



*Central America:
A Quest for the Progression of
Economic Value.
Bonus-Season V.*

The origin of Central America political-economy.

Period of study: From 1700 to 1900

Episode 8

**Sugar-Sugar America Part 8
La señorita Cuba 18th-19th century**

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V

From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.



📌 Outline Calendar

Season V From January 9th to April 10th, 2026.

<p>9-jan-2026 Episode 1 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part I Brazil </p>	<p>16-jan-2026 Episode 2 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part II Dutch islands </p>	<p>23-jan-2026 Episode 3 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part III British West Indies - Production </p>	<p>30-jan-2026 Episode 4 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part IV British West Indies - Barbados </p>	<p>06-Feb-2026 Episode 5 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part V British West Indies - Barbados and Jamaica </p>
<p>13-feb-2026 Episode 6 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part VI French Context (St Domingue) </p>	<p>20-feb-2026 Episode 7 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part VII French Business Model Sugar St Domingue Analysis </p>	<p>27-feb-2026 Episode 8 </p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part VIII Spanish Context (Cuba) </p>	<p>06-March-2026 Episode 9</p> <p>Sugar-Sugar America Part IX Spanish Model (Cuba) </p>	<p>13-March-2026 Episode 10</p> <p>Cattle, Livestock and other Foodstuff Central America </p>
<p>20-mar-2026 Episode 11</p> <p>Banana Republics Central America </p>	<p>27-Mar-2026 Episode 12</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions Seasons I and II </p>	<p>03-April-2026 Episode 13</p> <p>Summary and Conclusions Seasons III, IV and V </p>	<p>10-April-2026 Episode 14</p> <p>Research Agenda for the future </p>	<p>From 11 April to 2 May 2026 Safeguarding Pause</p> <p>Maintenance Break </p>

Holy Week



Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V

A piece of the economic puzzle of Spanish Central America in Four Seasons + Bonus



Big Picture of our Content.

Season V as of January 9th, 2026.

Season	Start Date	Finish Date	Number of episodes	Historical Timeline to Analyze	Main General themes
One (I) Autumn -Winter 2024	October 4 th , 2024	December 27 th , 2024	13 episodes	1492-1558	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical foundations Castile & Aragon: Discovery of Spanish America, the Holy Roman Empire Charles V Holy Roman Emperor: his local, personal, regional, religious, and international agenda The Spanish Inquisition
Two (II) Winter-Spring 2025	January 24 th , 2025	May 2 nd , 2025	13 episodes	1492-1700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish America with a Medieval Allure: Conquest and Colonization Understanding the economic philosophy of the Habsburgs Rulers in Central America: Philip II, Philip III, Philip IV, and Charles II. Commodities: Mining extraction of precious metal reserves
Three (III) Spring-Summer 2025	May 23 rd , 2025	August 29 th , 2025	14 episodes	1700-1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School of Salamanca The Bourbon era begins. From Philip V (1683-1746) to Alfonso XIII (1886-1941) The War of Spanish Succession The Jesuit Suppression and Restoration (1773-1814) The meaning of the French Revolution in Spanish America The Why of Napoleon Bonaparte
Four (IV) Autumn-Winter 2025	September 19 th , 2025	December 31 st , 2025	15 episodes	1700-1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Bells of Central America (1800-23) United Provinces of Central America (1823-40) Derailment of violence and inner conflicts Charted Urban vs Forgotten Rural Mining + Agricultural Commodities. Never an Industrial Factory Development. Main agriculture production industries: Cacao, Indigo, coffee, Sugar-Introduction
Five (V) BONUS Winter Spring 2026	January 9 th , 2026	April 10 th , 2026	15 episodes	1700-1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of Main Agriculture plantations. Sugar-Sugar America, Bananas, Cattle and Livestock, Foodstuff Summary and Conclusions Research Agenda for the future.

Past saga: done

Past saga: done

Past saga: Done

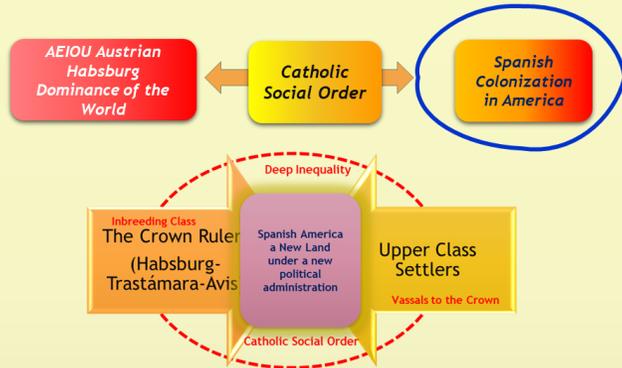
Past saga: Done

We are here

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V. From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.



Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries



Our agenda for today's master class:

Today

1. Geographic Description
2. Origin of the Plantations
3. Main Political events
4. Demographics

Next class

5. Labor System with Slave Trade
6. Ownership of the plantations
7. Sugar Industry

“Most of good historians are chroniclers of events. A Chronicler narrates, but doesn't explain the facts. Before proceeding further in our civilization, corporate strategists are obliged to understand the different explanations and interpretations of history. Otherwise, history will repeat under new circumstances”.

Eleonora Escalante Strategy. El Salvador



La señorita Cuba, arriving to the 18th century. From her discovery she was baptized as a Castile-Aragón territory, later disrupted fiercely by the Bourbons of France and Spain. While the USA and German Britain somehow got involved too.

https://www.emersonkent.com/history/timelines/american_timeline.htm

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From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.



Cuba's starting point

Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries

The history of sugar explained in one cartouche...

Geographic Cartouche of la señorita Cuba de Castile: the roots of her birth

The moral and philosophical conflicts of Cuba are rooted in the imbalance of power that Spanish America under the Habsburg consortium of Charles V HRE (Habsburg-Valois/Castile-Aragon) activated to the rest of Royal European families who also wanted their territorial expansion in America.

