



A Tale of Blood and Fur: the Life of Production on the Hulunbuir Grasslands

<https://thomasdaviddubois.wordpress.com/portfolio/1-9-16/>

China's livestock industries

Sheep (million)		
China	187	15.9%
India	75	6.4%
Australia	74.7	6.3%

Cows (million)		
Brazil	212.3	14.4%
India	187	12.8
China	117.3	7.7
USA	88.5	6.0
Australia	29.1	1.9

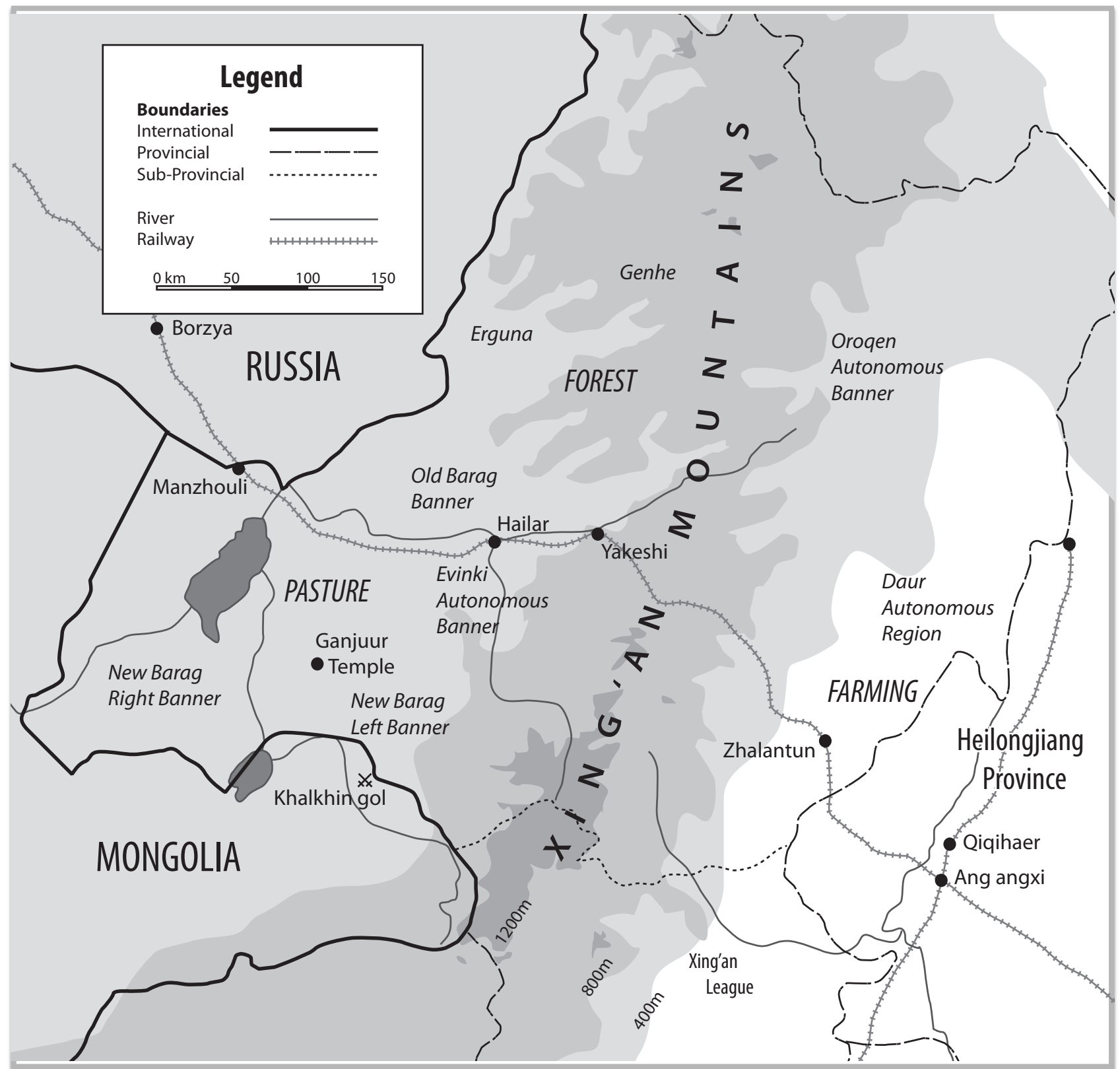
Milk (million tons)		
USA	87.5	14.6
India	50.3	8.4
China	36.0	6.0
Australia	9.5	1.6

