The Global Coffee Economy in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, 1500–1989

Your cup of coffee comes from far away. It was grown in Brazil, Colombia, Vietnam, or one of the hundred other coffee-producing lands on five continents. It is a palpable and long-standing manifestation of globalization. For 500 years coffee has been grown in tropical countries for consumption in temperate regions.

This volume brings together scholars from nine countries who study coffee markets and societies over the last five centuries in fourteen countries on four continents and across the Indian and Pacific oceans, with a special emphasis on the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The chapters analyze the creation and function of commodity, labor, and financial markets; the role of race, ethnicity, gender, and class in the formation of coffee societies; the interaction between technology and ecology; and the impact of colonial powers, nationalist regimes, and the forces of the world economy in the forging of economic development and political democracy.


Steven Topik is Professor of History at the University of California, Irvine. He is the author of The Political Economy of the Brazilian State, 1889–1930 (1987), Trade and Gunboats (1996), and the coauthor (with Kenneth Pomeranz) of The World That Trade Created (1999) and (with Allen Wells and Jonathan Brown) of The Second Conquest of Latin America (1998).
The Global Coffee Economy in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, 1500–1989

Edited by

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STEVEN TOPIK
University of California, Irvine
To Keiko and Sarah

and

To my mother Trudy. Raised in a Viennese coffeehouse, she dedicated her life to helping others.
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India
Eritrea
Kenya
Natal
Mozambique
Zambia
Sudan
Nigeria
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Brazil
Country/region for which coffee is a major crop at some point
Mauritius
Reunion
Australia
Malaya
S. Africa
Japan
USA
Mexico
Canada
Guadeloupe
Brazil
Peru
Venezuela
Argentina
Colombia
Cuba
Surinam
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Pacifc
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Atlantic
Ocean
Indian Ocean
Pacifc
Ocean
Equator
Hawai'i
Ethiopia
Ghana
Togo
Benin
Uganda
Rwanda
Burundi
0°
0°
World coffee production
Coffee growing areas

Mexico

Veracruz

Tabasco

Yucatán Peninsula

Guatemala

Pacífic Ocean

Central Highlands

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Coffee growing areas

Hadhramaut
Sanaa
Aden
Farasan
Jiddah Mecca
Medina
Hijaz
Harar
Berbera
Massawa
Dahlak Arch.
Za
Sawâkin (Suakin)
Suez
Tûr Sinai
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ITALY
MOROCCO
EGYPT
ALEXANDRIA
SALONICA
(Thessaloniki)
ISTANBUL
SMYRNA
DAMASCUS
Mediterranean Sea
Bayt al-Faqih
Aden
Lahij
ERITREA
Ta’izz
Zabid
Red Sea
Coffee growing areas

400 km
Approximate main coffee growing areas in 19th Century

- Madurai
- Madras
- Colombo
- Kandy
- Peradeniya
- Jaffna
- Tanjavur (Tanjore)
- Nellore
- Tinnevelly
- Mysore
- Coorg
- Nilgiri Hills
- Anaimalai Hills
- Palani Hills
- Javadi Hills

Ceylon and South India
Residencies producing 3,000 metric tons of coffee and over for the government in any year from 1834 to 1880

Percentage of households assigned to coffee cultivation in 1850

- 60% and over
- 45% - 59%
- 30% - 44%
- 15% - 29%
- Under 15%