La señorita Cuba de Castile was registered in a dynasty of a kaiser Habsburg-Aviz, a duchess Valois-Bourbon, an Enriquez Aragon king and a Queen of Castile-Aviz.

- Cuba is a narrow island, with the figure of an arc of a circle. Its total area is 45,887 sq miles (118,844.19 sq km). Cuba was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492 (A Genoese working for the queen Isabelle of Castile (wife of Fernando II Henriquez of Aragón). Columbus introduced sugar cane directly, but it never developed to largest scale until the 19th century.
- Cuba was under the Spanish possession as much as Hispaniola
- The real control of Cuba belonged to the Castilians, more than to any of the consortium of kings who settled in the rest of Spanish America.
- From the start, Cuba was a Castilian-Spanish territory, in which no other king as the Catholic Habsburgs residing in Austrian Netherlands, or France,

- or Britain could ever decide for it, at least until the end of 18th century.
- I would like you to pay attention to the map cartouche of your left. The Cartouche was part of the special maps, showing the title articulated with a cognitive scope, that included explanations, the most important sponsor, year, and the content of the map. The Cartouche provided the political identity of the possessor of the land drawn in the map. And it was beautifully embellished following the tradition of the Flemish Burgundians and Italians masters.
- The maps were commissioned under patronage, who protected, employed and remunerated the cartographer, and it also meant a discourse of power (as a symbol or a real control of the territory).

- The Cartouche provided the political identity of the possessor of the land drawn in the map. Cuba was conceived under the symbolic cartouche at your left, but it was a Castilian-Spanish territory, forgotten for 300 years (16th-18th centuries).
- When Cuba was discovered by Columbus, the odyssey was paid by the Spanish Kingdom with the privilege of Castile. However, Spanish America conquest was a family dynasty consortium in which all the families representing Philip I and Charles V HRE were supposed to be considered or essential part of the endeavor: Habsburg-Aviz-Castile-Aragon-Valois-Bourbon & Tudor.
- Cuba's further conflicts after her discovery are deeply ingrained in that cartouche. Every kingdom wanted its part of it. Particularly, when Cuba took the role of French Saint-Domingue, after the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804).



Source: *The History of Cartography, Volume 4. Cartouche. Cartography in the European Enlightenment*
 Edited by Matthew H. Edney and Mary Sponberg Pedley
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https://press.uchicago.edu/books/HOC/HOC_V4/Volume4.html

From the start, Cuba belonged to the Castilians of Spain. Cuba was the heart of Juana's Castile-Aragon treasure domains in America.



Map from Mercator, G. Print from the Atlas, published in Amsterdam, 1606.
<https://palauantiquitats.com/en/grabado/cuba-insula-hispaniola-insula-25>

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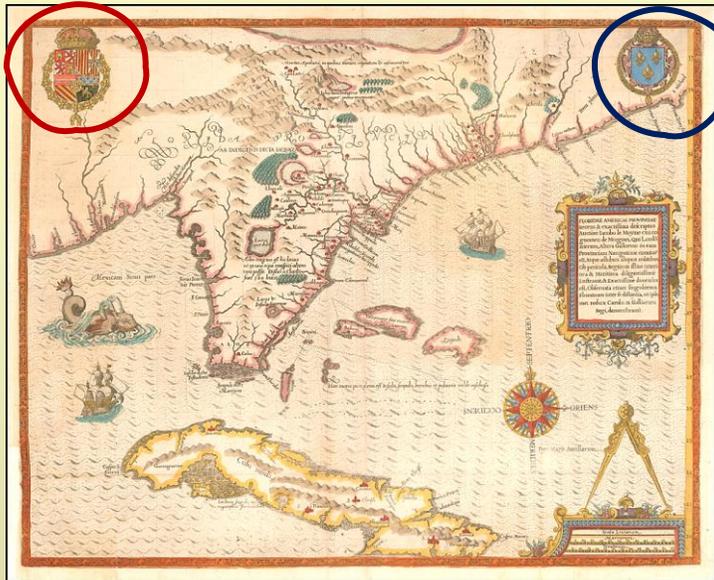
Cuba's birth big picture

Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries

The context of the origin of larger sugar plantations in Cuba

After 1772, any Spaniard living in Cuba was allowed to produce sugar.

Cuba became a premium-sugar producing society as of the 19th century because of the roots of her birth.



- Cuba relationship with the sugar plantations was not an easy one. Despite that Columbus took sugar cane to Cuba as of 1492, Spaniards never planted it for exports or large-scale scope.
- During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Spanish empire was focusing all its efforts on the colonization of Spanish America, including its expansion into North America.

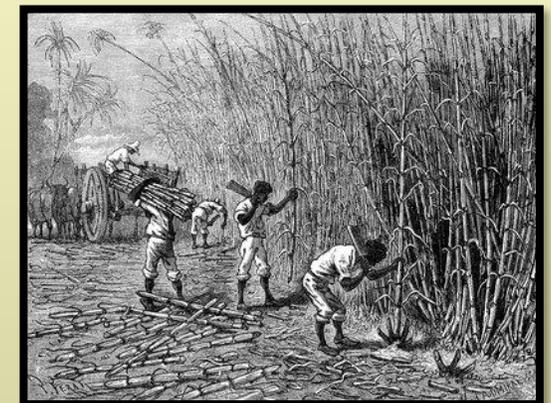
Year	Cuba Sugar Production (tons)	
1760	4,392	
1780	12,000	
1790	14,163	} Year of Haiti Revolution
1792	14,600	
1796	24,000	
1802	40,800	

- France started its expansionist strategy as of Louis XIII (with Cardinal Richelieu). However, look at the map at your left. It is a map of 1591, with the coat of arms of Spain and France.
- Spain allowed Cuba to produce sugar for exports as of 1772.
- Let's see the volume of Cuba's production during those years.
- After Napoleón Bonaparte fall from power, Cuba restored and created the conditions for her own sugar boom of exports.
- Most of the French Saint-Domingue's Bourbon planters fled to Cuba, and the production increased slowly. England had already prohibited slavery then.
- It was in 1834, that Governor of Cuba Tacón, encouraged and allowed the slave trade.