FAOSTAT, 2014

Hulunbuir



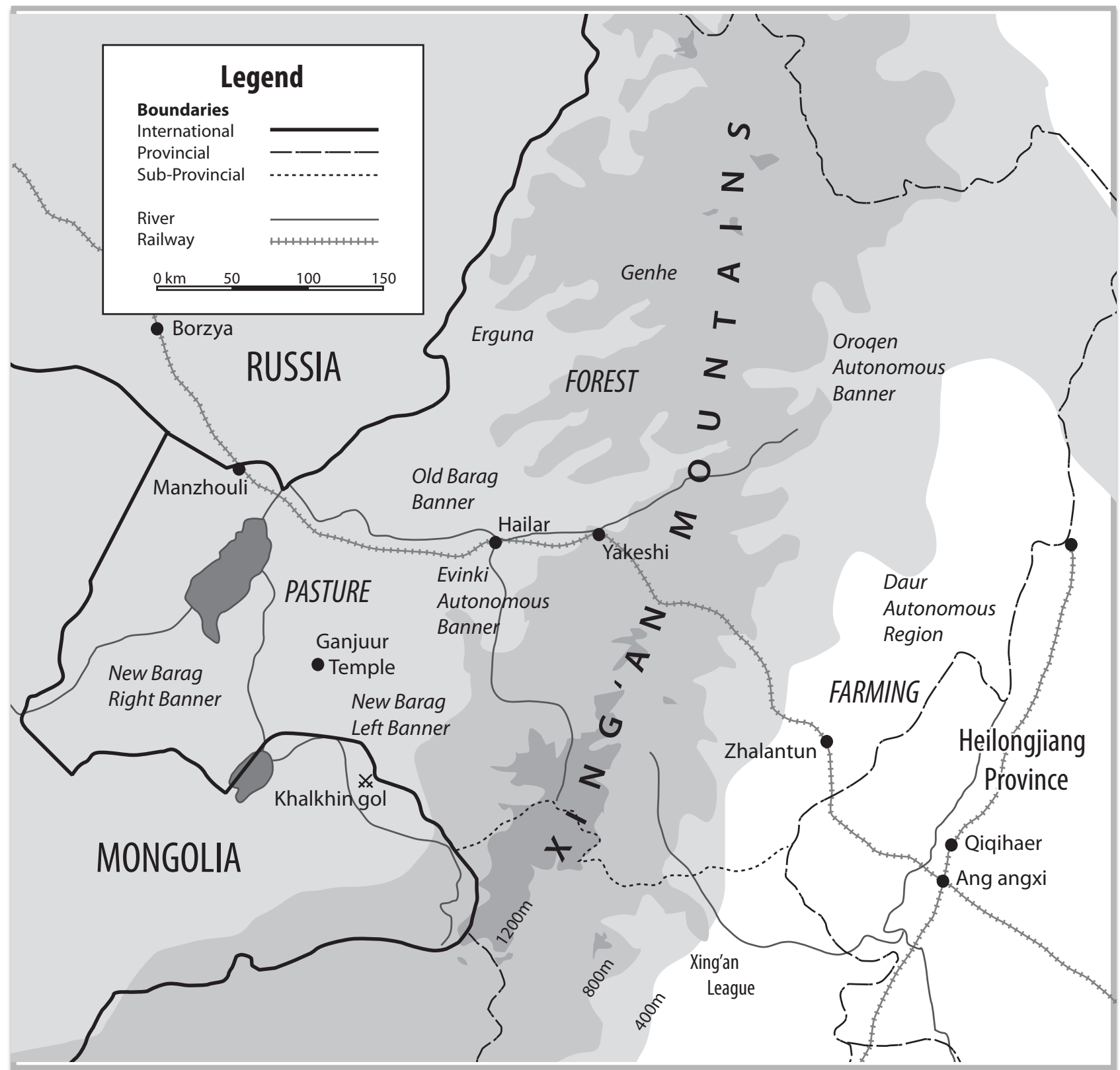
Hulunbuir



Questions

- Who buys livestock, how and in what form?
- Who develops and at what cost?
- Where is value added, and who keeps it?

