

*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 9**

**Sugar-Sugar America Part 9  
The Cuban sugar machine**

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> to April 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

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

Past saga: done

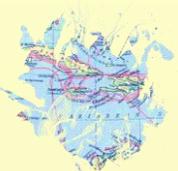
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Past saga: Done

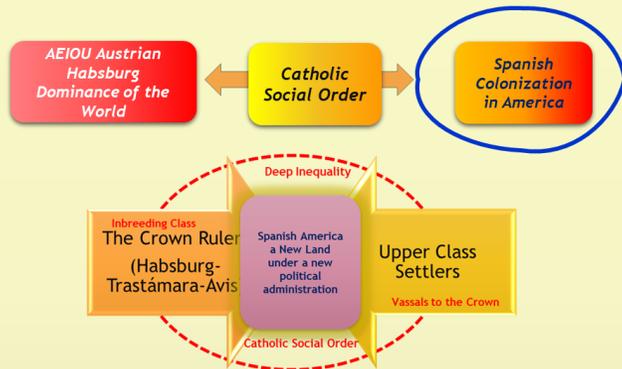
Past saga: Done

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 IX. The Cuban sugar machine



*Our agenda for today's master class:*

Last Class

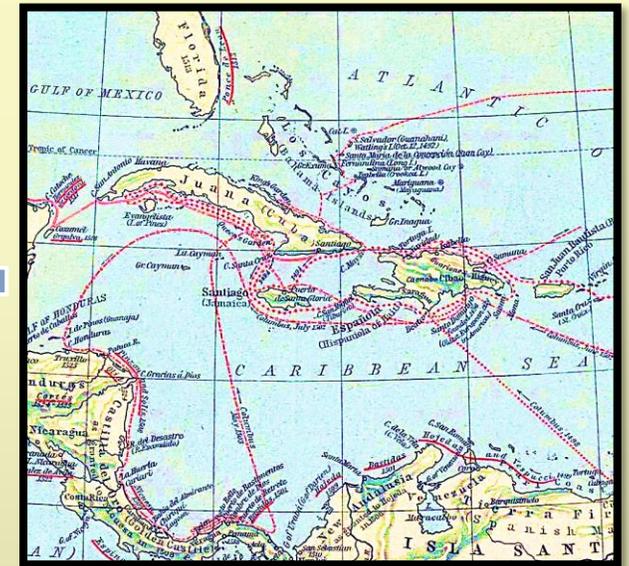
1. Geographic Description
2. Origin of the Plantations
3. Main Political events
4. Demographics

Today

5. Sugar Industry
  - a) General Overview
  - b) The shift after 1898
  - c) Land Structure
  - d) Production
  - e) Worldwide positioning
  - f) Who were the planters
  - g) Monoculture economy

Next Class

- h) Factories (here we will include the description of the new free-labor system, and manufacturing costs.



*La siempre fiel Juana Cuba, 19<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.emersonkent.com/history/timelines/american_timeline.htm)

*“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

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

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



### Sugar Industry of Cuba: General Overview

## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban sugar machine

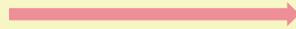
### The sugar industry of Cuba

Let's see the shift of the sugar industry before and after 1880.

1/2

Let's analyze the main economic elements through a comparative general table (in 2 slides)

### Until 1880



### After 1880

#### 1. Many small sugar units:

Sugar production was fragmented in numerous small and medium sized sugar mills. In 1862 there were 1,473 small sugar mills producing around 500,000 tons of sugar.

#### 2. Artisan Traditional Methods:

Production according to the traditional old methods, only a few using steam mills. The steam mills were slowly introduced in Cuba as of the 1820s.

#### 3. Railroads:

In 1837, The first track of Havana-Guines began operations. It was promoted by la Junta de Fomento. The railway financing was a loan with Spanish guarantees in London. In 1842 the Compañía de Caminos de Hierro de la Habana bought it. Railway regulations introduced in 1858. In 1868, the railway network was concentrated around Habana, Guines, Matanzas and Cárdenas. The first rails constructed in map below:

1868



#### 1. Consolidation of the larger sugar unit:

In 1890 there were only 450 sugar mills producing around 630,000 tons, and by 1920, only 193 centrals producing around 4 million tons.

#### 2. Shift to industrialization of the Mills:

A major implementation of technical mechanization of the factory. The transition from artisan to the "central azucarera" model took place: highly intensive in machinery and capital.

#### 3. Railroads:

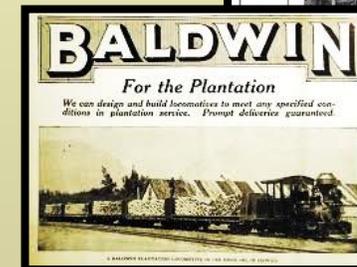
By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the island was totally interconnected east to west. The companies involved in the construction merged together under the Banco del Comercio, Ferrocarriles Unidos de la Habana and Almacenes de Regla" in 1890.

1900



The Cuban Planter class decided to invest under private terms in the logistics of the Island: the railroad system. According to Oostendie the strategic vision of improving the transportation system with railways was to improve the infrastructure conditions for the sugar production and expansion of the plantations anywhere in the island.