Strategy
ate Strategy

The context of why Cuba joined the slavery foundation of sugar plantations is framed under the **migration** of pro-slavery French Saint Domingue's, British and American planters to Cuba after 1791. After slavery was banned by Britain in 1808, Spain also proscribed it officially in 1820, but illegal trade continued flowing into Cuba. It wasn't until 1886 that African slavery in Cuba supposedly ended.

Europeans demand for sweets was insatiable, but in the case of Cuban sugar, the main sugar market was not Europe, but the United States of America, as of 1783.



Source: <https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/901520/view/19th-century-sugar-cane-plantation-cuba>

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Cuba's territory

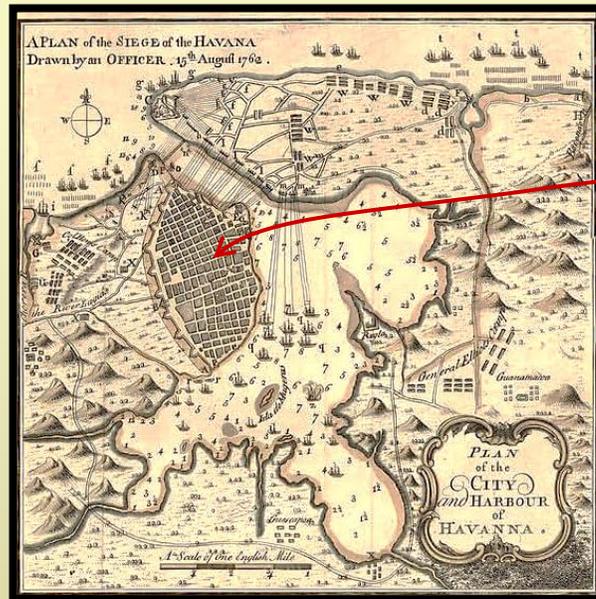
Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries

The land of la señorita Cuba

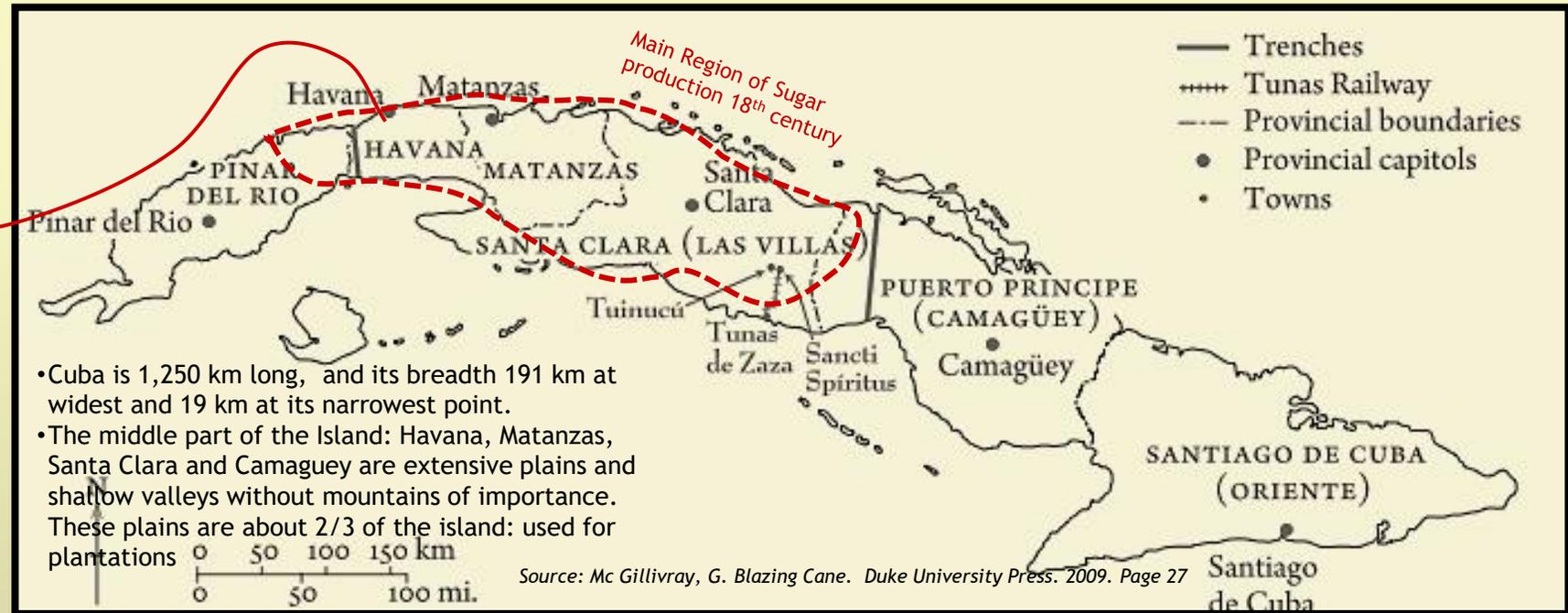
Cuba, the main island of Greater Antilles with more than 1600 islands, islets and cays

Cuba is an archipelago with a combined area as 3/4 of the size of Florida.

The island of Cuba belonged to Spain from 1492 to 1898. It has been heavily influenced by the USA since the 19th century. Until 1740, Cuba's core activities were ranching, smuggling, tobacco farming, and a minimum to sugar plantations.



Habana map: The fortified city of the Spanish Crown. 1762. Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Antiguos-Maps-Illustration-Officer-Vintage/dp/B00UAZDSIG>



In 1510, the first Cuban Government was created as part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain, but dependent of the Real Audiencia of Santo Domingo. The first administrative territorial division was of 7 villes: Baracoa, Bayamo, Santiago de Cuba, Puerto Príncipe, Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus y San Cristóbal de La Habana. Santiago de Cuba was chosen as a capital, not Havana.

