

## **Interwar national policies in the face of global agricultural markets**

### **Organizadores:**

Niccolò Mignemi - CNRS, France

**Moderador:** Alejandro Tortolero

### **Contra corriente: La Internacional Verde de Praga y su actuación en la Europa de Entreguerras**

Miguel Cabo (miguel.cabo@usc.es) Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia-España

La Oficina Agraria Internacional (1921-1938), con sede en Praga, funcionó como coordinadora de los partidos agrarios en el continente durante la época de máximo esplendor de los mismos, cuando ejercieron responsabilidades de gobierno en numerosos países. Además, sus congresos y publicaciones contribuyeron a articular el proyecto agrarista, alternativo a otros esquemas modernizadores (capitalista liberal, comunista, fascista, social-católico...) que se disputaban el predominio en las convulsas décadas de Entreguerras.

Derrotados, a la postre, los partidos agrarios fueron marginados en la historiografía posterior a 1945 y descritos como una mera tentativa nostálgica condenada al fracaso de mantener los modos de vida tradicionales. Desde la perspectiva actual pueden por el contrario ser considerados más ecuanímente como una alternativa modernizadora pero construida sobre la base del predominio de la explotación familiar, el cooperativismo, el europeísmo y un equilibrio entre sociedad civil articulada y Estado.

Partidos agrarios; Agrarismo; Europeísmo

### **Feeding the nation: market control and institutional innovation in Portuguese agriculture, 1920-1940**

Leonardo Aboim Pires (leonardo.a.pires@uc.pt) Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa/Centro de Estudos Interdisciplinares da Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

Among the consequences of the First World War was a new approach to the role of the State in relation to the economic activity, reinforcing its interventionism and creating the conditions for the development of institutions. This aspect would not be abandoned but rather reinforced after the Great Depression and the consolidation of the dictatorship in the early 1930s.

At the time, this movement ended up having more significance in agriculture with a plethora of institutions emerging: the so called agrarian corporative structure. One of the most relevant were the 'Organismos de Coordenação Económica' (economic coordination organisms) created to guide, discipline, and supervise, in cooperation with the public services, the production and trade of various crops, like wheat, wine, fruits, rice and others. At a local level, there was a wave of creation of rural associations: the 'Grémios da Lavoura' (farmers unions) and 'Casas do Povo' (salaried workers unions), generating changes in collective action in the countryside, in particular during the Second World War.

This paper will focus on the initial years and the conditions for the expansion and consolidation of these organisms, to place them in a comparative perspective in relation to what occurred in other countries with a similar political pattern and understand what their successes and frustrated aspirations.

Agricultural markets; Corporatism; Portugal; Estado Novo

### **French Wheat Production in the Global Crisis: Market Shifts and Policy Hesitations**

Alain Chatriot (alain.chatriot@sciencespo.fr) Sciences Po, France

The scale of the crisis of the wheat in France of the 1930s questions the whole French economy and then mobilized public policies. It is interesting to understand in the same time the reactions of the economists, the politicians and also the representatives of the agricultural producers in the face of the crisis. The price collapse of wheat at the world level is translated in France in a cruel way at a moment when the country falls over to the surproduction. The importance of the agriculture in the French economy and the political weight maintained of rural France explains from then on the multiple legislative answers to try to contain the crisis. The debates on the liberalism, the protectionism, the planned economy and the corporatism are then embodied in concrete measures according to the variations of the parliamentary majorities.

Wheat market; Crisis; agricultural policy

### **Which agricultural sovereignty for Italy? Fascist policies and international markets**

Niccolò Mignemi (niccolo.mignemi@cnrs.fr) CNRS (UMR8236, LIED - Université Paris Cité), France

The Battaglia del grano (Battle of Wheat) was launched by the Italian fascist regime in 1925. It was presented as a mass mobilization to feed the population with domestic cereals and develop national food sovereignty. As historians have shown, the country was traditionally dependent on the import of foreign wheats and the economic impact of this policy needs thus to be measured far beyond the propaganda announcing the defense of the “Italian bread”. Protecting wheat through import duties and quotas was, in fact, only one side of the story. Italian agricultures were deeply entangled in international markets, and disconnecting them from larger flows of money, staples and raw materials was a sensitive issue. Using the database Bankit-FTV (1862-1950, created by Banca d’Italia), the present paper will elaborate a first map of the Italian agricultural flows, in both their material and monetary dimensions. It will examine the dynamics of the imports and exports of staple crops and processed food in the interwar years, as well as the geography of the Italian commercial partners on international markets. Looking at the agricultural sector, the paper intends to suggest new insights in the analysis of the fascist program of economic sovereignty.

Agricultural policy; Italian fascist regime

### **Soberania alimentar em tempos de guerra: Estado Novo e as políticas tecnocientíficas para os campos do Brasil (1937-1945)**

Carolina da Cunha Rocha (carolinatrazom@gmail.com) Escola Nacional de Administração Pública – Enap, Brasil

A Segunda Guerra Mundial coincidiu no Brasil com a consolidação no poder de Getúlio Vargas e seu Estado Novo, processo que conduziu à afirmação de uma gestão agrária apoiada na institucionalização das ciências no aparato de Estado, bem como na formação científica de técnicos em questões rurais. Tal processo, iniciado ainda na Primeira República, encontrou no período do entreguerras seu momento de expansão, quando passou a atuar por meio de um autoritarismo tecnocientífico que se apoiava em políticas de desenvolvimento nacional e também na promoção de um tipo de conhecimento capaz de melhorar os defeitos da natureza, transformar a agricultura tradicional, de corrigir as falhas da sociedade e, dessa forma, consertar a economia. Este momento também coincide com o processo de urbanização, êxodo rural e aumento demográfico, fatores que pressionaram a produção rural nacional e exigiram do Estado políticas orientadas tanto para a conquista de mercados internacionais, como para o suprimento das demandas alimentares internas. Dessa forma, o trabalho buscará analisar os mecanismos da gestão agrária utilizados para garantir a soberania alimentar brasileira e a conquista de mercados no período, tais como: campanhas nacionais de produção; formação de redes de pesquisa agrícola; expansão da educação rural em massa; intercâmbio técnico e diplomacia agrária internacional entre outros métodos.

soberania alimentar; administração rural tecnocientífica; política agrária; diplomacia agrária; intercâmbio técnico

### **Export performance and domestic policies in the 1930s: evidence from the international olive oil market**

Ramon Ramon-Muñoz (ramon@ub.edu) University of Barcelona

The Great Depression of the 1930s was a worldwide phenomenon. Between 1929 and 1932, GDP, price levels, employment and international trade dropped worldwide. Taking as a case study the international market for olive oil (a major export item in the Mediterranean basin), this paper analyses export performance for a large sample of olive oil producers during the 1930s. It shows that the impact of the crisis and the recovery widely diverged across countries. As an attempt to explain these differences, and in a general context characterised by increasing state interventionism, the paper explores the role of domestic economic policies, mainly commercial and monetary policies and their influence on export performance through several channels. Interestingly, in a period of falling prices and collapsing markets, this paper shows that authorities not only protected the domestic market but also attempted to develop pro-export policies, which, of course, had different degrees of success.

Great Depression; Export trade; Economic Policy; Mediterranean basin; Olive oil