

Coffee



COFFEE: FROM PLANTATION TO
CUP: A BRIEF HISTORY OF COFFEE
PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION...

FRANCIS BEATTY THURBER

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出版者:W. W. Norton & Company

出版时间:2005-2-11

装帧:Paperback

isbn:9780393337396

COFFEE TRADER and historian Antony Wild delivers a rollicking history of the most valuable legally traded commodity in the world after oil--and an industry that employs one hundred million people throughout the world. From obscure beginnings in East

Africa in the fifteenth century as a stimulant in religious devotion, coffee became an imperial commodity, produced by poor tropical countries and consumed by rich temperate ones. Through the centuries, the influence of coffee on the rise of capitalism and its institutions has been enormous. Revolutions were once hatched in coffeehouses, commercial alliances forged, secret societies formed, and politics and art endlessly debated. Today, while coffee chains spread like wildfire, coffee-producing countries are in crisis: with prices at a historic low, they are plagued by unprecedented unemployment, abandoned farms, enforced migration, and massive social disruption. Bridging the gap between coffee's dismal colonial past and its perilous corporate present, "Coffee reveals the shocking exploitation that has always lurked at the heart of the industry.

作者介绍:

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