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Cuba's area sugar cane planted

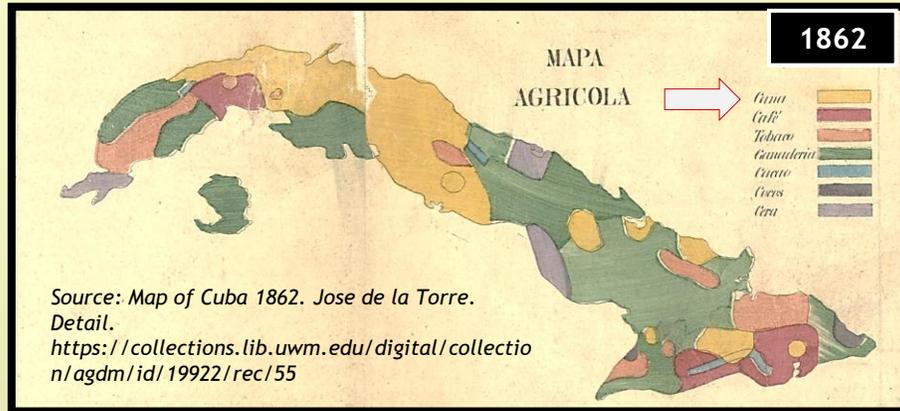
Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries

The backwardness of Cuba until the 18th century

During the 18th century, the plantations took the spotlight in the agriculture map

The change in Cuba's agriculture strategy was caused by the structural transformation of the worldwide demand for sugar as of 1750s... But punctually, Cuba was transformed by Britain inherency and later, the Haitian Revolution.

The peaceful tranquility of Cuba was disrupted commercially as of the 17th century. Between 1492 to 1740s, there was no industry in Cuba, besides ship repairing, curing pork, salting beef and tanning of leather. By 1750 there were around 100 small primitive sugar plantations, all close to Havana. Tobacco was then the most profitable crop in a small scale



By 1750s, sugar became a global commodity. The 1791 Revolution of French Saint Domingue in the context of the French revolution of Europe, and the 1807 abolition of the slave trade by Britain didn't stop the Cuban Planters class to invest in new machinery for the mills, and a massive number slaves transferred from Africa.

Until 1750s, Cuba was distinguished by the following factors:

1. A relatively small number of Africa slaves. Most of mulattos were already free.
2. The importance of urban life. Cities were cherished by colonizers.
3. The criollo aristocracy of Cuba consisted in a handful group of rich families who established in the island to reside mainly in their towns (Havana, Santiago or Trinidad) and visit their plantations or livestock ranches at harvest times. They never returned to visit Spain. The most significant families were Recio de Oquendo, Herrera, Nuñez del Castillo, Calvo de la Puerta and Beltrán de la Cruz. They were settlers with a long tradition in the Island.

After 1750s, Cuba began its transformation in a prosperous sugar economy based on slavery. The causes of this change were:

1. The demand for sugar augmented in Spain and elsewhere. Particularly the USA sugar market.
2. The emergence of a class of landlords who wanted to use "their land" for their own profits under a new concept of proprietorship (not feudal grants anymore).
3. Use of slavery: import of slaves from Africa to Cuba was the core foundation of sugar plantations.

Year	Cuba Sugar Production (tons)
1750	4,969
1800	28,761
1850	294,952

Source: Bosma, Curry-Machado. Two Islands, one commodity. Page 238

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Cuba's demographics

Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries

Demographics explain the logic of Cuba's plantation economy

Cuba was part of the Viceroyalty of New Spain until 1898

When learning about the demographic progression of the Cuba Population it is imperative to study the African migrations.



The demographic changes of the Cuban population between 1774 to 1900s, can be explained by the economic plantation model (based on slavery) and the wars and inner conflicts. Cuban society was racially classified:

1. Blacks (negros, morenos). could be free or slaves
 2. Whites (blancos) : Spanish, French, Dutch, British, Americans. Whites Peninsulares if born in Spain, or Criollos if born in the Island.
 3. Mulattos (pardos)
 4. Bozales: Blacks born in Africa.
- Blacks and Mulattos were taken together as **colorados** (colored, non-White).

Cuban Population Growth (1774-1919)

Year of Census	Total Cuba Population	Percentage Whites (%)
1774	171,620	--
1792	272,300	59.3%
1817	572,363	67.6%
1827	704,487	20.9%
1841	1,007,624	34.5%
1861	1,396,530	89.7%
1877	1,509,291	29.0%
1887	1,631,687	7.8%
1899	1,572,797	-3.0%
1907	2,048,980	34.9%
1919	2,889,004	46.1%

Table 1 Population, by color and racial status, 1774-1907

Year	Whites	All Colorados	Total population	Free Colorados	Slave Colorados
1774	96,440	75,180	172,620	30,847	44,333
1792	133,559	138,742	272,301	54,152	84,590
1817	239,830	313,203	553,033	114,058	199,145
1827	311,051	393,436	704,487	106,494	286,942
1841	418,291	589,289	1,007,624	152,838	436,495
1861	764,750	594,488	1,359,238	225,938	368,550
1877	1,032,435	489,249	1,521,684	272,478	199,094
1887	1,102,889	529,298	1,632,187	-	-
1899	1,052,397	520,400	1,572,797	-	-
1907	1,440,013	608,967	2,048,980	-	-

Rate of change between Censos

Period	Whites	All Colorados	Total population	Free Colorados	Slave Colorados
1774-1792	18.1	34.0	25.3	31.3	35.9
1792-1817	23.4	32.6	28.3	29.8	34.2
1817-1827	26.0	22.8	24.2	- 6.9	36.5
1827-1841	21.2	28.9	25.6	25.8	30.0
1841-1861	30.2	0.4	15.0	19.5	- 8.5
1861-1877	18.8	- 12.2	7.1	11.7	- 38.5
1877-1887	6.6	7.9	7.0	-	-
1887-1899	- 3.9	- 1.4	- 3.1	-	-
1899-1907	39.2	19.6	33.1	-	-

