

Summaries

Werner K. Blessing

Environment and mentality in rural Bavaria — an outline of the change in everyday life in the 19th century

The essay examines the everyday life of the majority of the population, consisting mainly of small holders and small craftsmen and traders, in the biggest German »middle« state in the 19th century; due to different economic, social, and political conditions, their situation differed considerably — among other things, by a lesser differential between social groups — from that in Prussia which is usually examined. Starting from the »Lebenswelt« concept (concept of man's relations with all aspects of his environment) of cultural anthropology, the development of the environment in rural society and its effect on that society's mentality is studied. Since the early 19th century, work and leisure, interaction in the family, neighbourhood and community, conception and orientation of life of ancient European tradition had been subject to a predominantly exogenous, partial change which was set in motion by the modern reformist state, — to a limited process of dynamism. This did not, however, have any revolutionary effect on the continuity of those traditions. It was only the impact of industrialisation — which came relatively late — and of urbanisation on the rural areas which triggered off a decisive change late in the 19th century. Development of production in agriculture and small trade, as made possible and necessary by industrialisation, and the display, or direct experience, of unknown ways of life as conveyed through an enormously expanded, more concentrated, unchained system of personal and media communication eventually began to gradually eliminate traditionalism of attitudes and behaviour in all fields of everyday life and to introduce cultural patterns of an industrial and urban society — in economic, social, and political attitudes. But even in the early 20th century, traditional elements were still predominant; it was only around the middle of this century, that modernisation of rural Bavaria accelerated on a large scale.

Wolfgang v. Hippel

Industrial change in rural areas. Studies in the central Neckar area 1850—1914

The author takes the example of a village near Esslingen am Neckar to study economic and social changes which industrialisation in the Greater Stuttgart area caused in the surrounding rural region. Since an increasing number of workers went from the rural areas to the towns

daily to earn their livelihood in the factories (commuters), many villages turned more and more into workers' settlements. The essay first examines how this fact was reflected in Berkeheim by the growth of the village, by regional mobility of the population, and by the development of economic and employment structures, and then studies the question as to how far industrial change became manifest also in social behaviour and relations within the village. This is done mainly with the help of church registers, declarations of property in cases of marriage or death, parish reports and election statistics on the following issues: occupational and social mobility, reproduction and marriage behaviour, »moral and religious« state of the community (attendance at church service, family life, »morality«, etc.), development of societies and associations, and political mobilisation.

Michael Mitterauer

Types of family and illegitimacy in Austria's rural areas

In the 19th and 20th century, the states of the present-day Federal Republic of Austria counted amongst those regions in Europe which showed the highest numbers of illegitimate children. The purpose of the study is twofold: To try and find the reasons for this high rate of illegitimacy and its regional differentiation, and to examine the causes for that precipitous rise in the number of illegitimate births which — as everywhere else in Europe — may be observed in Austria, too, from the end of the 18th to the middle of the 19th century. The decisive reasons for the high number of illegitimate births in the rural areas of the eastern Alpine region may be said to be specific methods of rural management, specific sizes of landed property, and certain provisions in the law of inheritance. These necessitated a large number of unmarried labour who were dependent under domiciliary rights (grown-up children, sisters and brothers of the farmer, maids and farm-hands). The majority of the fathers and mothers of illegitimate children come from amongst those unmarried relatives and labourers. The agricultural revolution during the first half of the 19th century which is characterised by a considerable increase in production without any decisive increase in labour productivity was accompanied by a marked rise in the number of unmarried farm labour and, thus, an increase in the rate of illegitimate births. The rising number of illegitimate children in rural areas, therefore, proves to be a consequence of profound structural changes in the rural organisation of work. There is no reason to adopt the interpretation of a »sexual revolution« (Edward Shorter) for the regions studied. It is true, however, that, besides economic factors, others such as caused by a change in awareness — e. g. the increasing secularisation of some rural areas — or in legislation — e. g. the re-introduction of the parents' or guardian's consent to marriage — were co-responsible for the increase in the rate of illegitimate births.

Klaus Tenfelde

Farm servants in Prussia. Regulations for, and statistics of, farm servants and domestic servants 1810 to 1861

Up to the decades of highly industrial development in Germany, farm servants were amongst the most stable and numerically most important groups of the working population. The author, in this essay, attempts to revive interest in this subject of study which was long

neglected because little documented and, for example for the history of the labour movement, seemingly insignificant. The study starts with a survey on pre-industrial history of farm servants and concentrates on an analysis of the legal situation of farm servants, taking as example the Prussian Regulations for Domestic Servants and Farm Servants of 1810, so that a detailed interpretation of the Prussian Domestic Servants' and Farm Servants' Statistics for the period of 1800 to 1861 will improve the statistical basis for further research into the living conditions and behavioural patterns of farm servants. The closing chapter offers some reflexions on those and especially on the mobility and conflict behaviour of farm servants. One of the essential results of the study is the thesis that the reactionary Prussian Regulations for Farm Servants could continue to exist until the year 1918 especially due to the fact that rural mobility (rural exodus) which started in the 1850ies had the effect of reducing conflict.

