Famine in European History

This is the first systematic study of famines in all parts of Europe from the Middle Ages until the present. In case studies ranging from Scandinavia and Italy to Ireland and Russia, leading scholars compare the characteristics, consequences and causes of famine. The famines they describe differ greatly in size, duration and context; in many cases the damage wrought by poor harvests was compounded by war. The roles of human action, malfunctioning markets and poor relief are a recurring theme. The chapters also take full account of demographic, institutional, economic, social and cultural aspects, providing a wealth of new information that is organised and analysed within a comparative framework. *Famine in European History* represents a significant new contribution to demographic history and will be of interest to all those who want to discover more about famines – truly horrific events that, for centuries, have been a recurring curse for the Europeans.

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Famine in European History

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