

Public Abstract

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Title:The Family Farm in the Post-World War II Era: Industrialization, the Cold War and Political Symbol

The Family Farm in the Post-World War II Era examines the rapid changes that occurred in agriculture in the 1940s through the 1960s and the changes in the political atmosphere that resulted. This research also examines the political impacts of other forces, particularly a Cold War climate. Using primary and secondary sources derived from archives, interviews, oral histories and presidential libraries, this research concludes that the concept of the family farm experienced radical changes at this time. Moreover, the change in this concept, coupled with the radical changes in other factors, led to new concerns requiring policy solutions. In the end, dominant social values prevented passage of policies that would adequately address these new concerns. This work details important changes that impacted the direction of American agricultural policy since the end of World War II. Moreover, this research highlights the important role dominant values play in shaping public policy and the problems chosen to receive policy action.