

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454566603321
Autore	Tucker Richard P. <1938->
Titolo	Insatiable appetite [[electronic resource]] : the United States and the ecological degradation of the tropical world / / Richard P. Tucker
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2000
ISBN	0-520-92381-2 1-282-35645-3 9786612356452 1-59734-678-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (567 p.)
Disciplina	333.7/0913
Soggetti	Tropical crops - Economic aspects - History - 20th century Tropical crops - Environmental aspects - History - 20th century Investments, American - Tropics - History - 20th century Environmental degradation - Tropics - History - 20th century Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 437-524) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. America's Sweet Tooth: The Sugar Trust And The Caribbean Lowlands -- 2. Lords Of The Pacific: Sugar Barons In The Hawaiian And Philippine Islands -- 3. Banana Republics: Yankee Fruit Companies And The Tropical American Lowlands -- 4. The Last Drop: The American Coffee Market And The Hill Regions Of Latin America -- 5. The Tropical Cost Of The Automotive Age: Corporate Rubber Empires And The Rainforest -- 6. The Crop On Hooves: Yankee Interests In Tropical Cattle Ranching -- 7. Unsustainable Yield: American Foresters And Tropical Timber Resources -- Conclusion -- Appendix -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the late 1800's American entrepreneurs became participants in the 400-year history of European economic and ecological hegemony in the tropics. Beginning as buyers in the tropical ports of the Atlantic and Pacific, they evolved into land speculators, controlling and managing the areas where tropical crops were grown for carefully fostered

consumer markets at home. As corporate agro-industry emerged, the speculators took direct control of the ecological destinies of many tropical lands. Supported by the U.S. government's diplomatic and military protection, they migrated and built private empires in the Caribbean, Central and South America, the Pacific, Southeast Asia, and West Africa. Yankee investors and plantation managers mobilized engineers, agronomists, and loggers to undertake what they called the "Conquest of the Tropics," claiming to bring civilization to benighted peoples and cultivation to unproductive nature. In competitive cooperation with local landed and political elites, they not only cleared natural forests but also displaced multicrop tribal and peasant lands with monocrop export plantations rooted in private property regimes. This book is a rich history of the transformation of the tropics in modern times, pointing ultimately to the declining biodiversity that has resulted from the domestication of widely varied natural systems. Richard P. Tucker graphically illustrates his study with six major crops, each a virtual empire in itself-sugar, bananas, coffee, rubber, beef, and timber. He concludes that as long as corporate-dominated free trade is ascendant, paying little heed to its long-term ecological consequences, the health of the tropical world is gravely endangered.