Four periods of transformation



1. Mid to late Qing

Ming and early-Qing

- Protect pastoralists
- Restrict trade

Mid-Qing security concerns

- Relocate new banners
- Material support



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Structured trade ties

Distance trade links

Shanxi merchant houses

Ganjuur 甘珠爾 market

Heavily weighted to traders



Structured trade ties

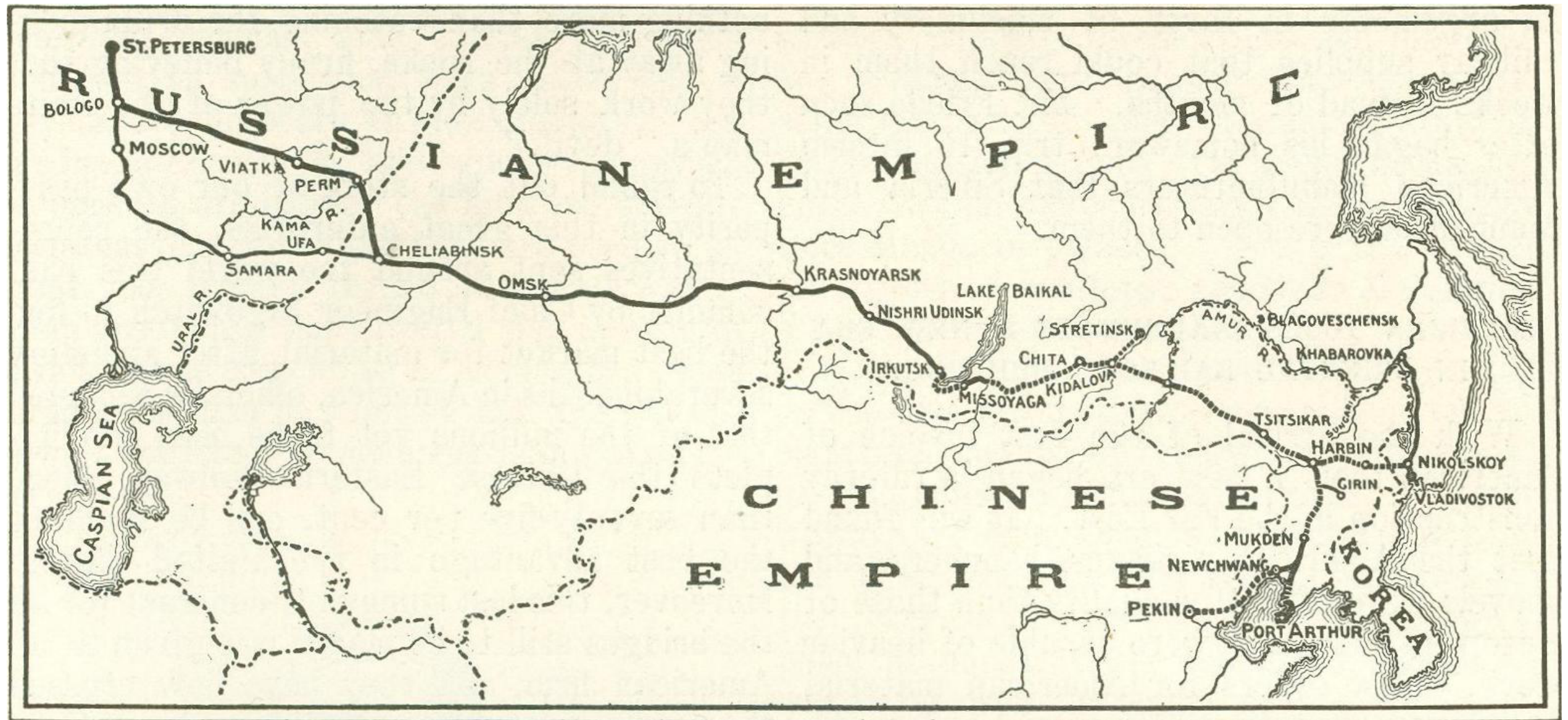
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2. Railway and global expansion 1901-1945

2. Railway and global expansion, 1900-1945

China Eastern Railway

Harbin and global export markets

Decline of Ganjuur



2. Railway and global expansion, 1900-1945

ANIMAL TRADE AT GANJUUR MARKET

China Eastern Railway

Harbin and global export markets

Decline of Ganjuur

	Cows	Horses	Sheep
1912	6,000	1,500	15,000
1916	3,000	2,500	3,000
1922	1,700	1,500	5,000
1934	1,183	589	3,454