Cuban Planters were extremely fascinated and "acute" to apply all nascent technological appliances and logistic equipment to lower the costs of sugar plantations. Below two ad examples: (1) GREGG Co. A New Jersey company that held a branch office in Cuba. (2) Baldwin Locomotive Works from Philadelphia, with a representation in Cuba.



All the information of these slides is supported and inferred from the bibliography page 16-17

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



## Sugar Industry of Cuba: General Overview

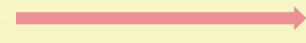
### Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban sugar Machine

#### The sugar industry of Cuba

Let's see the shift of the sugar industry before and after 1880. 2/2

Let's analyze the main economic elements through a comparative general table (in two slides)

**Until 1880**



**After 1880**

4. **Labor:** Only African Slaves.
5. **Ownership of the Sugar Mills:** All the land of Cuba was ultimately the property of the Spanish Crown (mainly Castile-León descendants). The Spanish king granted the "concession" at perpetuity or long-term durations. In the case of haciendas and sugar plantations to prominent Spanish Castilian Settlers. The transition of the property to the creoles from the Royal Crown began early 19<sup>th</sup> century, just after Napoleón and Joseph Bonaparte expelled king Ferdinand VII. We suggest that the royal crown passed property titles to the Cuban Planters under the figure of testaferro or prestanombre (Straw-Man or nominee figurehead), in their intent to keep Cuba before any independence movement. When the most prominent wealthy Cuban planters were truly able to buy property from the Spanish Crown, the Independence movements began. Some American investors were owners of the equipment (mills), but not the land; and were paid with sugar by the planters.

4. **Labor:** Freed Slaves who became wage workers. These Slaves were called Emancipados (or Patrocinados) during the transition from slavery to freedom. All slaves became automatically agricultural workers after the emancipation. They were forced to work to cover the basic expenses. A good proportion of slaves drifted into the cities to work as domestic personnel.
5. **Ownership of the Sugar Mills:** The free trade of sugar to USA, and its railway, equipment, sugar mill mechanization attracted numerous foreigners, who decided to invest after the war of Independence (1898). With and after the USA intervention into Cuba in 1902, there was a rapid change of ownership of the Sugar Mills described below (year 1913)

Ownership Nation 1913	Cuba	British	French	Spanish	American	Un-known	Total
Number of Mills & %	67 (39%)	7 (7%)	5 (3%)	41 (24%)	39 (23%)	13 (7%)	172 (100%)

Source: Ayala, C. Social and Economic Aspects of Sugar Production in Cuba 1880-1930.

The technological design of the new "Centrales" replacing the old sugar mills was not originated from Cuba. It was an inter-empire and inter-colonial exchange of best practices from American, British and French Engineering Firms. With Cuba plantations, it became "normally" accepted to import machinery, equipment and tools from external sources, particularly New York, Boston, and London.

Let's understand the railways used in Cuba. Baldwin (Philadelphia) shipped 18 locomotives to Cuba between 1904 to 1912. These were ordered by the Cuba Central Railways Ltd, and the last ones were delivered to Ferrocarriles Unidos de la Habana



Source: <https://www.loco-info.com/view.aspx?id=17906>

The Cuban War of Independence devastated its sugar industry. This war was the third effort to end Spanish rule in the Island. The first two intents were the Ten Years War (1868-78) and the Little War (1879-80).

All the information of these slides is supported and inferred from the bibliography page 16-17

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

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



### Sugar Industry of Cuba: The shift after 1898

## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban sugar machine

### The sugar industry of Cuba

Let's learn what occurred to the Cuba sugar industry during USA Intervention (1898-1902)

The devastation of the Cuban War of Independence (1895-98) and the further USA occupation in 1898 stimulated the Cuban Sugar Industry.

The USA Occupation of the Island between 1898 to 1902 brought stability to rebuild the sugar industry under new terms, new owners, new preferential tariffs in USA markets, and a robust flow of Foreign investments, and new USA-Cuban economic relations  
McKinley administration remained in Cuba for a period of reconstruction of 4 years (1898-1902)

### 1898-1902

### Situation of the sugar mills year 1900

### Right after the end of the War: 1898.

- When the USA occupied Cuba, they found so much damage: Plantations burned, cattle killed, famine, the destruction of more than 64 % of the 570 sugar mills (existing in 1895), railways demolished, etc.
- The US forces found 1/5 of the sugar mills functioning. The production of 1895 was around 1 million tons; it fell to 225,000 tons in 1897.
- General Leonard Wood was appointed as the leader of the Military Government of Cuba. His mission: recreate a healthy state of affairs for the new Republic of Cuba, by supporting Cuban political stability with economic prosperity.
- General Wood wrote a report of how he found Cuba after the War. The most relevant data is shared here: (at your right).
- According to Wood, he found 570 sugar mills in 1900. According to Geerligs, there were 470 sugar mills in 1890. It looks like in 20 mills per year were established between 1890 to 1895 (right before the war).