Josef Mooser

Equality and inequality in rural communities. Social structure and local constitution in eastern Westfalia from the end of the 18th to the middle of the 19th century

The study deals with the internal social history of villages from the late 18th to the middle of the 19th century and illustrates this with a regional example, rural society in eastern Westfalia. The main purpose is to examine the function and significance of a co-operative social structure of the community in a society which is characterised by severe social inequality based on the possession or non-possession of land. The study examines in detail whether and to which extent the communal economic co-operative, distribution of political power, neighbourly help and co-operation in work as well as the thus created integration of the community tempered, or modified inequality or even eliminated it through a »community« which embraced all classes. The author develops the thesis that the village, as a social system, tended less to establish equality but rather to stabilise existing inequality. Therefore, it was not in a position to assimilate the problems of the crisis-like social change during the »Vormärz« period (the period of roughly 1830 to 1848 in German history) the result being that the constitution of the village itself eventually germinated social conflict.

Jürgen Schlumbohm

The seasonal rhythm in linnen production in the Osnabrück region during the late 18th and the first half of the 19th century: Description, context, and interregional comparison

On the basis of electronically processed statistical data series (»Legge statistics«), the seasonal fluctuations of the linnen supply in the Osnabrück region were determined; their range and the distribution of maxima and minima over the different months in the period studied remained by and large constant. With great regularity, the major part of the supply was concentrated on a few summer months. — For some of the years, it was possible also to determine the considerable monthly fluctuations in the average price of the linnen. High prices tended to be paid in the months with plentiful rather than in those with little linnen supply. — The basic reason for these phenomena is to be seen in the production system which may be

described as ›small-scale production of goods‹ and in the then existing ›system of purchase‹: Merchant capital remained restricted to the sphere of trade. In the field of production, a social division of labour was hardly developed. — The comparatively much lesser seasonal fluctuations and the different distribution of minima and maxima in Bielefeld are also explained by the structure of production. In producing the finer Bielefeld linnen, flax-planting farmers, spinners and weavers had arrived at a social division of labour due to which the linnen supply never came to a standstill at any time of the year. — The Niederlausitz wool trade which flourished in the first half of the 19th century and was characterised by little seasonal fluctuation of production was an urban trade based on craftsmanship and strongly influenced by the firms who put out work and even having, at some stages of production, firms with a larger number of employed workers. Given these conditions, seasonal fluctuations were much less conspicuous than short-term and long-term economic fluctuations.

Dietrich Ebeling/Franz Irsigler

Essay on the development of prices for agricultural products and food during the pre-industrial and industrial periods. Observations in the Rhineland

Changes in the development and structure of grain and food prices in the 19th century under the conditions of industrial growth are examined — for the limited area of the Rhineland and without resort to aggregate data — on the basis of annual and monthly series of prices for wheat, rhye, peas, potatoes, beef, and butter. Long-term changes in prices may be perceived and explained more clearly when compared to seasonal price fluctuations based on monthly data. With regard to wheat and rhye prices, the comparison of data series from the first and second halves of the 19th century is extended to include a comparison with corresponding prices on the Cologne market during the first half of the 18th century. — Diagrams based on the relatively simple methods of descriptive statistics show that price developments in staple food could, until long into the latter half of the 19th century, be classified as pre-industrial, and that they displayed considerable annual and seasonal fluctuations. Being less dependent on weather, annual fluctuations in beef and butter prices are somewhat less in character although the second half of the 19th century brings with it a tangible mutual adaptation of short-term price fluctuations in all six price series. Besides, the diminishing oscillation of seasonal price graphs is a clear indication of changes in price structure under the conditions of growing industrialisation which required a relatively stable price level since workers' wages lacked elasticity. On the whole, the differences between the first and second halves of the 19th century become very evident — from, amongst other things, the monthly price profiles which are based on 10-year averages — even though specific turning-points cannot be determined; at most, we may classify price structures as clearly industrial from the 1890ies onwards. We may mention — though only hypothetically — that possible factors conducive to change and partly effective even in the first half of the 19th century are changes in agrarian structure (expansion of root crop cultivation and animal husbandry) and in transport conditions (construction of railways).