2. Railway and global expansion, 1900-1945

Japanese interest in Hailaer

Theft vs. controlled commerce 出荷

Decline in stocks



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TRADE VALUE OF ONE HORSE

	1934	1945
Bean oil (jin)	541.9	73.6
Baijiu	302.4	38.3
Cotton (jin)	115.4	42.5
Boots (pair)	20.6	5.1
Tea (bricks)	83.1	4

2. Railway and global expansion, 1900-1945

		TOTAL HERD SIZE*		
		Cattle	Horses	Sheep and goats
Japanese interest in Hailaer	1906	124,418	170,172	1,460,876
Theft vs. controlled commerce 出荷	1925	170,688	180,896	1,597,995
	1937	200,809	175,592	1,167,072
Decline in stocks	1946	105,304	50,192	540,422

* ask me about the asterisk!

3. State-led development, 1945-1980

Emphasis on production

Pastoral reform (牧区改革)

Fixed residence and developmental investment

Problems with collectives

Dairy production



3. State-led development, 1945-1980

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FIVE XINBAERHU HOUSEHOLDS

	"Landlord"	Rich	Middle	Poor (some property)	Poor (labor only)
	牧主	富牧	中牧	贫牧	贫牧
Household members	7	5	4	3	3
WORKERS	6	0.5	0	0	0

CAPITAL [INCOME]

Cows	72 [1]	80 [18]	40 [4]	16 [2]	10 [0]
Sheep	2000 [750]	680 [180]	143 [53]	0 [0]	2 [0]
Horses	90 [15]	10 [2]	11 [0]	2 [0]	2 [0]
Wool	1400 jin	500 jin	unclear		