Source: Livi-Macci, M. *The Cuban Melting Pot in the Late Colonial Period.* <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s41118-023-00195-9>

Source: 1774, 1792, 1817, 1827: Ramon de la Sagra, *Historia Economica-Politica y Estadistica da la Isla de Cuba*, Arazosa y Soler, Habana, 1831, pp. 3-7. 1841: *Resumen del Censo de la Población de la Isla de Cuba a fin del año 1841*, Imprenta del Gobierno, 1842; 1861, 1877, 1887, INE; 1899: *Census of Cuba 1899*, War Department USA, 1899; 1907: *Cuba, Population, History and Resources, 1907*, United States Bureau of the Census, Washington, 1909

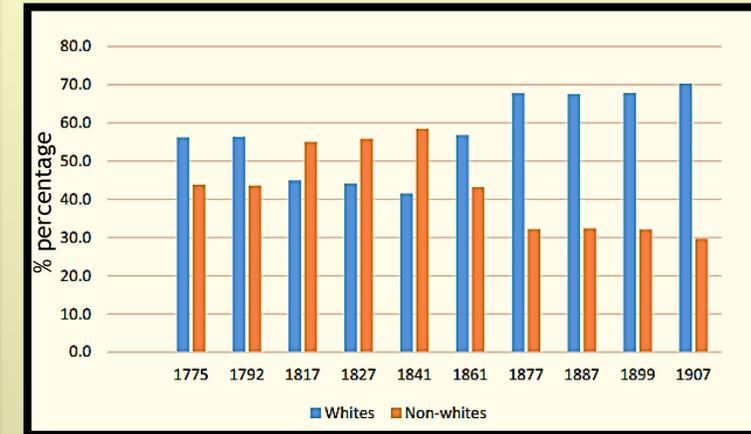


Fig. 1 Population of Cuba, by color, 1774-1907. In Percentage. Source: Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos. Censo dela Republica de Cuba 1907. Source: Livi-Macci, M.

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From 1700-1900: The origin of Central America political-economy.



Cuba's Political timeline

Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries

Cuba's main political events to consider in this episode

Cuba chronology of Major Political Challenges

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the patterns of sugar production were affected by the following political chronology

1760s



1770s
-80s



1790s



1800s



1810s



1820s



1830s



- 1762-63: English Occupation of Havana
- This was a tactic of Britain in the context of the Seven years' War, and the French-Indian War. After the end of the Seven Years War, the entire white Spanish population of Florida went to Havana.
- The capture of Cuba, and the Philippines was against the Bourbons of France. Havana was never before in the hands of foreign invaders.
- For Britain, Cuba was a negotiation bargaining factor to force France to surrender most of North American New France and Florida.
- 1760s: The Cuban sugar boom foundations began; Spain allowed the British to purchase Cuban sugar for its colonies and Europe.
- The British directed the affairs of Havana, teaching the Spanish how to import slaves from British Jamaica,

- Migration of slaves to Cuba was boosted!
In 1774, Cuba had 171,620 inhabitants, with only 22% African slaves. As of this decade, the flow of slaves augmented from 6 slave ships per year to 200 ships in 20 years.
- Cuba got militarized: 1 out of two males in Havana was a peninsular soldier.
- Almost all old Spanish taxes were banned, and restrictions on trade were abolished for good by Spain.
- Constant influx of White Spanish/French to Cuba (from Louisiana, Canary Islands).
- 1771: Peso Fuerte installed as currency.
- Intendency organization mounted.

- Duties on the import of machinery to produce sugar mills were proscribed.
- Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País, in Havana was founded by Francisco de Arango, a pioneer in the construction of a new Cuban society: public library, hospitals, asylums, free schools, investments in the university, etc.
- Arango took the first steam engine Reinhold brand in 1794.
- Haitian Revolution triggered a migration of most of French planters to Cuba

- A new sugar cane specie was introduced, the South Sea Otaheite strain.
- Powerful Liverpool big firm of slave Merchants, Baker and Dawson, was fully operating in Havana.
- Export of sugar exceeded the rest of hides, tobacco, wax, coffee, etc.
- French sugar planters and technicians were the engine of the new bigger Cuban plantations.
- Napoleonic wars delayed the introduction of steam mills.
- Román de la Luz, a rich planter freemason tried to organize the independence from Spain without success.

- Cuban planters concerned by the British abolition of slave trade.
- Restoration of King Ferdinand VII in 1814.
- First constitution of Cuba was drafted by Joaquín Infante, but his attempt was defeated.
- The Spanish crown started to demand heavy taxes, export duties and special levies again.

- Spain legally abolished the slave trade in return for £ 400,000 compensation to each slave trader. The ban was not obeyed.
- After the Independence movements of all nations of Spanish America, Cuba was chosen as a Spanish hub, and Spain was determined to keep Cuba and Puerto Rico.
- 40,000 Spanish troops were sent from Spain to Cuba.

- 1834: Governor of Cuba, Miguel Tacon openly encouraged the slave trade, and the slave population coming from Africa continued.
- By the end of 1830s, the population of black Africans raised above 400,000.
- The plantations extended to everywhere, experiencing for the first time of its life an abundant prosperity.
- The mechanization of the sugar mills using steam-powered energy, and narrow-gauge railroads took place as of this decade.
- Advanced vacuum boiler invented by Charles Derosne in Paris was installed in Cuba

In 1740, the Royal Havana Company was instituted to stimulate agricultural development, increasing slave imports. By 1751, the Royal Havana Company had introduced more slaves than ever before in the history of Cuba. 90% of these trades were coming from Jamaica.

