

Zeitschrift: Histoire des Alpes = Storia delle Alpi = Geschichte der Alpen
Herausgeber: Association Internationale pour l'Histoire des Alpes
Band: 20 (2015)

Rubrik: English summaries

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 10.01.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

English Summaries

Anne-Lise Head-König, Industry in Switzerland's alpine and pre-alpine arc. Uneven development, expansions and regressions, end 18th to mid-20th century

Switzerland's pre-alpine and alpine area developed in very different ways and with major time lags between the different regions. In eastern Switzerland, industrialisation came early; it was based mostly on textile manufacturing and owed its success to local or regional entrepreneurship. This resorted to male as well as female labour and peaked just before World War II. On the contrary, in western and southern Switzerland, industrialisation was late in coming. Based on hydroelectric power and facilitated by improved infrastructure, it did not get started until the end of the 19th century. Here, industrialisation depends on entrepreneurship and foreign capital and employs a predominantly male workforce.

Pierre Judet, An Alpine industry? French Alps, 18th–21st century

The natural resources of the Alps and the ability of their population to seize opportunities have long contributed to industrial development in a major way. Long neglected by the historians, the past attracts more interest now than before, as a result of the European construction (helping the mountains out of their peripheral position) but also because a uniform vision of development is being called into question. Strongly marked by protoindustrialization and by the second wave of industrialization, this historical period practically ignores the first Industrial Revolution. Globalization today urges businesses to redefine themselves through high-quality products that exploit mountains as an image created for tourists. Deeply rooted in their local environment and narrowly de-

pendent on the wide world, the alpine industries help maintain strong population numbers in the long run. For all that, these common features do not warrant a definition of the French Alps as a unique industrial region. Therefore, the study of the Alpine industry should be approached through territorial themes likely to contribute to the renewal of social history as a whole.

Hrvoje Ratkajec, From manufacture to industry in the Slovenian Alpine area, 18th–20st century

The paper aims to show the characteristics of the transformation of proto-industrial into industrial activities in Slovenia's Alpine area. After analyzing main proto-industrial activities such as iron and metal working and mining, the paper goes on to show that these industries suffered a serious decline in the second half of the 19th century. The previous centres of iron and metal working were abandoned and their activities concentrated in new locations. But from the late 19th century onwards, new spurts of industrialization were observed, especially strong in the interwar period. That is when the textile industry became the dominant industry in this area. We can thus conclude that, despite the severe slump in industrial activity following the destruction of the proto-industry, the Slovenian Alpine region managed to become an example of successful modern industrialization.

Luigi Trezzi, Manufacturing firms, entrepreneurs and society in the central and western areas of the Alps in the modern and contemporary age

Pluriactivity, defined by labour skills, was a prerequisite of manufacturing plants in the alpine mountain regions, and it was indeed characterised by work specialisation. Manufacturing know-how was a clear component of the migratory phenomenon, and it was generally matched by a higher degree of literacy and professional training. Mobility also concerned capital and entrepreneurs. Some came from outside (from abroad, too); others were trained, from scratch, by their migratory experiences; others still returned home with the acquired skills. That traditions and institutions may have limited the natural process of manufacturing seems hardly crucial; much more relevant appears to be the part

played by cities and big market towns. Several typologies of business organisations (from the small to the big) co-existed in the mountains, and they were practised by the nobility as well as by the lower ranks (tradesmen, artisans, and workers), hinging on entrepreneurial families and dynasties and characterised by a degree of communication and cooperation.