TABLE 1 Status of Sugar Mills in Cuba as of 1900

Province	"Demo- lidos" <sup>a</sup>	De- stroyed	In Pro- duction	In Recon- struction	Not De- stroyed	Other Crops	Recon- structed	Row Total
Pinar del Río	3	23	7	8	0	5	0	46
Havana	24	45	0	0	10	0	6	85
Matanzas	121	68	0	3	20	0	59	271
Santa Clara	6	70	0	0	48	0	34	158
Puerto Príncipe	3	1	0	0	6	0	0	10
Santiago <sup>b</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Cuba	157 (28%)	207 (36%)	7 (1%)	11 (2%)	84 (15%)	5 (1%)	99 (17%)	570 (100%)

Source: Military Government of Cuba, vol. 7 of Civil Report of Major General Leonard Wood, Military Governor of Cuba, 1900.

TABLE 2 Sugar Production by Centrales in Cuba in 1900

Province	Number of Mills	Area <sup>a</sup>	Average Mill Area <sup>a</sup>	Mills in Pro- duction	Area of Mills in Pro- duction <sup>a</sup>	Average Area of Pro- duction <sup>a</sup>	Average Mill Production (in tons)
Pinar del Río	46	3,018	66	7 (15%)	574	82	690
Havana	85	4,746	56	10 (12%)	985	99	982
Matanzas	271	14,346	53	37 (14%)	3,182	86	2,920
Santa Clara	158	13,885	88	49 (31%)	4,805	98	3,128
Puerto Príncipe	10	568	57	2 (20%)	180	90	3,686
Santiago <sup>b</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuba	570	36,563	64	105 (18%)	9,726	93	2,698

Source: Military Government of Cuba, vol. 7 of Civil Report of Major General Leonard Wood, Military Governor of Cuba, 1900.

Source: Ayala, C. Social and Economic Aspects of Sugar Production in Cuba, 1880-1930.

### Situation of the sugar plantations year 1900

Indicator	Before the war (1895)	After the war (1900)
Number of Plantations & farms	90,960	60,711

Size of the farm	%
< 8 acres	63.5%
Between 8 to 333 acres	36 %
>333 acres	0.5%

### Eleonora Escalante Strategy

State of the Art Corporate Strategy  
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6/3/2026

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

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



### Sugar Industry of Cuba: Land Structure

## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban sugar machine

### The sugar industry of Cuba

Let's learn what occurred to the Cuba sugar industry during USA Intervention (1898-1902)

The USA Cuban report of 1899 (under Inspector JP Sanger) reveals the following situation of Cuba:

### 1898-1908

#### Situation of the sugar plantations year 1900

Size of farms (caballerias)	Size of farms (acres)	% of number of farms	% of cultivated area
Under ¼	Under 8.3	63.5	15.5
¼ to ½	8.29 to 16.6	19.2	12.5
½ to ¾	16.6 to 24.87	8.0	9.5
¾ to 1	24.87 to 33.16	2.1	3.5
1 to 3	33.16 to 99.5	5.1	16.1
3 to 5	99.5 to 166	0.9	7.0
5 to 10	166 to 331.6	0.7	9.0
Over 10	over 331.6	0.5	25.9

1 caballeria = 33.16 acres = 13.42 hectares

- After the Independence War of 1898, according to the USA Census 1899-Cuba, the average size of the farm in Cuba was 4.3 caballerias (143 acres).
- In 1899, there were 60,711 farms left after the war. The sum area of these farms was of 262,858 caballerias (8,716,371 acres). And of this, only 27,032 caballerias (896,381 acres) were cultivated representing 10.3% of the farms. This is what the War Department Inspector General JP Sanger found in Cuba.
- In terms of the sugar cane planted in Cuba, we have created the graph at your right. The total area of the island of Cuba (calculated by the USA War department in 1899 was 44,000 sq miles, equivalent to 11,396,000 hectares or a bit more than 28 million acres. From all that area of the island, only 55% was fit for agriculture or considered arable.
- Using the World's Cane Sugar Industry report of H.C. Prinsen Geerligs (1912) and the US Census for Cuba of 1899, we have calculated the total of hectares of sugar cane planted, and the respective percentages in relation to the total area of the island, and the total area fit for agriculture (or arable). We can observe the progression of growth of the sugar cane plantations year over year: by 1908, no more than 3% of the total area of Cuba was dedicated to sugar cane.

The land distribution of Cuba right after the Independence War from Spain in comparison to 1906 -1911 shows us the progression of the plantations per province. Why does this matter? Cuba's independence from Spain was the step forward to Cuba's dependence from the USA.

#### Sugar Cane Planted Cuba after War of Independence from Spain



The area of land cultivated with sugar plantations between 1899 to 1908 was located mainly in Santa Clara, Matanzas and Santiago de Cuba-Oriente. But it only represented around 3% of the total land of the island, or 5.3% of the arable land.

