

## Reading Guide for University students:

The History of Cocoa and its Trade in Ecuador - Reflections on the Influence of Food and Agricultural Products, and the Differences in International Trade

This reading guide is designed for university students and focuses on the history of cocoa and its trade in Ecuador. Through the exploration of this topic, students are encouraged to reflect on the influence of food and agricultural products in the development of societies and cultures worldwide, with a particular emphasis on South America and Ecuador. Additionally, it facilitates discussions on the differences in international trade, where some countries act as suppliers of raw materials, such as cocoa in Ecuador, while others provide technology, industrialised products, and exercise control over the global economy. By following this guide, students will deepen their understanding of these topics and develop a critical perspective on related issues.

### 1. History of Cocoa in Ecuador: Roots and Development

- a. Read the chapters that cover the history of cocoa in Ecuador, from its origins to its development over time.
- b. Reflect on how cocoa has influenced Ecuadorian society and culture, both historically and in the present day.
- c. Examine the impact of cocoa trade on the economy and local communities in Ecuador.

### 2. Influence of Food and Agricultural Products on Societies and Cultures

- a. Reflect on the influence of food and agricultural products in the development of societies and cultures worldwide.
- b. Investigate historical and contemporary examples of how the availability and production of food have shaped various aspects of social and cultural life, such as cuisine, culinary traditions, and cultural identity.

### 3. International Trade and the Differences between Raw Material Suppliers and Industrialised Product Providers

- a. Analyse the differences in international trade, with a focus on countries that act as suppliers of raw materials, like Ecuador with its cocoa, as opposed to those that provide technology and industrialised products.

b. Reflect on how these differences in international trade can impact economic development and the distribution of power globally.

c. Examine case studies and concrete examples to gain a better understanding of economic dynamics and inequalities related to international trade.

#### 4. Discussions and Debates on the Topics Explored

a. Organise group discussion sessions to share ideas, perspectives, and reflections on the topics addressed in the book.

b. Foster debate on the impact of international trade on local economies, the importance of economic diversification, and the pursuit of equity in international trade relations.

c. Encourage students to research and present additional case studies that illustrate the themes discussed and promote a broader understanding of the global landscape.

Through this reading guide, university students will be able to explore the history of cocoa and its trade in Ecuador and reflect on the influence of food and agricultural products in the development of societies and cultures. Furthermore, it allows for discussions on the differences in international trade and their economic and social implications. These reflections and debates will foster a critical understanding of the related topics and promote a broader awareness of global dynamics in trade and development.



Here are a couple of videos recommended to watch:

\* [The ancient civilisation that discovered chocolate – BBC REEL](#)

\* [Cacao ecuatoriano vs. chocolate alemán](#)