

Adobe Trump Medieval, BEFORE:
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The soils developed under grasses are the most productive for the ordinary crop plants under the common systems of farming. Indeed, on most cultivated soils grass, or especially the legumes like alfalfa and clover, must be grown part of the time if their productivity is to be kept at a high level. The most important group of soils developed under natural grasses is the Chernozem—black soil of subhumid regions. In the United States these are found in the eastern Dakotas, Nebraska, and Kansas, and in small areas in eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, western Idaho, and elsewhere. Also there are large areas in the Soviet Union, Argentina, Australia, and Romania.

Despite their great productivity, these soils were little used for farming before the end of the Thirty Years War in Europe, say about 1650. There are a few exceptions. In some of the valleys in Greece, along the north coast of Africa, and in the Balkan countries, especially Romania, Chernozem soils, or very similar ones, were used by people of earlier cultures. Indeed, for a time much of the bread grains for Rome during the height of the Empire came from Chernozems at the fringes. Yet the great bulk of these fertile black soils came into use for farming during the past 350 years. Most of those in the United States and Canada have been farmed less than 80 years. Since the greater part of these soils are found in the interior of continents, far from the ocean or navigable streams, they could scarcely be used by settled farmers until railroads were built. Although a large part of the bread grain for the people of the world is now grown on these soils, it must be remembered that their use followed two very important movements: the development of science, and the great period of colonization by western Europeans.

The Chernozem soils are distinct from others in very important ways that profoundly influence their use for crops, the kinds of homes and communities they can support, and the way people live and work on them. The landscape is

Adobe Trump Medieval, AFTER:
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and letter- and word spacing parameters by Ken Dezhnev

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The Chernozem soils are distinct from others in very important ways that profoundly influence their use for crops, the kinds of homes and communities they can support, and the way people live and work on them. The landscape is monotonous and sweeping as compared to forested regions. Water is scarce—not so scarce as in the desert but not so plentiful as in forested regions. Wood for fuel