All the information of these slides is supported and inferred from the bibliography page 16-17

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

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



### Sugar Industry of Cuba: Land utilization

## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban sugar machine

### The sugar industry of Cuba

### The first decade after Cuba Independence from Spain (1898 to 1908)

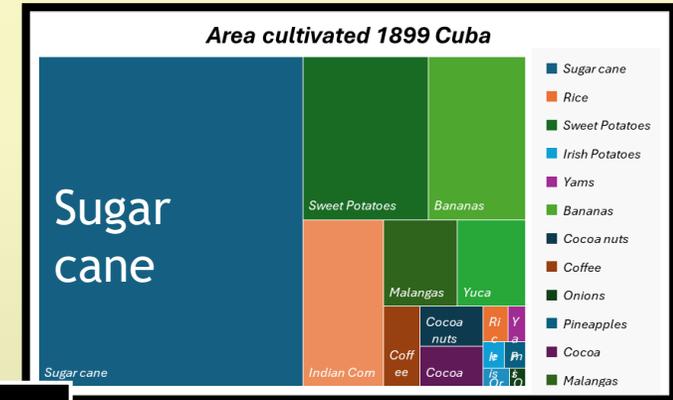
The average size of the farm in Cuba was 143 acres (4.3 caballerias) in 1898. It shifted over time.



- During the first decade of 1900, the Cuban area fit for agriculture was 55% of the island.
- Every caballeria (33.16 acres) produced 50.000 arrobas of cane, or 506.63 tons of cane. The yield was 15.5 tons of cane/acre.
- In 1908-09, 335,506 hectares were nominally used to grow sugar cane. But the real number is double of it if we consider the structure of the haciendas (used for livestock and other food staples needed for feeding the workforce). That is how we arrive to 671,012 hectares or 1,658,070 acres of land fully operational for cane haciendas (year 1908-09) 5.8% of the territory.

Year 1908/09: From 15 1/2 million acres of arable land of Cuba, in nominal terms, only 5.3% was planted with cane. In real terms, this increases to 10.6%. That number is 1.658 Million acres. The planters defended 2.5 million acres (75,400 caballerias) dedicated to cultivation (including sugar).

Let's understand the cultivated areas of Cuba



**1912**

	Area				Area Arable Fit for Agriculture			Cane planted Area 1899				Cane planted Area 1904/05				Cane Planted Area 1908/09						
	sq miles	Caballeria	Hectare **	Acres	caballeria	Hectare	Acres	cordels	Caballerias	Hectares planted	% total area	% of arable land	% of total planted	Hectares	% total area	% of arable land	% of total planted	Hectares	% total area	% of arable land	% of total planted	
Total Land per province																						
Pinar del Rio	5000	93,188	1,250,582	3,090,189	65,786	882,848.00	2,181,463	85,471	250	3,354	0.27%	0.4%	2.1%	6,844	0.55%	0.78%	3.9%	7,271	0.6%	0.8%	2.2%	
Habana	2772	50,121	672,630	1,662,069	46,231	620,420.00	1,533,020	279,444	817	10,965	1.63%	1.8%	6.7%	10,602	1.58%	1.71%	6.1%	39,814	5.9%	6.4%	11.9%	
Matanzas	3700	68,106	913,982	2,258,450	44,684	599,659.00	1,481,721	1,245,501	3,642	48,873	5.35%	8.2%	30.1%	46,366	5.07%	7.73%	26.6%	81,686	8.9%	13.6%	24.3%	
Santa Clara	9560	201,247	2,700,729	6,673,502	111,528	1,496,706.00	3,698,269	1,735,000	5,073	68,081	2.52%	4.5%	41.9%	68,778	2.55%	4.60%	39.4%	113,062	4.2%	7.6%	33.7%	
Puerto Principe-Camaguey	10500	199,268	2,674,182	6,607,904	87,399	1,172,894.00	2,898,149	105,500	308	4,140	0.15%	0.4%	2.5%	8,857	0.33%	0.76%	5.1%	22,311	0.8%	1.9%	6.6%	
Santiago de Cuba-Oriente	12468	237,250	3,183,894	7,867,402	113,833	1,527,639.00	3,774,703	691,100	2,021	27,119	0.85%	1.8%	16.7%	33,013	1.04%	2.16%	18.9%	71,362	2.2%	4.7%	21.3%	
Total land	44000	849,180	11,396,000	28,159,516	469,461	6,300,166.00	15,567,325.23	4,142,016	12,111	162,532	1.4%	2.6%	100.0%	174,460	1.53%	2.77%	100.0%	335,506	2.9%	5.3%	100.0%	

Nominal

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

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



### Sugar Industry of Cuba: Production in tons

## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban sugar machine

### The sugar industry of Cuba

Let's see the evolution of the sugar production growth between 1850 to 1912

You can observe how the sugar production growth was gradual year over year

The level of industrialization of the factories was premium in CUBA. Most of the American new owners of Centrales Azucareras invested in factories of high caliber, and logistics (railroads). Most of Cuban factories used double or triple crushing, Bagasse was used as fuel.