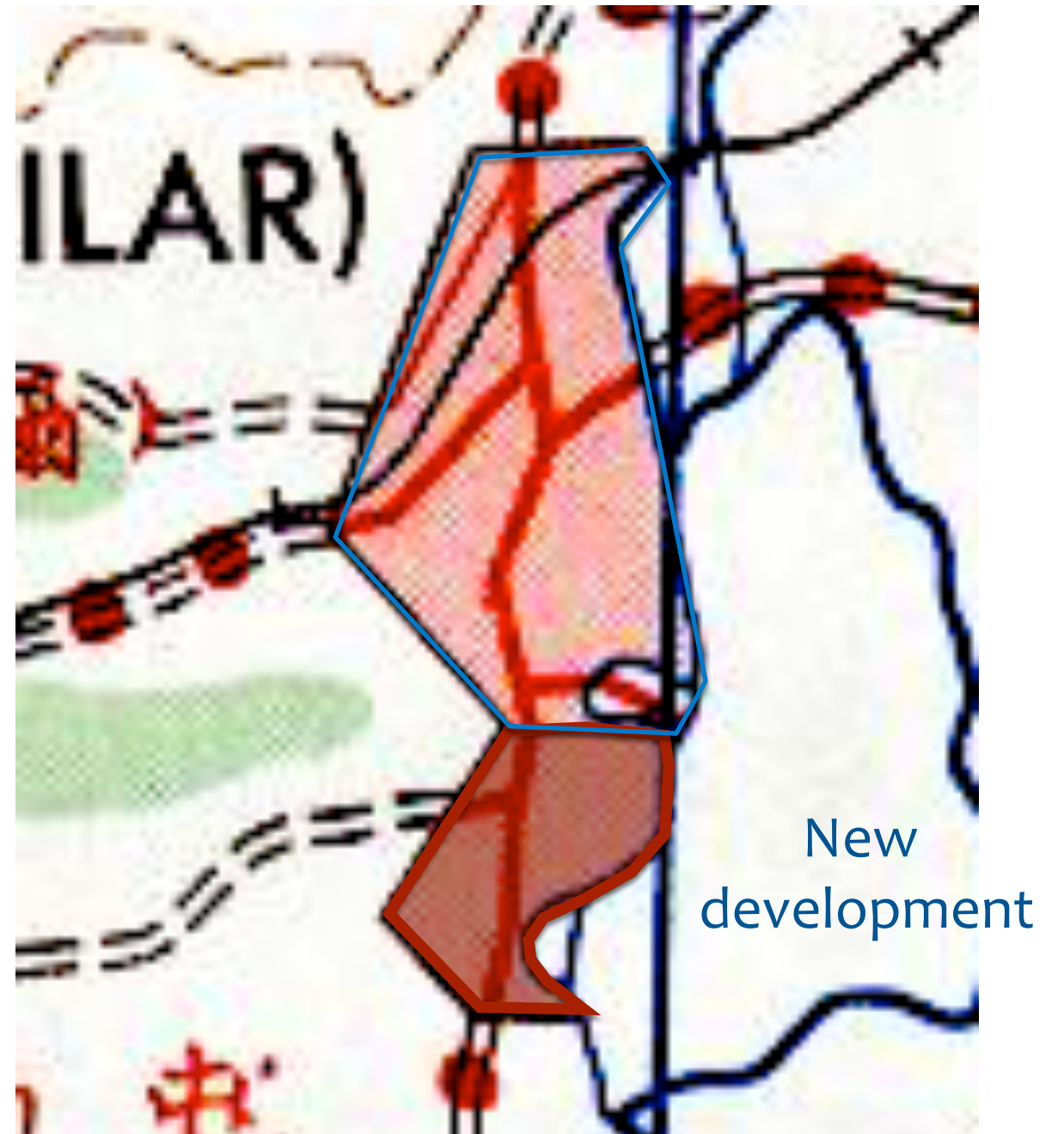
EXPENSES

SALARY (+ / -) in sheep equiv.	-675	-172	-80	+20	+37
Meat for eating	257	78	42	18	15
Clothes, food and tea	141	123.8	38	25.7	9.2



Republican-era Hailaer

Hailar, 1921-1950





Amugulang (新巴尔虎左旗), 1950

Infrastructure and industry

Emphasis on production

Pastoral reform (牧区改革)