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27/2/2026

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Cuba's Political timeline

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Cuba chronology of Major Political Challenges

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the patterns of sugar production were affected by the following political chronology

1840s-50s



- When the complexity to bring African Slaves to Cuba was tough, the Cuban planters searched for more than 125,000 Chinese indentured wage laborers, mistreated as slaves.
- Expansion of the sugar mill business model using steam engines continued.
- Filibustering expedition led by Narciso López (1849-51) from New Orleans attempt to overthrow the Spain colonial administration.
- Largest sugar mills were founded in 1840s
- Cuban planters led by Nunez del Castillo, Aldama ;Madán, Iznaga and Drake families' campaign urging USA to buy Cuba.
- The USA tried to purchase Cuba as of 1850s, at least 5 times: Jefferson (1803), Polk, Pierce, Buchanan and later McKinley.
- A centrifugal machine was introduced to Cuba, to Joaquin Ayesterán.

1860s



- American Civil War from 1861-1865. The abolition of slavery in the USA.
- The sugar industry of Cuba was flourishing greatly. It surpassed the model of Java, and it was producing 1/3 of the world's sugar.
- 1868-78: First war of independence of Cuba: The Ten's year war. Cuban leader was Carlos Céspedes, who organized wealthy farmers and professionals. The Pact of Zanjón finished the conflict.
- The massive amount of sugar produced in Cuba, made it the richest colony in the whole world. Cuban ships received around 3,600 ships a year, of which half went to Havana.
- USA was the main important trading partner of Cuba.

1870s



- The wealthy planters that used the most recent mechanization technologies got richer, creating poverty in those planters still using old-oxen powered mills. Inequality grew.
- The wealth of the planters was so huge, that Cuban planters began to invest in Spain, and helped to finance royal dynasties in troubles in Europe.
- These new planters' class were mainly Basques (or aragoneses), Americans, English and French (Hispanicized after a generation), securing Spanish noble titles. A new aristocracy of Cuba was created.
- Slave trade continued illegally.
- The little War of 1879 second uprising.

1880s



- Spain brought finally the end of slavery into the Island of Cuba
- Discontent of the Cuban planters continue to rise against Spain.
- The consolidation of sugar plantations occurred: From 1400 sugar mills in 1870 to 470 mills in 1890.
- The largest plantations bought the middle and small, and by 1906, only 160 factories remained.
- With no capacity to keep slaves, the sugar industry remained in the hands of the wealthy and foreigners who expanded to "central factories", expanding their plantations and buying the cane, and making money under the principle of economies of scale.

1890s-



- 1895: Spanish American War began.
- Spain and Cuban conflict was escalated with tensions, and the USA joined the Cuban Planters. Another war of local independence followed, led by José Martí.
- The USA declared war on Spain, capturing Philippines.
- 1898: USA gained total control of Cuba.
- The USA sat up a military governor to run operations in Cuba until 1902. Cuba gained independence from Spain. Tomas Palma elected as President.
- USA agreed to remove all its forces with the commitment of Cuba to permit USA to intervene in Cuban Affairs for the protection of the Caribbean. USA military bases were established on Guantanamo Bay.
- 1906: USA reoccupies Cuba again, under President Theodore Roosevelt's guidance. Charles Magoon installed as US Governor for Cuba for 3 years.
- During this time, the first Communist Party of Cuba was formed.

1900s



When slaves were put out of the sugar plantations in Cuba, the transformation of the labor force gave birth to the capital-wage labor in which the importance was to lower the cost of wage labor to the minimum. Slavery was then recreated within the high-tech sugar mills of the epoch by the formation of minimum salary low-wage rates for the plantations of sugar cane.

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Cuba's plantations labor system: slavery

Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries

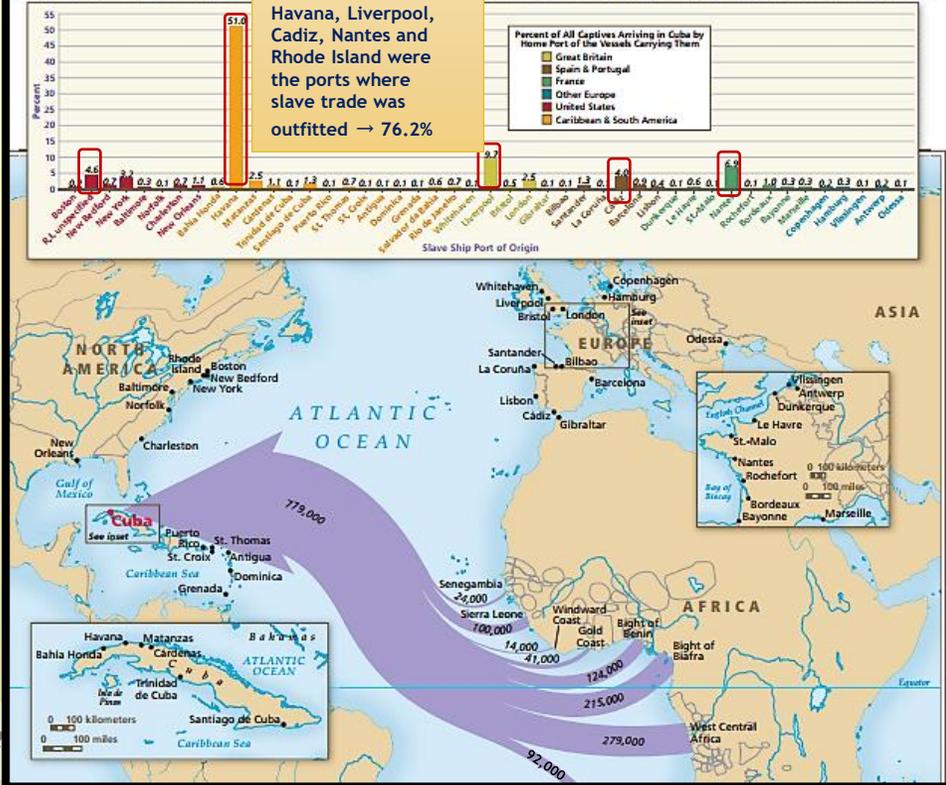
The sugar industry in Cuba became relevant only after 1760

Cuba was never essential for Spanish America, until sugar came into the equation.