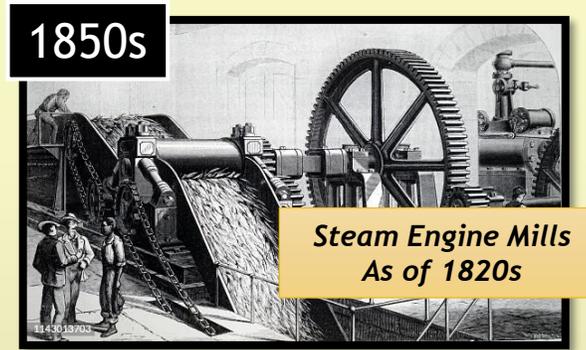
Year	Tons (000s)
1850	223
1851	264
1852	252
1853	322
1854	374
1855	392
1856	348
1857	355
1858	385
1859	536
1860	447
1861	446
1862	525
1863	507
1864	575

Year	Tons (000s)
1865	620
1866	612
1867	597
1868	749
1869	726
1870	726
1871	547
1872	690
1873	775
1874	681
1875	718
1876	590
1877	520
1878	533
1879	670

Year	Tons (000s)
1880	530
1881	493
1882	595
1883	460
1884	559
1885	631
1886	731
1887	647
1888	657
1889	560
1890	632
1891	817
1892	976
1893	816
1894	1,054

Year	Tons (000s)
1895	1,004
1896	225
1897	212
1898	306
1899	336
1900	284
1901	613
1902	864
1903	1,004
1904	1,052
1905	1,183
1906	1,230
1907	1,444
1908	969
1909	1,522

Year	Tons (000s)
1910	1,804
1911	1,469
1912	1,800



1850s

Steam Engine Mills As of 1820s

1912



Las Delicias Mill capacity of 3,000 tons of cane per/ day for a crushing safra of 400,000 tons /year, and Production of 300,000 bags/year of 325 pounds each

Central Las Delicias, Cuba

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Source: Prinsene.

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



## Sugar Industry of Cuba: Worldwide Positioning

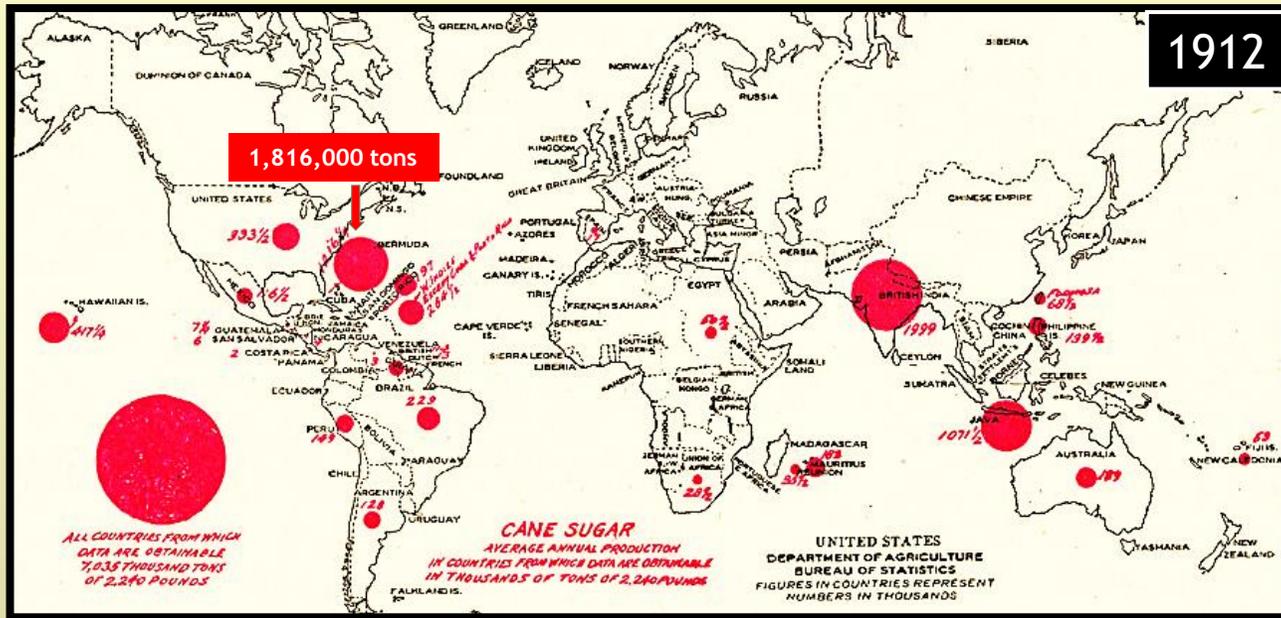
### Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. Sugar from la Siempre Fiel de Cuba

#### The sugar industry of Cuba

Cuba became the second world producer nation of sugar, below British India by 1912

Let's analyze the world map of sugar production in 1912 and the ownership of it.

The conversion of small factories into the consolidation of centrales: When the small manufacturers couldn't rebuild their mill factories, they turned their land into pasture or became cane planters to sell the cane to the big central factories. With the railroads, those who could finance it, extended their estates; or accepted investments converting their haciendas in joint stock companies. Others sold their properties to big-estates owners.



