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Environmental History of Latin America


Fraginals' book, Cuba came to account for a fourth of the world's recorded production of sugar, chiefly through expansion of the acreage planted with cane. This expansion, which required fertile land near ports or—later in this period—railways, first took place at the narrow western Havana. The next major thrust was into the province neighboring Havana to the east, Matanzas, whose gently rolling hills with deep clay soils yielded half the cane grown in Cuba in the 1850s. (Review from Environmental Review, Bibliographic Supplement III 1975-84).


Discusses the history of the banana industry from the early 1900s, the evolution of peasant agriculture, and the history of pesticide use on the island.


Discusses the history of soil erosion problems and the history of colonial soil conservation policies on the island. (N.A.)


The development of environmentalism within the British and French colonial empires, seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. Discussion focuses on the passage of the King's Hill Act of 1791 (forest protection legislation based on climatic theory) on St. Vincent, a British colony in the Caribbean. (Note by FHS).


Tudela, F. Ed. 1990. Desarrollo y medio ambiente en América Latina y el Caribe: una visión evolutiva. Madrid: Ministerio de Obras Públicas y Urbanismo. Brief descriptions of natural ecosystems and historical antecedents (e.g., encounter of two worlds, the colonial period), modern metamorphoses of environments since World War II, and the current crisis. Consider urban as well as rural problems. (HLAS)


