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