In this book, Christopher Dyer sets a new agenda for the study of peasants. Using as his example the peasants of the west midlands of England, Dyer examines peasant society in relation to their social superiors, their neighbours, and their households, and finds them making decisions and taking options to improve their lives. If we examine peasant attitudes and mentalities, we find them engaging in political life, making a major contribution to religion, recognizing the need to conserve the environment, and balancing the interests of individuals with those of the communities in which they lived.

Features

• Offers new ideas about pre-modern society and the roles played by peasants

• Provides unique insights into the practicalities of life in the past

• Gives voice to underprivileged people, including the poor and the women who have decisive roles in this history

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