
The Peasant Economy and Social Change in North China

Philip C. C. Huang. The author integrates three major traditions of peasant studies and uses vast quantities of new materials to present a convincing interpretation of the origins and nature of the agrarian crisis that gripped the North China Plain in the two centuries before the Revolution. 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 differentiation, and mounting population pressure. He shows how those changes combined to produce, within the small peasant economy, a noncapitalizing managerial elite and a partially proletarianized peasantry, a pattern of change different from and more volatile than the development in Western Europe of a capitalizing elite and a proletarianizing peasantry. \$37.50

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