

# *a Peasant History*

*Peasant life and struggle  
in novels and films - worldwide*



*Jan Paul Smit*

*This is a webbook - go to:  
[www.peasantautonomy.org](http://www.peasantautonomy.org)*

**A Peasant History** leads us in 168 stories through the world's history, through the eyes of peasants.

Oppression, resistance, dreams of a small farm of one's own, the harsh realities of war and migration, deep sorrow over love lost, happiness from a fine harvest - all sorts of situations are addressed. We meet crop farmers, fishermen, folk heroes, farm girls, small children, old women, shepherds and pioneers. The whole many-coloured, diverse peasant world

unfolds before our eyes in stories of bygone times, the tumultuous twentieth century, or the most modern times. From Senegal to Australia and Hungary, from Turkey to Japan and Mexico.

Every story refers to a fine novel or movie film, so that you can continue reading or watching whenever you like. Next to every story you will find two large pictures, to make it easy to feel yourself in the area where the story takes place.

*"What a most splendid collection! Jan Paul Smit offers a kaleidoscopic image of peasant life over the centuries, and in various continents. At the same time the webbook is a vital reference work: it gives a useful overview of films, books and short stories that inform about peasant life. For enthusiasts, but also an information source for educators, which they wouldn't like to miss." ~ Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Professor of Agriculture, the Netherlands and China.*

*"A Peasant History is an impressive and original mosaic, linking peasant stories to movies and novels. It creates deep understanding of peasant life, and the many challenges that they face. Well worth to dive into, and get carried away." ~ Henk Hobbelink, Coordinator GRAIN.*

*"A Peasant History is a fine and quite remarkable resource, showing just how patterns of rural life repeat and echo across the ages and over many different countries and agroecosystems. On the one hand, it is painful to see how little we might have learned in a thousand years; on the other it is touching to see humanity shine through so clearly. Highly recommended." ~ Jules Pretty, Professor of Environment, England.*



Photo: Rikolto