

Anderson, E. N. *The Food of China*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1990. ISBN: 978-0300047394.

Chapter 7, "The Climax of Traditional Agriculture."

- What are the technologies of the "Neolithic level of agricultural development"?
- What is the story of an atom of nitrogen in the United States?
- What do Chinese agricultural technologies tell us about Chinese culture?
- Why does Western culture not have a feng-shui?
- What factors have encouraged the development of US-style agriculture?
- Why did agricultural productivity follow from government stability?
- What stopped the Chinese from developing science?
- Explain why the Chinese "eliminate forests wholesale," but take a "biological" approach to farming.

Chapter 9, "Some Basic Cooking Strategies."

- "The owner -- if occupying the premises -- reserves the right to use the big stove; renters of rooms must provide their own portable ones." What cultural assumptions follow from this?
- Why in Chinese cooking are so few tools used with so much skill?
- What are the advantages of cooking with a large surface-to-volume ratio?
- What are our closest equivalents to the concept of ts'ui that apply to our own aesthetic taste in food?
- Is teriyaki ts'ui? Or is it fair to call it an over-extension of the idea?
- Why is the final "putting together" of food left to the diner?
- Why is the existence of specialized words an indication of importance or refinement?

Chapter 12, "Food in Society."

- How would the materialist and the idealist describe American food ways?
- What kinds of events are marked by food in America? What are America's food traditions? When for us is going out to eat in celebration preferred and when not?
- Does food etiquette constitute a language in China?
- What social assurances or needs are necessary to evolve anything like the Chinese food culture?
- What is our alchemy of flavors? Do we use heating-cooling as a paradigm? The Brazilian's salty-sweet? Why is there no hamburger ice cream? How are these alchemies appropriate to us, and to them?
- Why can the Chinese government stop feasts?
- Give examples of "the human rule that people can learn to like almost anything considered a mark of high status."
- Where do you see the role of past and present governments in the food of China?

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