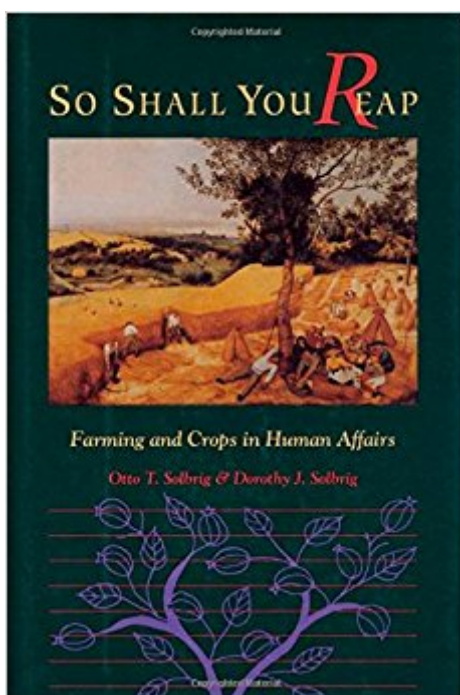


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# So Shall You Reap: Farming And Crops In Human Affairs



## Synopsis

So Shall You Reap is a broad-gauged exploration of the intersections of farming and history. Beginning with the prehistorical era, Otto and Dorothy Solbrig describe the evolution of farming. When and how did people learn to irrigate, to fertilize, to rotate their crops -- and why? Along with its fundamental importance to history, farming has radically altered the physical world. Natural landscapes have been completely transformed to provide room for growth on a large scale of a few species of plants and even fewer species of domesticated animals. Agriculture has altered the earth's biosphere and changed its geosphere: The soil has been modified, forests have been felled, swamps have been drained, rivers have been dammed and diverted. So Shall You Reap presents a fresh and informed perspective on how farming and the crops we grow have changed us and our environment. By understanding the nature of the origins and evolution of agriculture, we will be better prepared to anticipate what the future may hold in store, and what must be done to increase food production while minimizing environmental problems.

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Island Press; New edition edition (August 1, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1559633093

ISBN-13: 978-1559633093

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 6 x 0.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #212,106 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #157 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Sustainable Agriculture](#) #579 in [Books > Science & Math > Environment > Environmentalism](#) #846 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Environmental Science](#)

## Customer Reviews

A husband-and-wife team of Harvard academics examines the links between farming, food and history. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The Solbrigs (Otto is a Harvard University biology professor; Dorothy is a librarian in Harvard's Biological Laboratories) take readers on a fascinating journey through time to examine the history

and evolution of agriculture and its influence on civilization. Starting with the prehistorical period, they cover the era of the hunter-gatherers, the domestication of plants, the rise of civilization, the spread of agriculture to European societies, the medieval period, the agricultural and industrial revolutions, and today's high-yield market-oriented agriculture. The Solbrigs relate details about the origins of crops and the contacts among societies that changed food consumption and cultivation practices, giving readers a global perspective on the role that each society played in bringing contemporary agriculture to the world community. The authors also discuss the problems faced by modern agriculture and offer some solutions for future sustainability. Recommended for general audiences and informed readers alike.- Irwin Weintraub, Rutgers Univ. Libs., Piscataway, N.J. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book looks like new. Almost no sketches and in a great conservation. I'd particularly buy from this one if I need more books in the future.

I usually don't like reading but I had to read this for a super tough class "Humanity in the Food Web" (3 profs taught a class of only 15!) for my undergrad in Food Science. The book is an excellent read on everything about food, domestication, agriculture, industrialization, and humanity. FOR THE FOODIES: While the book doesn't really get that much into the modern trend towards sustainability, organic/natural agriculture, etc., it does achieve its goal of putting whatever your opinions on modern food into proper PERSPECTIVE with regards to what the human race and nature have done.

The authors use an unusual path to approach the domestication of plants and animals. Mankind is the main actor in this historical play.

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