Claudio Besana, Andrea Maria Locatelli, How cheese manufacturing changed in Lombardy between the 18th and the 19th century. The mountain region's peculiar evolution

The paper opens with an analysis of the cheese-making activities in Lombardy during the “Restaurazione 1815–1859” and the twenty years following the unification of Italy. Though this type of production was initially circumscribed to a small area of Lombardy's irrigation plan, it then spread across all the plains served by it. The *bergamini* were instrumental to the expansion of cheese-making in Lombardy. Bergamini was the name given to dairy-cattle owners – originally from the valleys around Lecco, Bergamo and Brescia – who twice a year migrated with their livestock between the upland pastures and the lower valleys. In the second part of the paper, we look at the further development of the dairy industry from the early years of the agrarian crisis to the outbreak of World War I. What was remarkable was the series of activities related to the ageing process of gorgonzola, largely concentrated in Valsassina, a small valley in the Prealps near Lecco. These ‘refining’ practices of a typical product of Lombardy's cheese-making are significant also because they gave rise to firms playing a major role in Italy's dairy industry.

Andrea Bonoldi, Alessio Fornasin, Change and continuity. The economy and institutions in the rural Alpine environment in Friuli and Tyrol, 16th–19th century

The late 18th–early 19th century period was characterised by important institutional changes in many Alpine contexts, changes that were intertwined with economic factors. This paper proposes a comparative study of two Alpine regions, Tyrol and Carnia. Though different in size, population and productive structure, both regions became part of the Habsburg Empire after the Napoleonic period. On

the one hand, our aim is to use the few data currently available to shed light on some quantitative indicators, which in turn may help us understand the structures and dynamics of the different rural economies. On the other, we will try to piece together the processes of institutional change, most of which seem to have been connected with the economy: the changed role of the municipalities, the emerging role of the cadastre, the transformation of property rights, and the decrease in collective property. Ultimately, our objective is to single out some of the general patterns of change for the two areas, while highlighting their similarities and differences.

Werner Drobesch, Modern research in agrarian history in Austria at the beginning of the 21st century. Trends, main issues and desiderata

Since the turn of the twentieth century, Austrian agricultural historiography has continued on the path it had been following from the 1970s onwards. The related key subject was the history of rural areas and the rural lower classes. The same applies to historical research studies on agricultural development between the 16th and the early 20st century. Yet, research has devoted less attention to this period than to the decades after 1918. Most publications on modern agricultural history have focused on micro-historical issues, with local and regional aspects very much in the foreground. The number of publications on the aspects of agricultural development nationwide, as well as of monographs on agricultural history, remains small.

Aleksander Panjek, Integrated peasant economy in early modern Slovenia. The institutional framework and the concept

Based on the case of the economy of Slovenia's Alpine and sub-Alpine region, we introduce "integrated rural economy" as an alternative notion to other terms, in particular "pluriactivity". After outlining the institutional and economic framework of the modern age in what is today's western Slovenia (Alps, pre-Alps and uplands), we analyse power relations and the rural economic structure (forms of ownership and how they affected the economic production system, and the rise of forms of pluriactivity). We also analyse the role of political insti-

tutions in the rural economy – Habsburg lords, landed gentry, and their attitude vis-à-vis the peasants' non-farming sources of income and perspective on the integration of sources of revenue. This part sums up the Slovenian peasants' non-farming activities compared to what went on in the Italian Alps and Western Europe. Subsequently, the paper discusses the integration of revenue sources into a farming economic system, vis-à-vis existing interpretations, proposing a definition of integrated rural economy.

Paolo Tedeschi, Rural economy and pluriactivity in the Alpine valleys of Lombardy, 18th and 19th centuries

Until the end of the 18th century, in the Alpine valleys of the Lombardy, agriculture, cattle-breeding, and silviculture were subsumed under the pluriactivity of Alpine households. Although some inhabitants were forced to migrate temporarily to work in urban areas or in farming on the plains, most families by engaging in pluriactivity were able to remain and work in their home valleys. During the 19th century, as a result of some major institutional and technological changes and the new fiscal system, there was a progressive decline in revenue from the primary sector and Alpine manufactures. In this context, pluriactivity could no longer guarantee Alpine families their financial equilibrium and survival: consequently, many Alpine villages were affected by a sharp drop in population. A socio-economic and demographic equilibrium was preserved only in the Alpine valleys where manufacturers had the necessary expertise to innovate and produce high-quality goods, and so were able to maintain excellent connections with the markets of the plain.