

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788041303321
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Titolo	The golden leaf : how tobacco shaped Cuba and the Atlantic world / / Charlotte A. Cosner, Ph.D
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Nashville, Tennessee : , : Vanderbilt University Press, , 2014 ©2015
ISBN	0-8265-0362-4 0-8265-2034-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (225 p.)
Classificazione	HIS041010BUS023000
Disciplina	338.4/76797097291
Soggetti	Tobacco - Cuba - History Tobacco - America - History Tobacco industry - Cuba - History Tobacco industry - America - History Cuba History 18th century Cuba History 19th century
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title Page; Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1. "The consumption...is excessive"; 2. "Learnt by observation and experience"; 3. "One of the good growers"; 4. "A matter of chief importance"; 5. "Apply all of your attention to the laws"; 6. "I work with all my might to eradicate the evil"; 7. "Shipments of Havana tobacco not arriving due to the present war"; Epilogue; Glossary; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	""Tobacco is one of Cuba's best known commodities, yet its history has been clouded in myth and misconception. This work addresses the ways in which tobacco shaped Cuba and the Atlantic world in terms of culture, society, governmental control, and economics"--Provided by publisher"-- "Through the rise and fall of empires, ideologies, and economies, tobacco grown on the tiny island of Cuba has remained an enduring symbol of pleasure and extravagance. Cultivated as one of the first reliable commodities for those inhabitants who remained after conquistadors moved on in search of a mythical wellspring of gold,

tobacco quickly became crucial to the support of the swelling Spanish Empire in the 17th seventeenth and 18th eighteenth centuries. Eventually, however, tobacco became one of the final stabilizing forces in the empire, and it ultimately proved more resilient than the best laid plans of kings and queens. Tobacco, and those whose livelihoods depended on it, shrugged off the Empire's collapse and pressed on into the 20th century as an economic force any state or political power must reckon with. Cosner explores the history of this golden leaf through the personal narratives of farmers, bureaucrats, and laborers, all struggling to build an independent and lucrative economic engine. Through conquest, rebellion, colonial and imperial schemes, and the eventual Communist revolution, Cuban tobacco and cigars became a luxury item that commanded loyalty that defied mere borders or embargoes. Ultimately, *The Golden Leaf* is a story of two carefully cultivated products: Cuban tobacco, and its lofty reputation"--