Fixed residence and
developmental investment

Problems with collectives

Dairy production



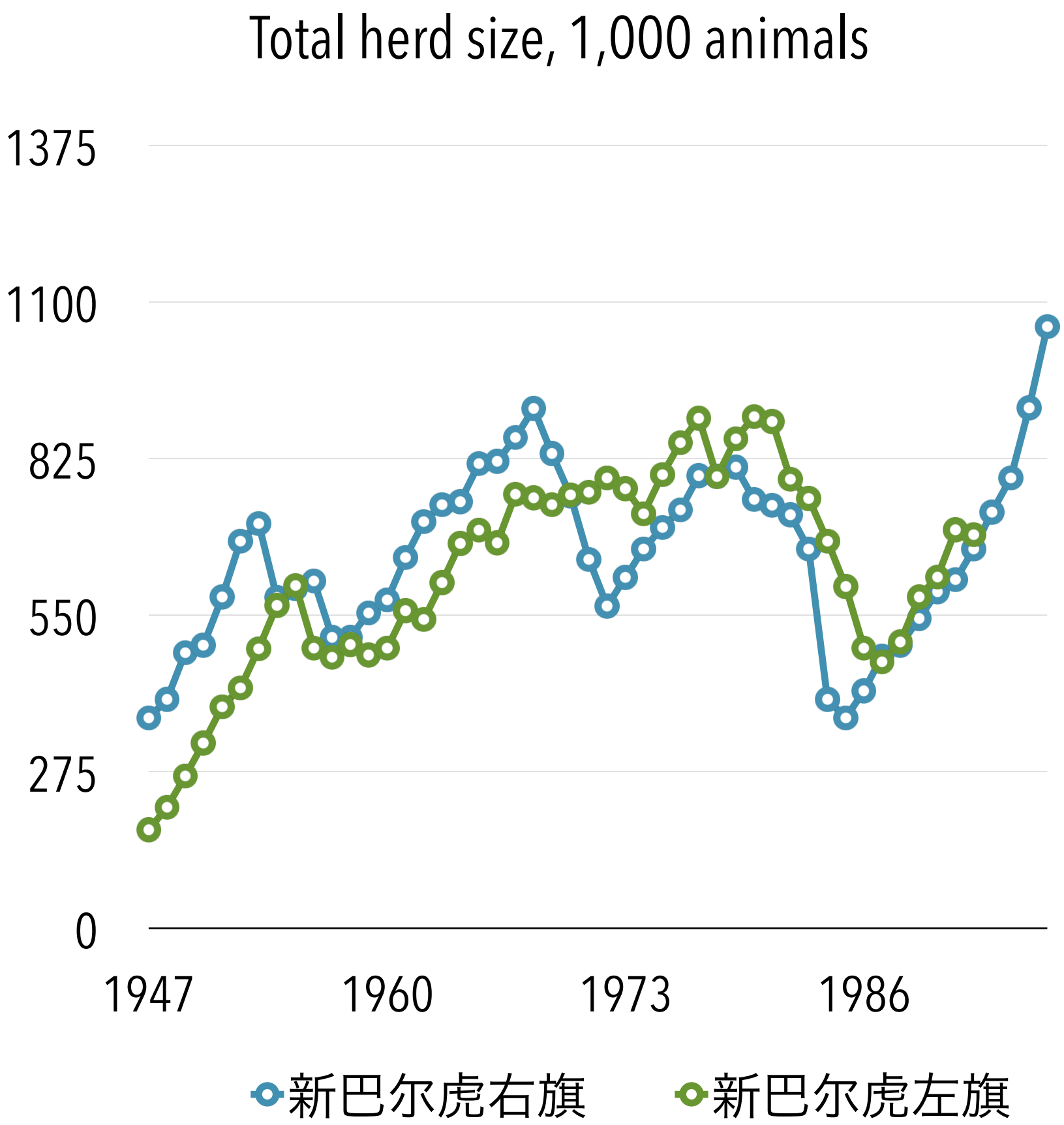
4. Decollectivization and takeoff

Two changes in primary production

Old secondary industries decline, new ones take root

Producer priorities

"Branding" of Hulunbeier



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Two changes in primary production

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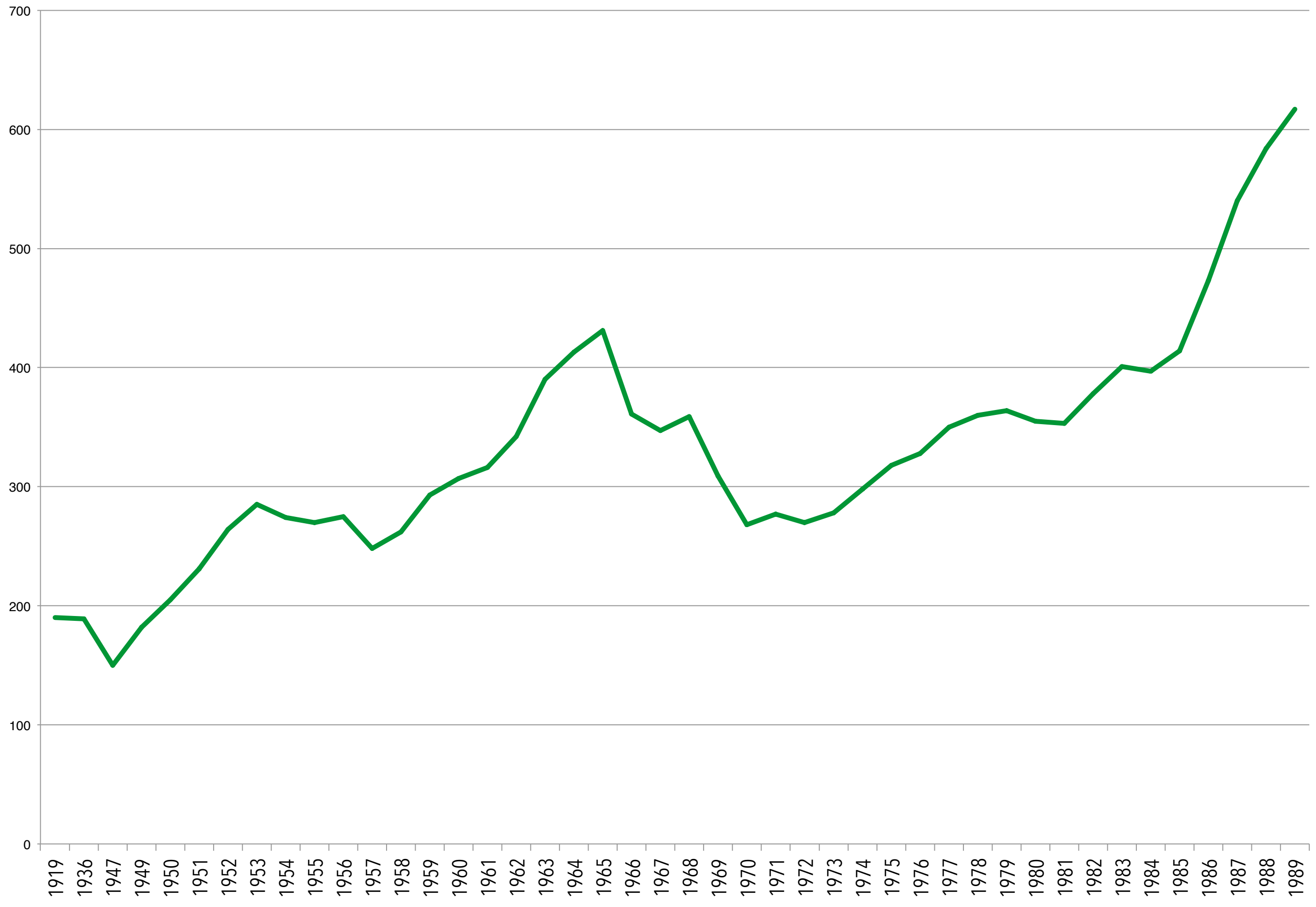
Producer priorities