Slavery and sugar mingled together again.

The rise of sugar as a commodity only happened because there was an excess demand in Europe. Every European war destabilized navigation to the Atlantic and caused sugar prices to rise (almost double or more) during the 18th century. That is how the French got involved Saint Domingue. However, the boom of sugar crops in Cuba occurred during the 19th century.

Map 151: Cuba: African Coastal Origins of Slaves and Home Ports of Vessels Carrying Them, 1526-1867



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Cuba was never essential for Spanish America, until sugar came into the equation.

Slavery and sugar mingled together again.

The details of slavery in Cuba will be studied in our next master class. Today, we simply want to introduce the topic. Come back next Friday for more

More inferences about slavery and productivity of the plantations in our next master class

TABLE I
Official importations of African Slaves Through Havana, 1790-1821

Years	Numbers	Years	Numbers
1790	2,534	1806	4,395
1791	8,498	1807	2,505
1792	8,528	1808	1,607
1793	3,777	1809	1,162
1794	4,164	1810	6,672
1795	5,832	1811	6,349
1796	5,711	1812	6,081
1797	4,522	1813	4,770
1798	2,001	1814	4,321
1799	4,949	1815	9,111
1800	4,145	1816	17,733
1801	1,659	1817	25,841
1802	13,832	1818	19,902
1803	9,671	1819	15,147
1804	8,923	1820	17,194
1805	4,999	1821	4,122
TOTAL			240,721

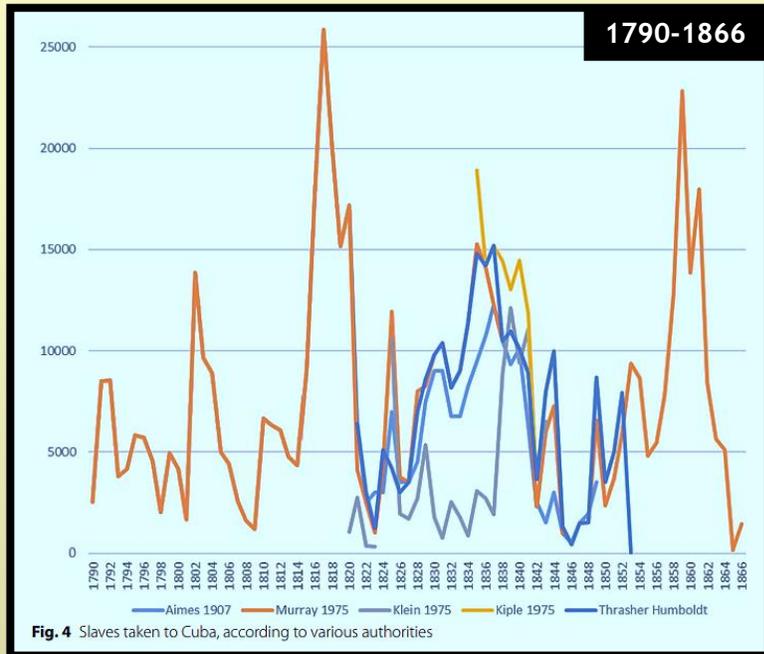


Fig. 4 Slaves taken to Cuba, according to various authorities

Source: Livi-Macci, M. *The Cuban Melting Pot in the Late Colonial Period.*
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s41118-023-00195-9>

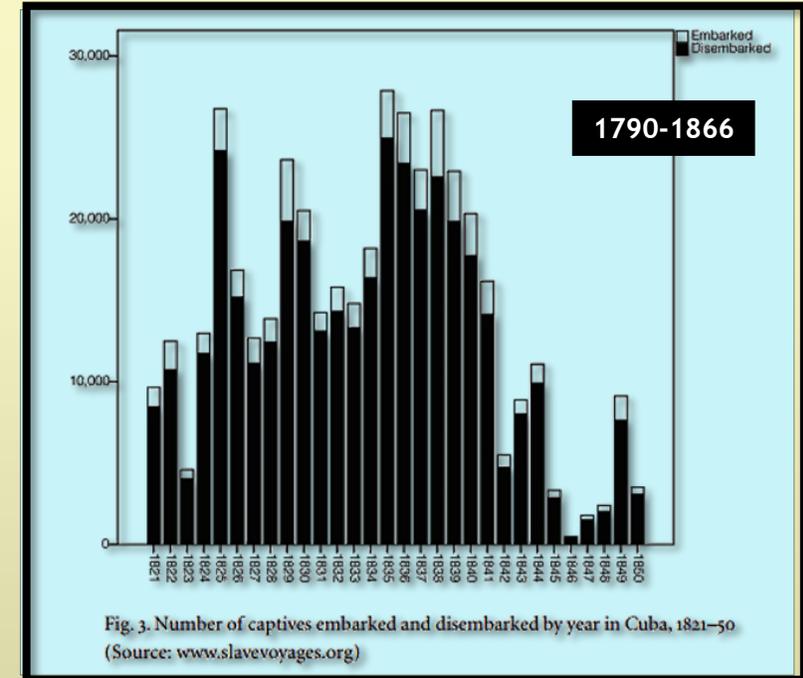


Fig. 3. Number of captives embarked and disembarked by year in Cuba, 1821-50
 (Source: www.slavevoyages.org)

Slave trade to Cuba from 1821-50. Page 124
<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300212419/the-united-states-and-the-transatlantic-slave-trade-to-the-americas-1776-1867/>

Source; Murray, Statistic slave trade to Cuba 1790-1867

By the year 1908, from a total of 2,048,980 people, 1,428,176 were whites, 620,804 were colorados (black-mulattos-morenos) and 228,741 were foreign non-Spanish.

27/2/2026

All the information of these slides is supported and inferred from the bibliography page 16

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Sugar Industry of Cuba

Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. La señorita Cuba 18th-19th centuries

The sugar industry of Cuba



How did the sugar industry of Cuba expand without slaves after 1886? What happened then?

