

Abstract

My dissertation is focusing on the cocoa trade in colonial Spanish America. Cocoa is undoubtedly one of the New World products which has dominated Europe. The work is divided into four chapters. The first chapter focuses on pre-Columbus period. It describes the origin of cocoa bean, its spread and its significance to the first cultivators. Considerably big part of this chapter is dedicated to the importancy of cocoa bean for the Aztecs culture. The next chapter focuses on the arrival of Spanish colonists, their first experiences with cocoa bean, the beginning of the cocoa trade and its introduction and spread to Europe. The main points of the third chapter are the main areas of cocoa production and trading in the colonial period. Each part of this chapter focuses not only on the trade in Venezuela, Ecuador and New Spain but also on other related topics. The fourth chapter briefly describes Bourbon reforms and shows their influence on different areas of production in 18th and the beginning of 19th century. All findings are summarized at the final part.

Keywords:

Cocoa, trade, colonial Spanish America, Colonial administration, Spain, Viceroyalty of New Spain, Viceroyalty of Peru