

werd om op handelsreis te gaan. Op deze manier reikte vooral Filips de Schone vele steden de helpende hand – hij had daar ook alle belang bij, omdat hij voor zijn inkomsten en leningen grotendeels afhankelijk was van zijn steden en die mochten daarom absoluut niet in het slop raken. Volgens Bosch hoefden Arnhem en Zutphen niet op hulp van de hertog van Gelre te rekenen. Maar toch ontving Arnhem wel degelijk moratoria, in 1474 van Karel de Stoute en in 1505 van Filips de Schone (p. 490, 495) die destijds de scepter over Gelre zwaaiden. Weliswaar Bourgondisch-Habsburgse landsheren, maar toch... In hoeverre werd het herstel van de Arnhemse stadsfinanciën niet (ook) door deze moratoria mogelijk gemaakt?

*Stedelijke macht tussen overvloed en stagnatie* is een ambitieuze studie. De financiën van Arnhem en Zutphen worden onderling vergeleken. Ook wordt in kaart gebracht hoe de verhoudingen tussen de twee steden en de hertogen van Gelre zich ontwikkelden. Bovendien worden de stadsfinanciën en politieke economie van Arnhem en Zutphen gespiegeld aan die van steden elders in de Lage Landen. Ik was vooral getroffen door de overeenkomsten: ook steden in Gelre moesten blijkaar mee in de financieringswedloop die de Bourgondiërs en Habsburgers ontketenden in de Lage Landen. Overal waren er wel steden zich zolang in de schulden staken totdat grootschalige saneringen noodzakelijk werden. Of ze daarmee nu de Bourgondiërs en Habsburgers financieel ondersteunden, zoals in Vlaanderen, Brabant en Holland, of zich juist deze dynastieën van het lijf trachtten te houden, zoals in Gelre: linksom of rechtsom kwam de bodem van de stedelijke schatkist al snel in zicht.

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Jessica Dijkman and Bas van Leeuwen (eds.), *An Economic History of Famine Resilience* (London/ New York: Routledge, 2019). 276 p. ISBN 9780367191283.

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Economic historians are increasingly turning their attention to disasters of all kinds. In many pre-industrial societies, famines were probably the most frequently occurring type of disaster. In industrial(izing) societies, famines were less frequent and probably more avoidable, but their impact could be all the more devastating. The impact of famines varied widely across time and space, depending not only on environmental factors but also on societal response mechanisms. How such responses shaped societies' 'famine resilience' is the topic of this edited volume, which is made up of thirteen chapters (including

the introduction), contributed by sixteen authors. The volume has a long time span, with chapters covering antiquity (three), the early modern period (five) and the modern era (seven). The geographical scope is equally broad, with chapters covering societies across Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. Most chapters have a long-range vision or are explicitly comparative in nature.

Famine resilience is studied using a heuristic framework that distinguishes the state, the market and civil society which, the editors maintain, represent 'the three main coordination mechanisms that, in any society, allow people to allocate or share resources' (p. 2). The task the various authors set themselves in their chapters is to analyze the (shifting/uneven) role of these forces in facilitating or undermining famine resilience. Most chapters do so comparatively. The opening chapter (Van Leeuwen & Li) lays bare different famine drivers and responses in four core regions of antiquity. Subsequent chapters on the Romans (De Ligt), Ottomans (Çelik) and Incas (Covey) focus on comparisons within empires, stressing the spatially uneven role of governments and markets. Chapters on early modern northwestern Europe (Dijkman) and 1840s Belgium (Beeckaert & Vanhaute) uncover substantial variation among nearby countries and regions within one country, respectively.

Chapters on Indonesia (Bosma) and North India (Sharma) analyze shifting colonial discourses and policies towards food supply and famine relief. In a particularly compelling chapter, S.G. Wheatcroft compares Russia's and China's slide into prolonged food crisis during the early twentieth century and subsequent attempts at recovery. Pursuing a similar argument about collapsing resilience, Wang, Koryś and Tymiąski make an unusual comparison between Chinese and Polish relief systems in the long run. Africa only enters the picture towards the end of the book, where Devereux explores how markets, states and civil society interacted, often unproductively, during four major twenty-first century famines. The closing chapter on famine and migration (L. Lucassen) stands out for its global approach.

This book will certainly attract those with an interest in historical famines and famine resilience, generally or in specific areas. Many of the chapters provide a relatively short, well-structured and lucid entry point into region-specific literatures, to which many of the authors themselves have contributed in greater length elsewhere. The tripartite framework – markets, states and civil society – proves a helpful overarching structuring device to which most authors adhere effectively. At times, it facilitates comparative arguments, as, for example, where colonial policies are confronted with indigenous civil society initiatives and markets, or where different famine resilience equilibria surface within and across ancient and early modern societies. The book is also full of compelling observations. Just to highlight some: food supply and poverty alle-

viation systems may function well under normal conditions but fail miserably when food supplies drop, and vice versa; elites may be intent upon avoiding starvation and providing relief during famines so as to legitimize systems of structural inequality and poverty; famines may trigger major historical events, contributing, for example, to the fall of dynasties from China to Ethiopia; if markets function efficiently, food may still not reach the poorest individuals and regions due to lack of effective demand and entitlement failure.

Most book titles that include '*An economic history of...*' then specify a country or region, providing a fairly clear (albeit broad) entry into what readers might expect. In this case, the title is somewhat enigmatic. Unfortunately, the significance of famine resilience for economic history remains underdefined throughout the book. Famine resilience may intersect with economic historians' broader research agendas in several ways. First, historical famines can be studied as economic events on their own terms, potentially yielding broader insights into individual and collective behavior, as well as the functioning of markets and institutions. Second, famine resilience can be compared across time and space as an entry point for understanding broader processes of economic change. The impact of famines, for example, may allow us to 'measure a society's temperature' concerning market integration, state capacity or socio-economic inequality. Third, famines can be analyzed as 'critical junctures', putting societies onto a different trajectory of (economic) change, sometimes even triggering wholesale revolutions. This volume yields insights relevant to each of these broader agendas, but the authors do not explicitly engage with them. It is unfortunate, indeed, that the introduction itself is brief (10 pages only). While ultimately, therefore, an overarching economic historical narrative on famine resilience is still needed, this volume takes substantial strides in that direction.

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Jan Luiten van Zanden, Tine de Moor and Sarah Carmichael, *Capital Women. The European Marriage Pattern, Female Empowerment and Economic Development in Western Europe 1300-1800* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019). 288 p. ISBN 9780190847883.

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This volume is a groundbreaking attempt to include women, their work, and their economic activities in the 'grand narrative' of the economic development of Northwest Europe and of the Low Countries, in particular. The book