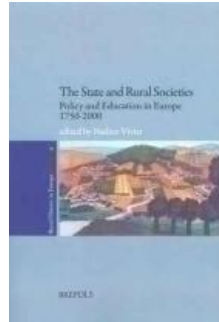


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The State and Rural Societies

Out of Stock

Pages: 278
Author(s): N. Vivier
Publisher(s): Brepols

Rural societies are conventionally thought to be bound by tradition and resistant to change. But from the 18th century onwards many countires began to see the countryside as the basis of national prosperity, with a healthy and increasing population, and rising agricultural output fostering general econmic growth. It became an objective of the State to encourage the trend, but also to exert social control on this major part of the population in order to civilize the rude peasantry and acquire their electoral support. This book deals with the various aspects of rural life in which the State intervened: economic matters, such as property rights and market regulations; social questions, from moral concerns to demographic policy; and the key issue of rural education. From Sweden to the Iberian Peninsula, the United Kingdom to Hungary, and from the eighteenth century to the twentieth, using both broad surveys and in-depth studies, with an extensive introduction written from a comparative perspective, an international group of historians (brought together by COST A35) for the first time examine the rural concerns of the state, both economic and social, in a comparative European context.

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