Hans J. Teuteberg

The per-capita consumption of food in Germany per annum since the beginning of industrialisation (1850—1975). Attempt at a quantitative long-term analysis

One of the primary tasks of a »social history of everyday life« is, without doubt, research into the eating habits especially of the lower classes. One of the first steps in this direction must be to determine the actually consumed quantities of food, a subject on which we are so far only fragmentarily informed and usually not at all when we look at larger contexts and go back to the time before the first world war. Any decisive reasons for the profound change in nutrition could, therefore, not yet be found. On the basis of newly calculated extended-time series, this essay is the first to try and trace back the average per-capita consumption year by year to the middle of the past century and, thus, to the actual beginning of industrialisation in Germany — which also involves methodological problems. The data series which were also converted into diagrams help to interpret the typical shifts in consumption patterns against the background of overall economic and social development and especially to illustrate the trends in the substitution of staple foodstuffs and their dependence on the respective standard of living. The chapter on the consumption of individual foodstuffs is prefaced by some general remarks with regard to the structural change of nutrition in the age of industrialisation. In conclusion, the essay emphasises the desirability of further research into the differentiation of eating habits according to social groups and regions as a desideratum of a future social history of nutrition.

Klaus Roth

Home furnishings in the Münsterland around 1800

For the research of historical furniture and home décor, the inventories of estate — in the Münsterland especially the rural »inventories after decease« and urban »inventories for guardianship« — have proved an invaluable source. About 370 inventories from 17 rural parishes and — for comparison — 24 from the town of Münster, dated between 1770 and 1808, were evaluated with the help of statistical-quantifying methods and EDP. They show that, in comparison to urban households, the rural households were not very sumptuously equipped with furniture and household effects but that great differences existed between the households which may be largely explained by socio-economic factors and reasons of space. On an average, rich farms near the town of Münster were better furnished and had more innovations in the household sphere than poor farms remote from town which often could hardly boast of the basic furniture and equipment. Using iterative cluster analysis, it was possible to determine six distinctly different types of farm furniture and household equipment according to the volume of basic furniture and equipment or luxury furnishings and equipment and according to the number of innovations adopted. In the late 18th century, the change in house furniture took place by degrees: After a long period of little change, a lively innovation phase followed after the Seven-Years War; this phase brought parts of the farming population in closer contact with middle-class and urban patterns of home furnishings and especially their habits at table.

Ruth-E. Mohrmann

Rural patterns in household furnishing in southern Lower Saxony from the middle of the 19th century until around 1930

With the aid of inventories of estate from the former Brunswick local district of Greene (today district of Gandersheim), rural home furnishings, their change in the course of time, and their social and geographical differentiation are illustrated. The great number of sources (just under 500 inventories) necessitated a statistical-quantifying method which was put into practice with the assistance of EDP (SPSS). Since 1850, a radical change was taking place in rural home furnishings in the direction of supraregionally valid middle-class patterns of home life, and a massive landslide of innovation may be observed in the 1860ies. Individually, families with 10 to 15 years of married life showed most willing to adopt innovations. The social differences, in terms of quality and quantity of furniture and household effects, are considerable during the whole period of time studied. Cyclical fluctuations are reflected differently by the different occupational and social groups in their behaviour towards home furnishings. As to geographical differentiation, predominantly agricultural villages and the respective central seat of administration for a locality are prominent for being particularly open to innovation. In contrast, the sometimes highly industrialised places (coal mining and metallurgical industry) prove to be, on the whole, less willing to adopt innovations.

Willy Albrecht/Friedhelm Boll/Beatrix W. Bouvier/Rosemarie Leuschen-Seppel/Michael Schneider

The question of women's rights and German Social Democracy from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the Twenties

Because of the many-sided problems attached to this subject, the authors of this essay have not adopted a self-contained theory of women's emancipation but instead work with an open grid of central causal factors which strives to avoid the onesidedness of an economic or feminist theory. The authors, therefore, understand women's emancipation as being both an individual and a social process encompassing all fields of life and meaning the change of attitudes and behaviour of both sexes. Economic independence, equal rights and equal treatment for men and women in private and public life, and the elimination of a role-oriented socialisation are demanded as the most important requirements. Based on research literature on the subjects of women's rights, women's movement, and Social Democracy, and with the aid of their own study of sources, the authors attempt to examine from as many sides as possible the complexity, ambivalence, and interdependence of the relationship between the question of women's rights and the Social-Democratic labour movement. On the premiss that organisations are always also an expression of collective intent and may represent a mobilising factor for emancipatory potential, the study, taking into consideration the research desiderata, concentrates on the fields of production and organisation even though this meant that the field of reproduction, the problems of context of life and of the everyday experience of proletarian women had to be neglected. When dealing with the period of highly industrial development in Germany, which decisively influenced the social situation of

women, stimulated the progress of the idea of emancipation in both theory and practice, and established the basis for a women's movement within the Socialist labour movement, the essay describes women's work and organisational development, analyses Social-Democratic »women's policy« in theory and practice, and finally examines the behaviour of women in protest and strike actions and during elections.