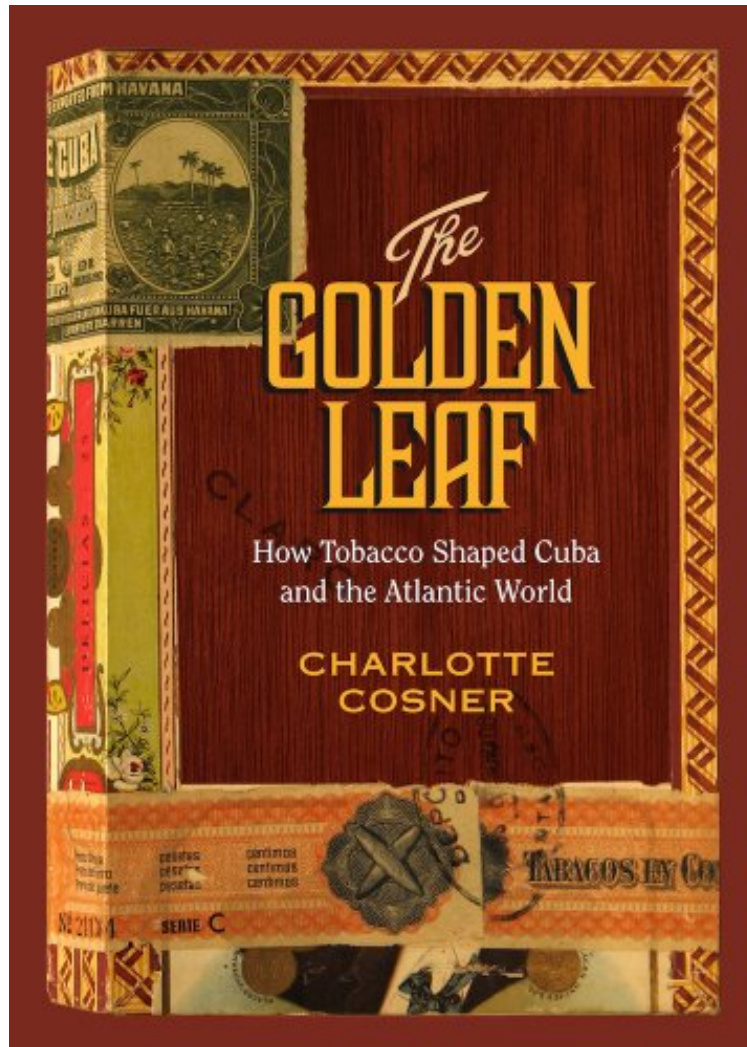


(Library ebook) The Golden Leaf: How Tobacco Shaped Cuba and the Atlantic World

# The Golden Leaf: How Tobacco Shaped Cuba and the Atlantic World

Charlotte Cosner

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2034757 in eBooks 2015-02-10 2015-02-10 File Name: B00TG7PQL6 | File size: 27.Mb

**Charlotte Cosner : The Golden Leaf: How Tobacco Shaped Cuba and the Atlantic World** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Golden Leaf: How Tobacco Shaped Cuba and the Atlantic World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Concise and accessible overview By Jon M. Stallard Nice, concise overview of Cuba's colonial tobacco trade. I'm principally familiar with Virginia history, so this detailed snapshot of her major competitor's policies and practices was an entertaining counterbalance. Exceedingly well researched, I judge this as I judge any good history, by the notations and references which comprise the back half of the work, and they don't disappoint. For Anglocentric readers like me, Dr. Cosner places her subject in the greater context of the

European colonial Atlantic world at large. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent discussion of tobacco culture in a field that focuses ...By miniguinea73Excellent discussion of tobacco culture in a field that focuses more on sugar culture. I will be using this in my Atlantic World classes in the future.

Through the rise and fall of empires, ideologies, and economies, tobacco grown on the tiny island of Cuba has remained an enduring symbol of pleasure and extravagance. Cultivated as one of the first reliable commodities for those inhabitants who remained after conquistadors moved on in search of a mythical wellspring of gold, tobacco quickly became crucial to the support of the swelling Spanish Empire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Eventually, however, tobacco became one of the final stabilizing forces in the empire, and it ultimately proved more resilient than the best laid plans of kings and queens. Tobacco, and those whose livelihoods depended on it, shrugged off the Empire's collapse and pressed on into the twentieth century as an economic force any state or political power must reckon with. Cosner explores the history of this golden leaf through the personal narratives of farmers, bureaucrats, and laborers, all struggling to build an independent and lucrative economic engine. Through conquest, rebellion, colonial and imperial schemes, and the eventual Communist revolution, Cuban tobacco and cigars became a luxury item that commanded loyalty that defied mere borders or embargoes. Ultimately, *The Golden Leaf* is a story of two carefully cultivated products: Cuban tobacco, and its lofty reputation.

"[A] welcome departure from the conventional sugar-centered narrative of [Cuba]'s history. . . . Among the first English-language monographs to provide an in-depth study of Cuban tobacco, the book will have broad appeal among students of Cuba and Latin America. . . . Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; general readers."--Choice  
"Tobacco offers a prism through which to view the tension between Spain and Cuba. Cosner addresses the way that tobacco tied together various disparate social groups within Cuba and beyond its shores. Using family histories, *The Golden Leaf* shows the way that tobacco connected various members of tobacco-growing communities, from estate owners, to slaves, to freedmen, priests, soldiers, and island elites. The role of women in tobacco also makes a surprisingly pleasant appearance. Cosner's discussion of tobacco growing by enslaved peoples and freed peoples in Cuba is also interesting and insightful."--Frederick H. Smith, author of *Caribbean Rum: A Social and Economic History*  
About the Author  
Charlotte Cosner is Assistant Professor of History at Western Carolina University.