Source <https://etc.usf.edu/maps/pages/6500/6594/6594.htm>

Owners of sugar factories by nationality	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Cubans	78	73	67	67	67	64
Americans	30	31	36	38	38	41
English, Spaniards, French, etc	73	82	66	65	65	63
<b>TOTAL OF SUGAR MILLS</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>168</b>

- Of the 170 factories operating in 1910, 57 belonged to individual owners, 54 to private firms, 26 to joint-stock companies established in Cuba, and 33 to foreign joint-stock companies.
- In 1910 the gigantic production of colossal factories (called centrales) was in the hands of the United Fruit Company with the Boston Mill, the Chaparra mill (Cuban American Sugar Company), the Preston Mill, the Delicias mill, Central Manati. Other mills were La Central Soledad, El Izabel y los Caños from the Guantánamo Sugar Company. Others were the Central Niquero, Altagracia and Miranda.
- Each of these new mills were able to produce between 200,000 to 500,000 bags of sugar (each bag = 325 Spanish pounds). On average we are talking about 50,000 tons/year per each Central or more.
- In 1906, the UFC Centrales Boston and Preston produced together 57,000 tons of sugar. Three years later, produced 134,000 tons. In 1929, produced 290,000 tons of sugar.

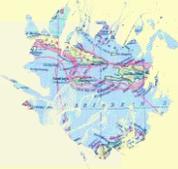
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# Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season V.

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



### Sugar Industry Cuba: Who were the planters

## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban sugar machine

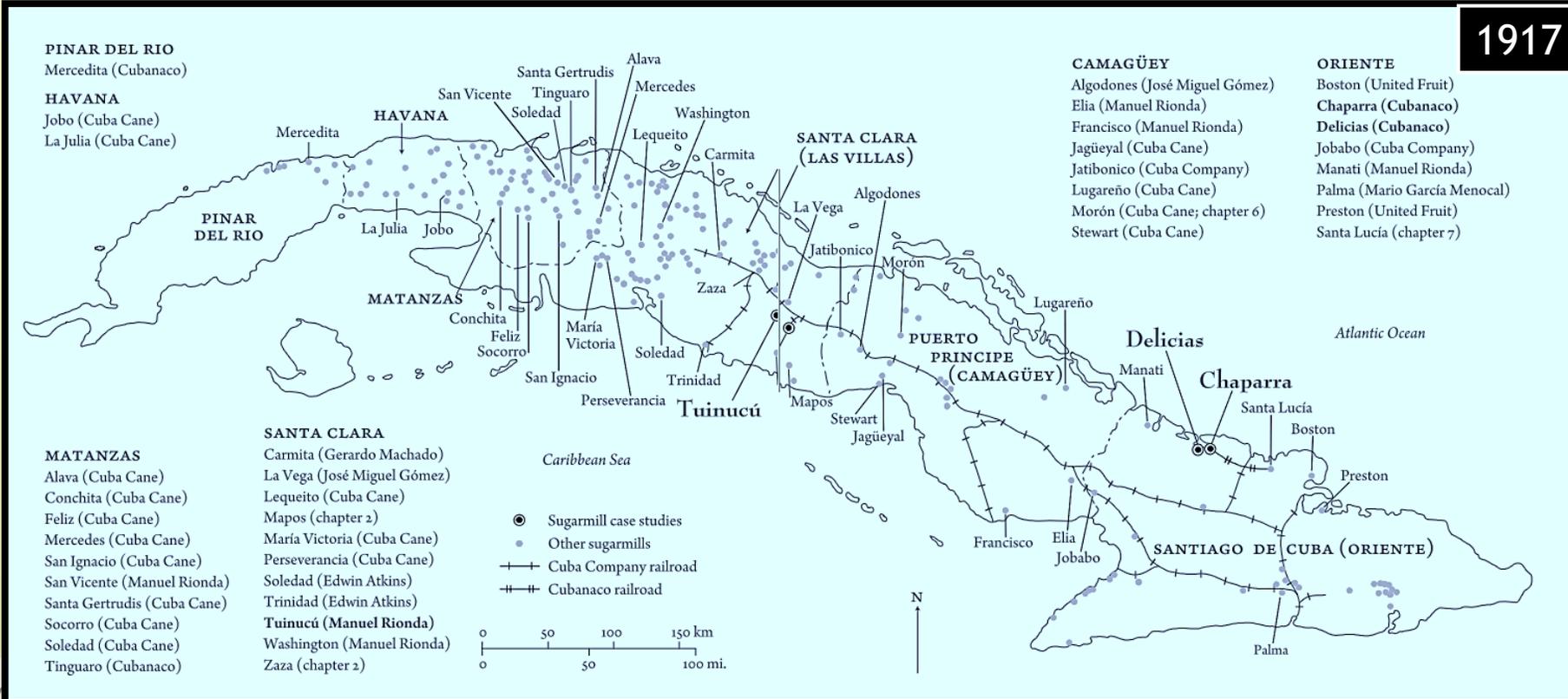
### The sugar industry of Cuba

By 1917 the land of sugar crops expanded all over. The railway system helped to it.

As the sugar crop expanded all over the island, the concentration of the land also shifted.

