

The Rice Economies: Technology and Development in Asian Societies

By Francesca Bray

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The contrast in the rate of growth between Western and Eastern societies since 1800 has caused Asian societies to be characterized as backward and resistant to change, though until 1600 or so certain Asian states were technologically far in advance of Europe. *The Rice Economies*, drawing on original source materials, examines patterns of technological and social evolution specific to East-Asian wet-rice economies in order to clarfiy some general historical trends in economic development.

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Editorial Review

Review
"This is a magnificent book, which deserves special praise for having achieved a truly exemplary balance between scholarly and practical significance."--Paul Richards, "New Scientist

From the Back Cover
Wide-ranging both historically and geographically, The Rice Economies brilliantly addresses a subject of abiding interest to anthropologists, economists, and historians as well as those concerned with development issues and Asian studies. It is the first work to formulate a logical, historical dynamic of development in Asia's rice economies up to the present day. The comparison of mechanized Western farming methods with the more labor intensive, less environmentally destructive Asian methods is of value to environmentalists and economists concerned with the need for sustainable development. In a new preface, the author reflects upon the increasing relevance of the concerns of the book to international environmental issues.

About the Author

Francesca Bray is Professor of Anthropology at University of California, Santa Barbara and author of *Agriculture,* Volume VI, part 2 in Joseph Needham's *Science and Civilization in China* (1984).

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