

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910792122303321
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Titolo	From coffee to tea cultivation in Ceylon, 1880-1900 [[electronic resource] ] : an economic and social history // by Roland Wenzlhuemer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, Mass., : Brill, 2008
ISBN	1-283-06055-8 9786613060556 90-474-3217-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (360 p.)
Collana	Brill's Indological library, , 0925-2916 ; ; v. 29
Disciplina	330.95493
Soggetti	Coffee industry - Sri Lanka - History Tea trade - Sri Lanka - History Agriculture - Economic aspects - Sri Lanka Sri Lanka Economic conditions Sri Lanka Social conditions Sri Lanka Commerce
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. [319]-325) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Materials / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter One. Introduction / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Two. Geography / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Three. History / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Four. Demography / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Five. Export Economy / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Six. Resources / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Seven. Subsistence / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Eight. Administration / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Nine. Education / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Ten. New Elites / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Eleven. Immigrants / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Twelve. Revivals / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Chapter Thirteen. Conclusion / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Bibliography / R. Wenzlhuemer -- Index / R. Wenzlhuemer.
Sommario/riassunto	In the early 1880's a disastrous plant disease diminished the yields of the hitherto flourishing coffee plantation of Ceylon. Coincidentally, world market conditions for coffee were becoming increasingly unfavourable. The combination of these factors brought a swift end to coffee cultivation in the British crown colony and pushed the island into

a severe economic crisis. When Ceylon re-emerged from this crisis only a decade later, its economy had been thoroughly transformed and now rested on the large-scale cultivation of tea. This book uses the unprecedented intensity and swiftness of this process to highlight the socioeconomic interconnections and dependencies in tropical export economies in the late nineteenth century and it shows how dramatically Ceylonese society was affected by the economic transformation.

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