

# The Journal of Peasant Studies

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*The Journal of Peasant Studies* is one of the leading journals in the field of the political economy of agrarian change. With its focus on considering peasants within the broader systems and historical situations in which they exist, it is essential reading for all who want to achieve an understanding of the role of peasants in political, economic and social transformation. It embraces both the theoretical and the empirical, and encompasses a multidisciplinary area of study, rigorously pursued: catering for economists, historians, anthropologists, political scientists, geographers and sociologists, as well as literary scholars. It has wide regional coverage, addresses contemporary themes, and has a very broad historical range. It publishes material of the highest quality, and is responsible for much new and stimulating debate. It has a comprehensive reviews section; often carries review articles and has regular special issues.

## THE KRISHNA BHARADWAJ PRIZE AND THE ERIC WOLF PRIZE

Two prizes are to be awarded annually for the two best articles published in *The Journal of Peasant Studies* starting with Volume 28 (2001). The prizes will be named in memory of two long-standing and distinguished members of the Editorial Advisory Board, the political economist Krishna Bharadwaj (1935–92) and the anthropologist Eric Wolf (1923–99), in recognition of their enduring contributions to the study of peasants. The value of each prize is £250. All articles published in the relevant volume are eligible, and special weight will be given to analytical originality and comparative scope. One of the prizes will normally be awarded to a first-time contributor, and the other will be open to those whose work has previously been published in the journal. Members of the Editorial Advisory Board will nominate candidates for each prize, and the judges will consist of a sub-committee of the Editorial Board and the Executive Editor. Details of the awards made will be published in the journal.

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# The Library of Peasant Studies

**Series Editor: Tom Brass**

The *Library of Peasant Studies* is an ongoing book series encouraging the publication of monographs of related interest, and also edited collections of essays which have appeared as special issues of the journal.

ISSN: 1462-219X

## AN APARTHEID OASIS?

*Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods in Venda*  
**Edward Lahiff, Nkuzi Development**

*Association,  
South Africa*

This is a socio-economic study of agriculture and its contribution to livelihoods in Venda, one of the black 'homelands' created in South Africa under apartheid. It is based on a survey of households on the Tshiombo irrigation scheme, a project in central Venda with approximately six hundred plot-holders.

The study concludes that there is scope for further development of the agricultural economy at Tshiombo but this will require comprehensive reform of existing state services such as tractor ploughing and agricultural extension. More flexible partnerships between the state and non-state organisations, including private entrepreneurs, individual farmers and the struggling Tshiombo Co-operative in the provision of credit, marketing and transport services are also identified as areas suitable for development. Constraints of land, capital and household labour suggest that in most cases agriculture is likely to remain supplementary to income obtained from the non-farm economy, but can be a valuable source of food and an important safety-net in times of crisis.

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## ALEKSANDR CHAYANOV AND RUSSIAN BERLIN

**Frank Bourgholtzer (Ed)**

The Chayanov known to us, until now, has been largely two-dimensional – the author of a fanciful peasant utopia, and the scientist who built a theory of peasant farm organisation around the concept of drudgery, the peasant's daily decision whether or not to trudge out to work in his field. A third Chayanov dimension emerges from the autobiographical material he was forced to write in the interrogation that followed his arrest, in 1930, and in the letters he wrote in the early 1920s when he lived and worked both in England and in the Germany to which thousands of Russia's greatest minds were drawn, willingly or unwillingly, after the Bolshevik revolution, the Germany whose capital became 'Russian Berlin'.

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## RURAL LABOUR RELATIONS IN INDIA

**T J Byres, Karin Kapadia and Jens Lerche (Eds)**

This volume is about the emerging development trajectories of rural labour relations in India, based on studies from its regions and states. Its overarching theme is rural class conflict and the results of such conflict; and the intimate link between this and the nature and impact of state intervention is considered. Vigorous emancipatory processes are identified, and the limitations of and contradictions inherent in such processes are examined. Both powerful general trends and significant regional variations are distinguished. This is a landmark volume of considerable significance, which adds greatly to our knowledge and understanding of rural labour in India. Its interest will extend beyond India, to all who are concerned with rural labour.

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*Library of Peasant Studies No 18*

## PEASANTS, POPULISM AND POSTMODERNISM

*The Return of the Agrarian Myth*

**Tom Brass**

Tracing the way the agrarian myth has re-emerged over the twentieth century in ideology shared by populism, postmodernism and the political right, the argument in this book is that at the centre of this discourse about the cultural identity of 'otherness'/'difference' lies the concept of an innate 'peasantness'.

Although the economic breakdown of traditional agrarian structures in the Third World by postwar capitalist development has been accompanied by a discursive re-essentialization of the peasantry, it is argued that perceptions concerning the kind of political action undertaken by peasants have changed.

Following the rediscovery of 'popular culture' by postmodern theory, there has been an analogous shift in development debate about agrarian transformation, from 'peasantness'-as-economic-alienation to 'peasantness'-as-cultural-empowerment, leading in turn to an epistemological fusion between 'new' populist and 'new' right discourse.

After an initial consideration of nineteenth and early twentieth century versions of the agrarian myth, the first part of the book examines the respective roles of the agrarian myth, populism, socialism and nationalism in a number of grassroots rural mobilizations which occurred in Latin America and India during the latter part of the twentieth century.

The second part charts the rise of the 'new' populism and the 'new' right over the same period, together with the reasons for this, its implications for development theory in general, and the analysis of agrarian change in particular, while the final section analyses the different forms taken by the agrarian myth in the domain of popular culture (literature, film).

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## TOWARDS A COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF UNFREE LABOUR

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**Tom Brass**

*'Make no mistake, this is some book. One of the best I have read for a long time ... [it] should be read, studied and appreciated by all scholars of labour, migration and development.'*

*Journal of Contemporary Asia*

The central proposition advanced in this book is that the bonding of increasingly landless agricultural workers amounts to a process of deproletarianization. It is therefore wrong to assume that economic development in agriculture always requires the emergence of a rural proletariat, and thus to categorize unfree production relations as anachronistic.

The first part of the book presents fieldwork data about bonded labour gathered over the 1974–90 period, from La Convención in eastern Peru, and from Punjab, Haryana, and Bihar in northern India. These data indicate that agrarian capitalists were replacing more costly free workers with cheaper and more easily regulated unfree labour. The second part examines and challenges a number of enduring stereotypes which inform revisionist theory about the presence, meaning and economic role of unfree labour in Latin America, India and elsewhere.

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## THE JOURNAL OF PEASANT STUDIES

*A Twenty Volume Index 1973–1993*

**Henry Bernstein, Tom Brass and T J Byres with  
Edward Lahiff and Gill Peace (Eds)**

This is a meticulously compiled Index of the first twenty volumes of *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. A most valuable guide to the rich and diverse content of the journal is provided by the Subject Index giving a coherent framework without imposing a uniform imprint on the depth and range of the material. The Index includes an essay on the journal's origins and its first twenty years (by T J Byres) and a User's Guide (by Henry Bernstein).

144 pages 1994

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