

## **International Food Regime and Food Dependency: The Development of Hog Industry in Postwar Taiwan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

From the perspectives of historical sociology and political economy, this paper examines the development of hog industry in postwar Taiwan to illustrate the historical and structural factors that lead to food dependency of Taiwan. In the aftermath of World War II, the agricultural economy of Taiwan became incorporated into the international food regime dominated by the United States. Accordingly, its food production and consumption were regulated and influenced by the international food regime. To expand overseas market for its surplus agricultural commodities, the U.S. government not only implemented the export subsidy and concessional sale programs, but also promoted international reliance on U.S. feed grains exports by encouraging other countries to develop the husbandry industry. From the 1960s, the Sino-American Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction initiated the “Integrated Swine Program.” In the meantime, feed industry was aggressively developed by the government and international agribusiness companies began investing actively in Taiwan. Hog-raising in Taiwan was therefore transformed from a sideline business into the modern hog industry. However, hog industry developed on the basis of corn feed led to the immediate disappearance of the traditional sweet potato feeding and the dramatic decline of the sweet potato output on the one hand. On the other hand, it caused Taiwan to heavily depend on the U.S. feed grains.

**Keywords:** International Food Regime, Food Dependency, Hog Industry, Corn Feed