The repair of the sugar industry implied to produce cane more efficiently (land utilization) and expansion of the plantations, and the modernization of the existing factory mills (industry).  
The degree of investments depended on the political stability of the island and the US tariff of imported sugar (more than 90% of Cuban sugar was sent to USA)

The 3 consecutive wars that demolished the Bourbon Spain administration (1) Spanish American War, (2) Cuba Independence War, and (3) the USA direct intervention during the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century changed the structure of the land, and the Cuban sugar industry dramatically.



Some Examples of Main Players Sugar Mills (1917)
Cuba Cane company
Manuel Rionda
Cubanaco
United Fruit Company
Cuba Company
José Miguel Gómez (president of Cuba 1906-09)
Mario García Menocal (president of Cuba 1912-20)
Edwin Atkins

Source: Blazing Cane.

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



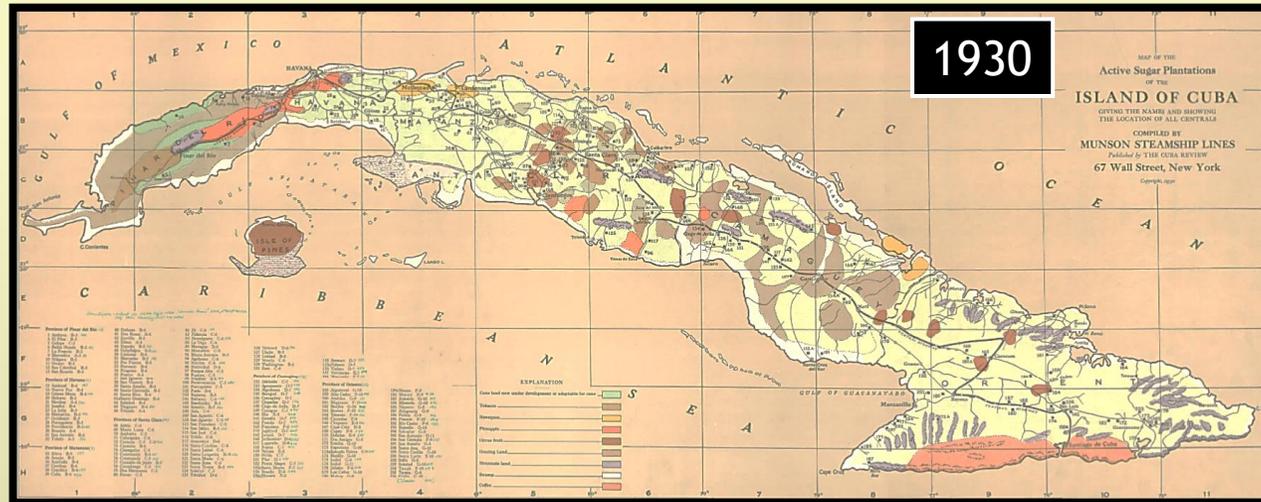
### Sugar Industry of Cuba: Monoculture economy for the USA

## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban Sugar Machine

### The sugar industry of Cuba

By 1930, almost all the island of Cuba was planted with sugar.

The agricultural map below shows us how all the island was covered with sugar plantations (color pale yellow-green). The second important plantation was tobacco (olive color).

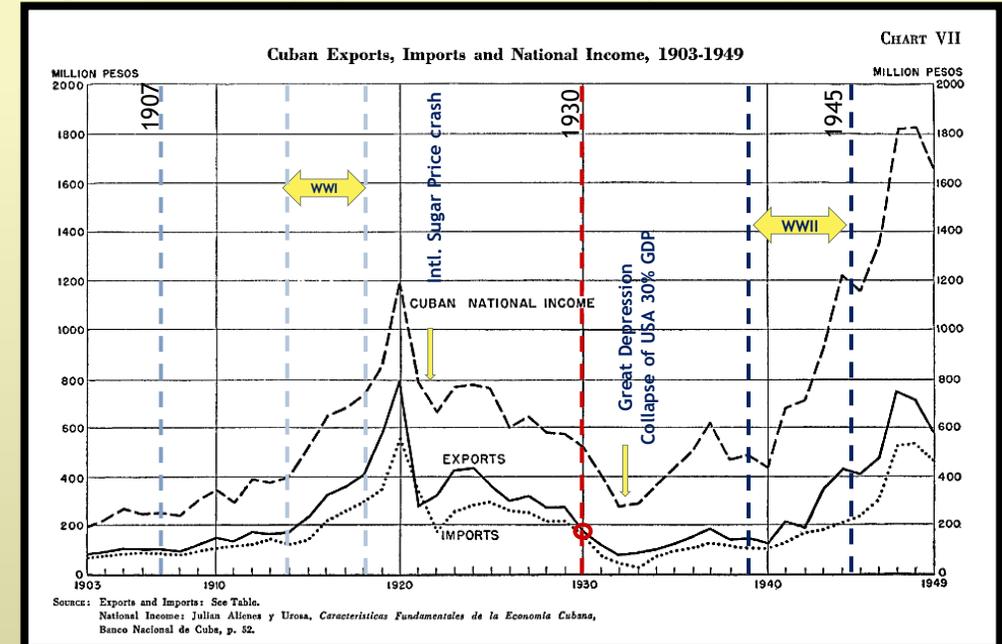


Source: Click here to zoom this image: <https://dloc.com/AA00083074/00001/zoom/0>

The degree of dependence of Cuba to the USA was based in the design of the sugar economy after the War of Independence. By 1907, All sugar production was destined to USA. From the total value of exports, 89% of its value was going to USA, and the rest (11%) to Germany, UK, other Latin American Countries, Spain and France. This trend continued over time.

