

Harris, Marvin. *The Sacred Cow and the Abominable Pig: Riddles of Food and Culture*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, 1998. ISBN: 978-1577660156.

Chapter 6, "Holy Beef, U.S.A."

- Is this "economic" anthropological description more relevant to the issues involved than a "cultural" or "symbolic" one?
- What might the cultural or symbolic explanation of these culinary changes be?
- Was it the result of a difference in culture or a difference in economy that Americans loved pigs, and Israelis didn't?
- Why were New-World vegetables like corn and potatoes incorporated into the American and world diet, but no New-World animals?
- Why does the hamburger remain such an important part of the American diet, after the heyday of car culture?
- What role does the government play in defining American culinary customs?
- Is it true that "In America as never before in history, good to eat is what is good to sell."?

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

ES.272 Culture Tech  
Spring 2003

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.