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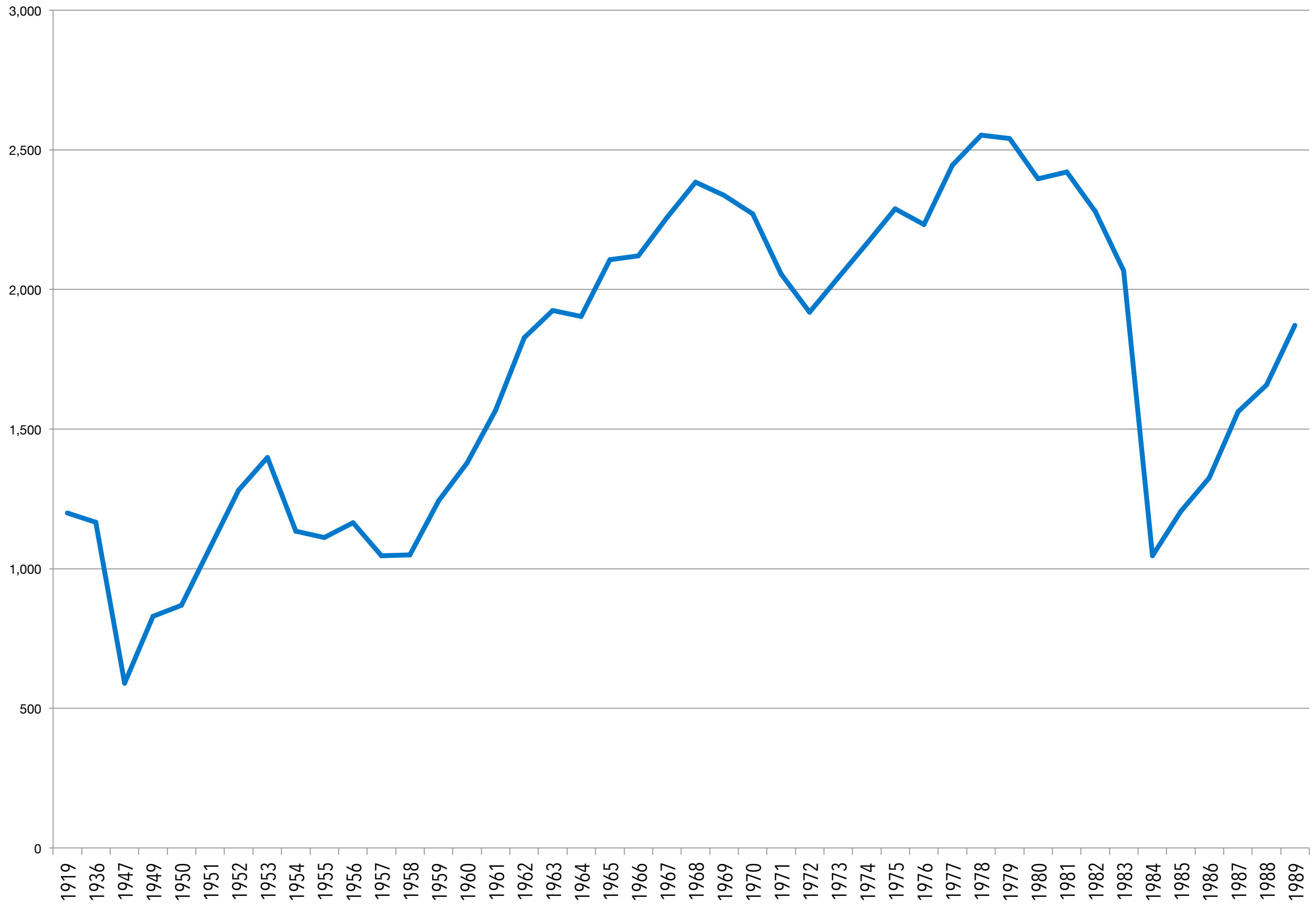