After 1886, when slaves were emancipated, the social structure of sugar mills changed.

How did the sugar industry of Cuba expand without slaves?



- When the African slaves were freed, the Planter class of Cuba was transformed.
- Those planters who invested in cane processing modernization became planter-industrialists.
- Unsuccessful mill owners who lacked money to invest in the modernization of their traditional mills, dismantled their factories and became sugar cane farmers, or migrated to the cities.
- Cheap wage labor and tenancy arrangements replaced slave labor.
- The industrial process of cane milling was separated from the agricultural processes of planting and harvesting sugarcane.
- From 1400 sugar mills (1870), the industry got consolidated into 170-180 sugar mills in 35 years (with three main conflicts occurring in the period from 1870 to 1905). These new powerful mills were called ingenios centrales.
- Small sugar-mill owners were forced to sell their farms to pay debts, and became proletarians, employees under wage-payment in the cities. While those who could, remained as cane-farmers were called colonos.
- Entirely new sugar estates started in the hands of American capitalists, anywhere they bought the land at low price, consolidating vast properties and mills.
- The Cuban sugar industry expanded rapidly after the slave emancipation, to unprecedented levels until 1895. Most of the old slaves, became agricultural workers in the centrales or new consolidated cane farms called colonias.
- With the Independence War, and the Spanish American War after the 1898 US troops occupation of CUBA, more than 4/5 of the sugar mills were demolished or destroyed. We will analyze all these factors on our next publication.

To be continued...

<https://www.helminck.com/antique-map/18679/pieter-van-der-aa-map-of-cuba-1706-cuba-en-iaimaca>

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Sugar Industry of Cuba

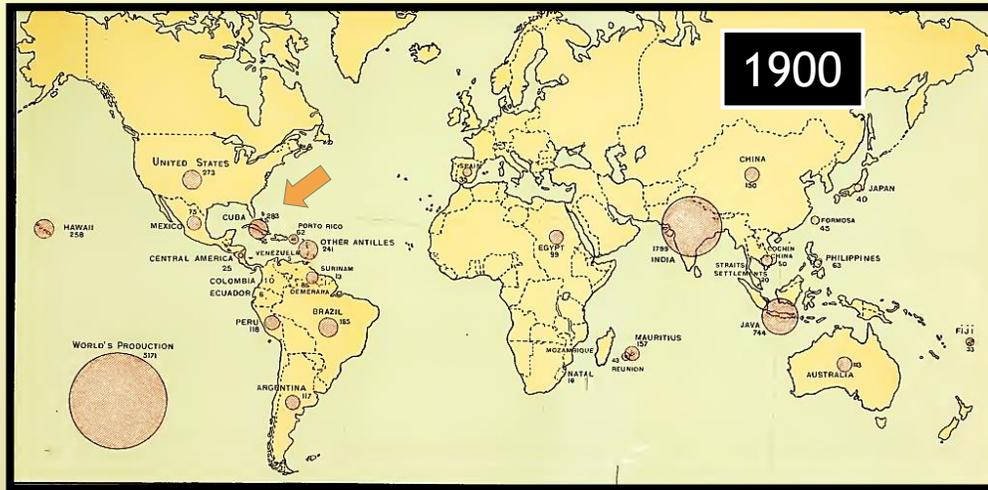
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The sugar industry of Cuba

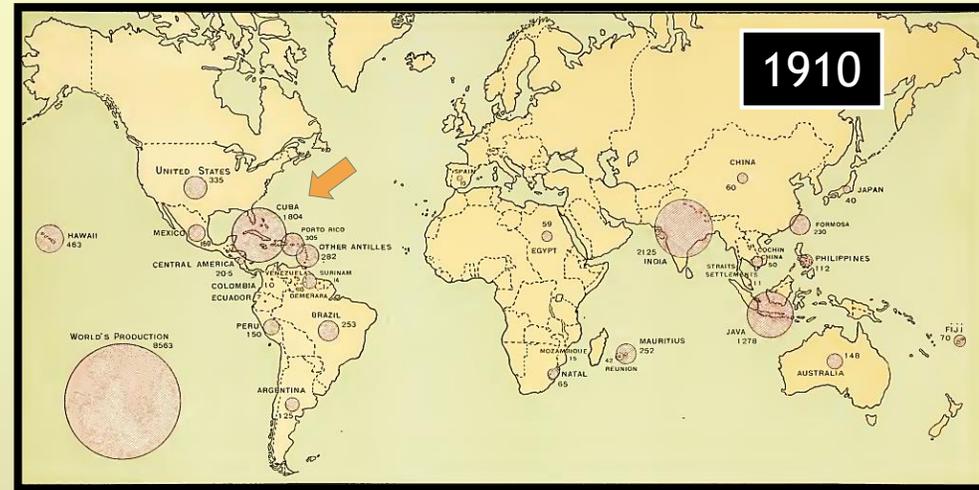
After 1886, when slaves were emancipated, the social structure of sugar mills changed.

How did the sugar industry of Cuba expand without slaves, paying cheap labor at the farms, and growing to unprecedented levels?

After the political turmoil of the Spanish American War, the Independence of Cuba from Spain and USA take over of Cuba and a great drought,(1895 to 1902) Cuba produced only 283, 651 tons in the year 1900. By 1910 it produced 1,804,349 tons. Why? What Happened?



World's production of sugar. In thousand tonnes.



World's production of sugar. In thousand tonnes.

A hint: consolidation of the industry in "centrales" + industrialist economies of scale + it was cheaper to hire people under a low waged system than to buy slaves, despite the decreasing agricultural yields of the plantations + ????

To be continued...

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Sugar-Sugar. America Part VIII. Señorita Cuba Context 18th-19th centuries

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Our next stopover will be the continuation of Spanish model of sugar production in Cuba





Sugar sugar in Central America 18th-19th centuries
Photo: Galería Guatecaña.

Thank you

The origin of Central America political-economy.
Period of study: From 1700 to 1900

<https://eleonoraescalantestrategy.com/>

