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Darcy C. Del Bosque
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, darcy.delbosque@unlv.edu

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Fraginals, Manuel Moreno. 1975. The Sugar Mill: The Socioeconomic Complex of Sugar in Cuba. 1760-1861. Transl. Cedric Belfrage. New York: Monthly Review Press. During the hundreds years covered by 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--railroads, 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 1988-89).


