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this is a revised and expanded edition of a popular textbook on the economics of farm households in developing countries the second edition retains the same building blocks designed to explore household decision making in a social context key topics are efficiency risk time allocation gender agrarian contracts farm size and technological change for these and other topics household economic behaviour represents the outcome of social interactions within the household and market interactions outside the household a new chapter on the environment combines exposition of economic tools not previously covered in the book with examination of household and community decision making in relation to environmental resources

the work of a v chayanov is today drawing more attention among western scholars than ever before largely ignored in his native russia because they differed from marxist leninist theory and neglected in the west for more than forty years chayanov s sophisticated theories were at last published in english in 1966 that trenchant is reprinted in this wisconsin paperback edition which includes a new introduction by the sociologist teodor shanin of the university of manchester one of the world s leading chayanov scholars the wisconsin edition will be essential reading for political scientists anthropologists and all whose interests include peasant studies third world development and women s studies the past two decades have seen the emergence of a whole new field called peasant studies and along with those of karl marx chayanov s ideas have been central to its development the publishers are to be commended for re issuing the book with both old and new introductions and making it available as an affordable paperback for students the work is a classic times higher education supplement

the author presents a convincing new interpretation of the origins and nature of the agrarian crisis that gripped the north china plain in the two centuries before the revolution his extensive research included eighteenth century homicide case records a nineteenth century country government archive large quantities of 1930 s japanese ethnographic materials and his own field studies in 1980 through a comparison of the histories of small family farms and larger scale managerial farms the author documents and illustrates the long term trends of agricultural commercialization social stratification and mounting population pressure in the peasant economy he shows how those changes in the absence of dynamic economic growth combined over the course of several centuries to produce a majority not simply of land

short peasants or of exploited tenants and agricultural laborers but of poor peasants who required both family farming and agricultural wage income to survive this interlocking of family farming with wage labor furnished a large supply of cheap labor which in turn acted as a powerful brake of capital accumulation in the economy the formation of such a poor peasantry ultimately altered both the nature of village communities and their relations with the elites and the state creating tensions that led in the end to revolution

this book first published in 1939 was originally conceived as an investigation of peasant farming in europe written in the years of the agricultural depression of the nineteen thirties it shows an immense contrast between the well capitalized commercial peasant farming of western europe and the poor subsistence farming of the remotest parts of eastern europe and between these two extremes a wide range of variation in standards of living and farming efficiency

these essays discuss principal and much debated issues in european agrarian history within the context of the general economic history of northwestern europe the authors endeavor to explain the phenomena with explicit use of economic reasoning and several of the papers draw on fresh historical source materials the use of economics provides a relevance beyond the specific historical context at the same time making possible a broader understanding of the reasons for the persistence spread and variation of certain peasant practices and forms of organization the topics discussed include the origin persistence and demise of the famous open or common field system of village agricultural organization the development of peasant and rural industry preceding and during the industrial revolution and the nineteenth century adjustments of agriculture on the continent to world competition a foreword by william n parker describes the economic and social setting to which the essays are relevant and an afterword by eric l jones relates the papers not only to traditional concerns of economic development and european economic history but also to the history of the european physical and biological environment in the past several centuries originally published in 1976 the princeton legacy library uses the latest print on demand technology to again make available previously out of print books from the distinguished backlist of princeton university press these editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions the goal of the princeton legacy library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by princeton university press since its founding in 1905

the objectives of this study first published in 1982 are to elaborate a micro economic model which adequately explains the interrelationships among economic forces determining the distribution of income in a peasant economy in the early stages of transition to industrialization it also examines the development of the dual economy an economy composed of a large peasant agricultural sector with its ancillary handicraft sector both traditional in techniques and institutions and a small but growing modern industrial sector

originally published in 1982 this book provides an important set of basic materials for students of rural development key papers have been chosen and arranged and the editor has provided a general introduction and passages that link the papers alerting the student to rival theoretical interpretations and to regional parallels and contrasts the book provides a basis for the analysis of the processes that make rural societies and economies what they are and substantially determine the changes that take place within them the papers help the reader to understand the nature of the phenomena with which rural development has to deal and in doing so to begin to evaluate the interventions of agencies and planners

this book is the first of two companion volumes by these authors on trade shocks in controlled economies both theoretically innovative and drawing on extensive applied work it addresses a number of issues in the forefront of economics principally the relationship between macro and micro economics by analysing the impact of an external macro shock the coffee price boom on each of two developing countries which have much in common but whose governmental organizations and objectives differ sharply the authors focus on three important ways in which governments affect peasants setting crop prices controlling access to consumer goods and provision of public services they address these three areas using microeconomic analysis and household survey data collected in kenya and tanzania much of the analysis is relevant for a wide class of developing countries

the role of the peasant has been a major theme for agricultural economists throughout the ages irrational decision making among peasants was as likely to worry scholars in medieval islam as in twentieth century brazil or eighteenth century france the efficiency of smallholdings as units of production was as important in nineteenth century germany and mexico as in twentieth century india and sub saharan africa in the peasant in economic thought a distinguished group of scholars examines the role of the peasant in agricultural economies from a variety of cultural and disciplinary perspectives beginning with a paper on the peasant proprietor in classical economics the volume continues with work on friedrich

list thomas robert malthus and thomas chalmers j s mill and the hutterites of manitoba rent in fabian economics and the peasant in nineteenth century mexican liberal thought later papers focus on the brazilian peasantry in nineteenth century economic thought land in medieval islamic thought and decision making in contemporary african peasant households economists historians and environmentalists trace lines of influence centring on john stuart mill s liberalism and auguste comte s positivism which affected debate in england latin america canada india and sub saharan africa

contains papers that appeal to a broad and global readership in all fields of economics

peasants are a majority of the world s poor despite this there has been little effort to bridge the fields of peasant and poverty studies peasant poverty and persistence in the twenty first century provides a much needed critical perspective linking three central questions why has peasantry unlike other areas of non capitalist production persisted why are the vast majority of peasants poor and how are these two questions related interweaving contributions from various disciplines the book provides a range of responses offering new theoretical historical and policy perspectives on this peasant world drama scholars from both south and north argue that in order to find the policy paths required to overcome peasants misery we need a seismic transformation in social thought to which they make important contributions they are convinced that we must build upon the peasant economy s advantages over agricultural capitalism in meeting the challenges of feeding the growing world population while sustaining the environment structured to encourage debate among authors and mutual learning peasant poverty and persistence takes the reader on an intellectual journey toward understanding the peasantry

study of the social and cultural anthropology of peasant farmer economic systems comprises sections on 1 the scope of economic anthropology 2 primitive and peasant economies 3 the nonmonetary economy 4 peasants and marketing 5 economic structures 6 the process of economic social and cultural change and 7 economic development bibliography pp 153 to 161

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