We Have Always Been Global: Farming and Government in the US since the Turn of the Last Century

Paul Burnett
Dept. of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania

pburnett@sas.upenn.edu
Great Depression, 1929-1939

Agricultural Adjustment Act, 1933
Dustbowl, 1934-36

Soil Conservation Act, 1936
Wheat and rice production expanded to supply war machine, but held off markets with price supports.

Explosion of exports due to Marshall aid and temporary strategic assistance, e.g. Korea.
Developing Adequate Public and Private Credit Facilities

Helping Our Customers Increase Their Buying Power

Sending Marketing Specialists Abroad for On-the-Spot Reports

Implementing Surplus Disposal Legislation

Providing Foreign Relief

Aiding Mutual Defense in Behalf of Greater World Security and Greater World Trade

Agricultural Attache' Bill

Passed-83rd Congress

Attache's become full-time representatives of U.S. Agriculture abroad

Making Effective Use of our Agricultural Attache System Overseas

Keeping U.S. Agriculture and Trade Groups Better Informed
1950s Surpluses

Rising storage costs

1954 Ag Trade and Development Assistance Act

1965 Food stamps
Theodore W. Schultz, 1902-98

1930-43 Iowa State College Dept. of Economics and Sociology

1943-67 U. Chicago Dept. of Economics, Chair, 1946-61

1942-70 Committee for Economic Development, Advisor, Research Committee

1943-78 National Planning Association, Agric. Committee Chair, 1943-46

1949-67, Board, Natl Bureau of Econ Research

1952-78 Member, Population Council, Chair, 1956-58

1979, Nobel (Bank of Sweden) Prize in Economics
Committee for Economic Development, 1943-

-promise free enterprise
-economics of abundance
-encourage trends in ag already underway:

mechanization, capital investment

move farm labor out
• subsidies deeply intertwined with US economy in a modern food system
• organic, local food production will have to accommodate itself to this system as its share of the market increases
• fact that food prices are rising and that US has agreed to reduce subsidies will not necessarily alter this system profoundly