

*Política y hacienda del tabaco en los imperios Ibéricos (siglos XVII–XIX).*

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First encountered by Europeans during Christopher Columbus's maiden voyage, tobacco slowly gained worldwide popularity. Royals such as France's Catherine de Médicis benefited from its touted medicinal uses, and England's James I decried its use in print while enjoying the profits from his Virginia colony. Later during the colonial era, both Portugal and Spain placed a royal monopoly on tobacco, raising much-needed funds for the crown. Tobacco was in such high demand that even during the Age of Revolution it continued to cross the war-torn Atlantic Ocean when virtually all other shipping ceased or was severely interrupted by blockades and hostile vessels.

However, many studies of the Spanish and Portuguese empires' agricultural products focused not on tobacco but rather on sugar. Seminal works such as Manuel Moreno Fraginals's *El ingenio: El complejo económico social cubano del azúcar* (1964) and Stuart B. Schwartz's *Sugar Plantations in the Formation of Brazilian Society: Bahia, 1550–1835* (1985) emphasize the strong connection between sugar and African servitude. For Cuba, Fernando Ortiz (in 1940's *Contrapunteo cubano del tabaco y el azúcar*) and others generally emphasized the identity of those growing tobacco, called *vegueros*. Later scholarship, including Jean Stubbs's *Tobacco on the Periphery: A Case Study in Cuban Labour History, 1860–1958* (1985) and Charlotte Cosner's *The Golden Leaf: How Tobacco Shaped Cuba and the Atlantic World* (2015), challenged Ortiz's characterization of *vegueros* as poor white Canary Islanders and demonstrated the diversity of those laboring in the fields and factories to produce Cuba's tobacco. Similarly, economic studies of the Atlantic world such as Peggy K. Liss's *Atlantic Empires: The Network of Trade and Revolution, 1713–1826* (1982) successfully established the interconnected commercial web during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

*Política y hacienda del tabaco en los imperios Ibéricos (siglos XVII–XIX)*, edited by Santiago de Luxán, successfully builds on earlier tobacco and trade studies. This work, an important contribution to the historiography of tobacco, provides a detailed examination of the Atlantic and Iberian tobacco trade from the seventeenth century through the nineteenth. Through an introduction and ten chapters, Spanish and Portuguese scholars collaborate to analyze what Luxán describes as the "Atlantic Tobacco System" (pp. 9–10). The chapters primarily cover the economic aspects of tobacco in Brazil and Portugal and in Cuba and Spain.

Four chapters address tobacco and the Luso-Atlantic world. Leonor Costa Freire, examining the Brazilian tobacco monopoly and market from 1600 to 1700, argues that Portuguese economic practices gave incentives to tobacco while devaluing sugar. João Paulo Salvado demonstrates that in the eighteenth century Brazilian tobacco was a valuable source of income for the Portuguese crown. Yet, he contends, it was small to midsize Lisbon merchants who predominated in the first half of the century rather than large merchants, as was the case after 1765. This valuable commodity proved tempting for many in Portugal, João Figueiroa Rego argues in another chapter, including ecclesiastics who used tobacco and even participated in its contraband trade. Tobacco proved to be an important economic commodity even in distant areas of the Luso-Atlantic world, as María Margarida Vaz do Rego Machado reveals for the Azores.

The remaining chapters are dedicated to Cuba and Spain. María de los Reyes Hernández Socorro details the stages of the Cuban tobacco monopoly and analyzes Cuba's captains general who implemented it. Santiago de Luxán argues that Spain's many tobacco monopolies provided funds to assist the empire's defenses and bankroll five separate military conflicts from the second half of the eighteenth century to the early nineteenth century. Citing the economic importance of tobacco for Cuba as well as Spain, María Montserrat Gárate Ojanguren builds on Luxán's work and contends that the very structure of the Cuban monopoly destined it for failure. Among other contributing factors, she argues, "Cuba continued growing elevated quantities of tobacco

whose most important destination was not the peninsular market" (p. 242). Lack of funds from New Spain to pay Cuban farmers led them to seek markets outside the legal system. Vicent Sanz Rozalén notes that in western Cuba tobacco farms were small in scale; like Gárate Ojanguren, he argues that the monopoly's inability to pay farmers for their tobacco led them to enter the contraband market. The need for tobacco to meet the demands of Seville's tobacco factory was so great that importations of Virginia tobacco were needed between 1701 and 1760, José Manuel Rodríguez Gordillo demonstrates. Rodríguez Gordillo reveals that Virginia tobacco regularly accounted for around one-third of all tobacco entering the Seville facility. In 1717, the amount of tobacco from Virginia, at almost 947,000 pounds, was slightly higher than that arriving from the Spanish colonies.

This work is well researched, drawing on both archival and extensive Spanish-, Portuguese-, and English-language secondary sources. This study's audience is primarily scholars interested in tobacco, Atlantic trade, and monopolies in general. However, graduate courses in either Latin American or Atlantic history would find it valuable as an example of a detailed analysis of the depth of Atlantic world economics and administration.

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