Cows

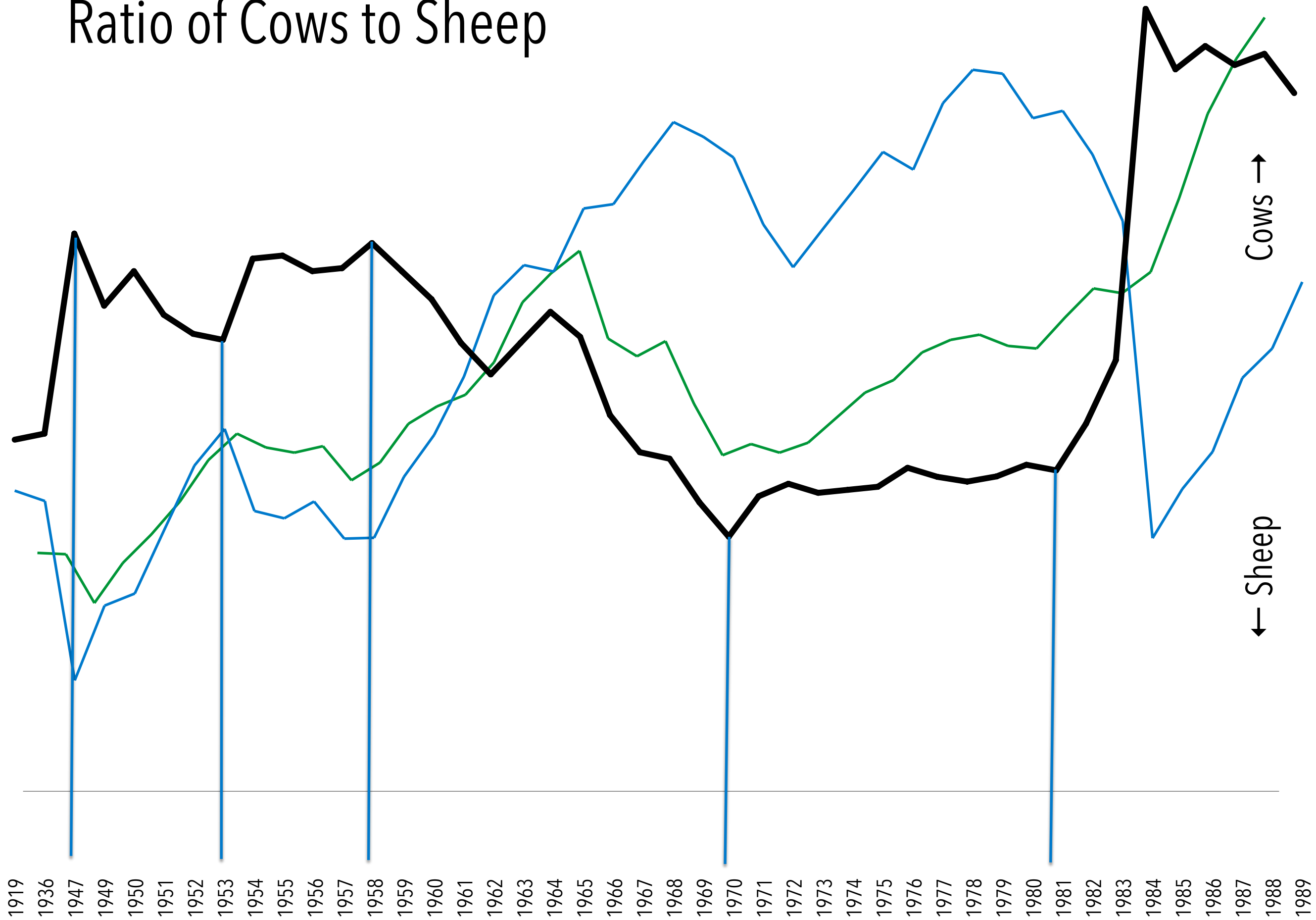
(thousand head)



Sheep and goats (thousand)



Ratio of Cows to Sheep



There's something about Dairy

State priorities

High investment – high return

National and international market



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Trends and lessons

Non-linear transformation of market size and structure

Large and small state development, combines with private investment

Value of production and processing increasingly kept in region

