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052183192X - Ecology, Economy and State Formation in Early Modern Germany

Paul Warde

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## Ecology, Economy and State Formation in Early Modern Germany

This is an innovative study of the agrarian world and growth of government in early modern Germany through the medium of pre-industrial society's most basic material resource, wood. Paul Warde offers a regional study of south-west Germany from the late fifteenth to the early eighteenth century, demonstrating the stability of the economy and social structure through periods of demographic pressure, warfare and epidemic. He casts new light on the nature of 'wood shortages' and societal response to environmental challenge, and shows how institutional responses largely based on preventing local conflict were poor at adapting over time to optimise the management of resources. Warde further argues for the inadequacy of models that oppose the 'market' to a 'natural economy' in understanding economic behaviour. This is a major contribution to debates about the sustainability of peasant economy and society in early modern Europe, to our understanding of the growth of the state, and to new ecological approaches to history and historical geography.

PAUL WARDE is Lecturer in History at the University of Cambridge.

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## Glossary

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<i>Allmend</i>	Common land
<i>Amt</i>	Administrative district
<i>Auchtwiesen</i>	Meadows set aside for special grazing
<i>Beisitzer</i>	Resident household head without membership rights in village or town commune
<i>Bürger</i>	Member of a village or town commune
<i>Bürgermeister</i>	Village mayor and chief financial officer
<i>Bürgerschaft</i>	The collective members of the village or town commune
cordwood	Relatively small diameter wood often used for fuel and measured out in ‘fathoms’ or ‘cords’
<i>Dorfgericht</i>	Village court
<i>Ehrbarkeit</i>	‘Notables’, the leading non-noble members of village and town society
<i>Etter</i>	Wall or fence surrounding the village
faggot	Bundle of very small diameter wood (in modern terms, under 7 cm in diameter) usually used as fuel
fathom	Volume measure for wood
<i>Flecken</i>	Settlement
<i>Fleckenbuch</i>	Book of village ordinances and regulations
<i>Flur</i>	Cultivated ground
<i>Flurzwang</i>	Mandatory collective regulation of cropping patterns
<i>Forstamt</i>	Forest district
<i>Forstknecht</i>	Forest warden
<i>Gaabholz</i>	Grant of wood by communes to their members
<i>Gemeinde</i>	The ‘commune’, often used with the narrow sense of the communal authorities
<i>Gerechtigkeit</i>	Right, usually used for a right considered defensible or established in law
<i>Gericht</i>	Court of law

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<i>Heimburg</i>	Village mayor
<i>Hochwald</i>	Woodland consisting only of stands of mature timber trees
<i>Hof</i>	Large tenant farm or manor
<i>Holzgaab</i>	The giving out of the <i>Gaabholz</i>
<i>Holzangel</i>	Wood shortage
<i>Hube</i>	Tenant farm, usually smaller and of later origin than a <i>Hof</i>
<i>Hut</i>	Forest ward, patrolled by a warden
<i>Inwohnerschaft</i>	The inhabitants of a settlement
<i>Klafter</i>	Volume measure for wood, fathom
<i>Landschaft</i>	The Estates with the right to sit in the <i>Landtag</i>
<i>Landtag</i>	Territorial assembly or diet of Württemberg
<i>Markgenossenschaft</i>	Corporate group of commoners having use-rights to a resource
<i>Markung</i>	Jurisdictional unit of village or town government
<i>Most</i>	Sweetened grape juice
<i>Nahrung</i>	Subsistence
<i>Notdurft</i>	Needs, basic requirements
<i>Oberrat</i>	Supreme Council in Stuttgart
<i>Ordnung</i>	Ordinance
<i>Pfleger</i>	Overseer, guardian, warden
<i>Rat</i>	Council
<i>Richter</i>	Juror
<i>Scheffel</i>	Volume measure for grain
<i>Schultheiß</i>	Ducal bailiff, chief village official, and head of village court
<i>Schütz</i>	Field warden
<i>Söldner</i>	Smallholders providing corvée labour with their hands
<i>Steuerbuch</i>	Register of tax liabilities and payments
<i>staddle</i>	Young tree preserved to grow into mature timber
<i>standard</i>	Mature timber tree surrounded by underwood
<i>Untergang</i>	Boundary commission
<i>Vogt</i>	District Governor
<i>Vogtgericht</i>	District court
<i>Weistümer</i>	‘Manifests’, documents recording village regulations and field orders
<i>Zahlmeister</i>	Ducal official responsible for sheep
<i>Zelg</i>	One of the large open fields
<i>Zwing und Bann</i>	The jurisdictional power exercised by village or town authorities

### Currencies, weights and measures

#### Land

1 *morgen* = 0.3316 hectare

#### Volume (wood)

1 *Klafter* = 3.386 m<sup>3</sup>

1 *Klafter* = 6 × 6 × 4 Württemberger cubic feet (144 ft<sup>3</sup>)

#### Volume (grain)

1 *Scheffel* = 8 *Simri* = 177.2 litres = 1.7 hectolitres

#### Volume (wine)

1 *Imi* = 16.7 litres

1 *Eimer* = 2.939 hectolitres

16 *Imi* = 1 *Eimer*

#### Currency

1 *Gulden* (fl.) = 60 *Kreuzer* (kr., x.)

1 *Batzen* = 4 *Kreuzer*

1 *Ort* = 15 *Kreuzer*

6 *Pfennig* (d., pfg.) = 1 *Schilling* (s., ß)

20 *Schilling* (s., ß) = 1 *Pfund* (lb) = 43 *Kreuzer* (kr., x.)

## Abbreviations

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fl.	<i>Gulden</i>
HABW	Historische Atlas Baden-Württemberg
HStAS	Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart
KSL	Königliche statistische Landesamt
STABB Bh	Stadtarchiv Bietigheim-Bissingen
StAL	Stadtarchiv Leonberg
StAM	Stadtarchiv Markgröningen
StAR	Stadtarchiv Renningen
SWG	Sammlung der württembergischen Gesetze
WSL	Württembergische statistische Landesamt
x.	<i>Kreuzer</i>