By 1930, Cuba was a territory unit producing for the USA. Some authors state that Cuba was the garden of USA, and it was kept under that status until 1953, that Fidel Castro began its military guerrillas to take power.

Let's understand the fluctuations of a monoculture economy based on sugar exports (Graph from the IBRD Cuba Report 1945).



Source: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/509231468770694282/pdf/multi0page.pdf> Page 763.

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

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



### Sugar Industry of Cuba: The expansion of land for sugar

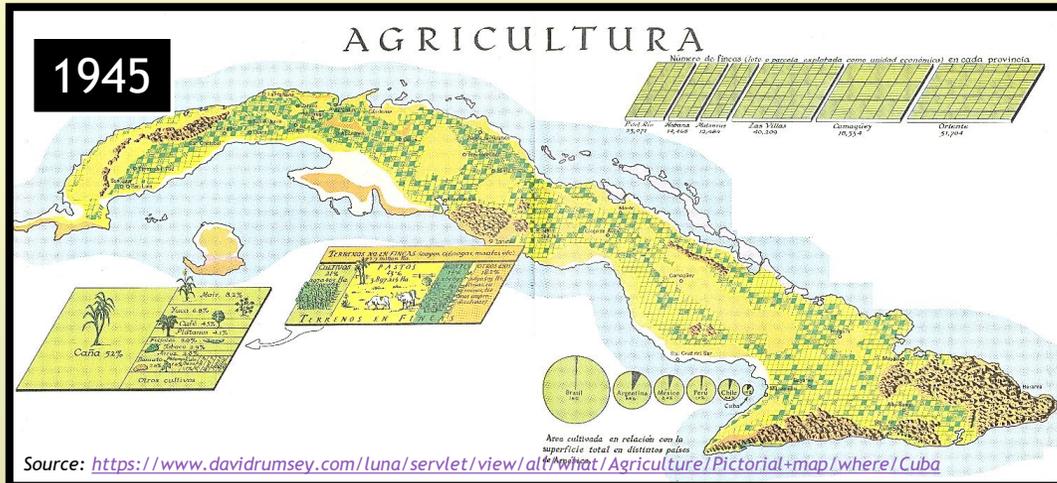
## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban Sugar Machine

### The sugar industry of Cuba

### Sugar plantations expanded

By 1945, the cultivated land of Cuba was extended to 21.7% or 1,970,404 hectares. Sugar cane plantations represent 52% of it.

The sugar plantations model footing of 1899 created a land consolidation of big estates in the hands of sugar mill owners. These companies were the largest landowners of Cuba. 7.9% of the farms accounted 71% of the cultivated farmland.



Why is the analysis of the land important?

Because the design of the land ownership right after 1898 caused the concentration of the land structure of 1945.

I would like you to see what happened: By 1945, 7.9% of the farms of Cuba represented the 71% of all crops cultivated acres. These states were the big state farms over 1235.4 acres.

**1945**

1 caballeria = 33.16 acres = 13.42 hectares

Situation of the sugar plantations year 1945

Size of farms (Caballerias)	Size of farms (acres)	% of number of farms	Acres (000s) Area cultivated	Percent % all crops
Under 0.4	Under 12.1	20.1	212	0.9%
0.4 to 0.74	12.1 to 24.5	19	521	2.3%
0.75 to 1.85	24.6 to 61.5			
1.9 to 3.7	61.6 to 123.3	30.5	1792	8.0%
3.7 to 5.6	123.4 to 185.1	15	1951	8.7%
5.6 to 7.5	185.2 to 246.9	5.1	1207	5.4%
7.5 to 37.3	247 to 1235.3	2.4	815	3.6%
Over 37.3	over 1235.4	7.9	15932	71.0%

Provinces	Farms	Area		Area Cultivated ALL CROPS		Average Size Farms		Average Cultivated Area	
		Hectares	Acres	Hectares	Acres	Hectares	Acres	Hectares	Acres
Pinar del Rio	23,030	1,350,000	3,335,850	968,853	2,394,036	58.6	144.8	42.1	104.0
Habana	14,272	822,100	2,031,409	659,225	1,628,945	57.6	142.3	46.2	114.1
Matanzas	12,486	844,400	2,086,512	654,314	1,616,810	67.6	167.1	52.4	129.5
Santa Clara	40,182	2,141,100	5,290,658	2,033,191	5,024,015	53.3	131.7	50.6	125.0
Puerto Príncipe-Camaguey	18,541	2,634,600	6,510,097	2,164,875	5,349,406	142.1	351.1	116.8	288.5
Santiago de Cuba-Oriente	51,447	3,660,200	9,044,354	2,596,628	6,416,268	71.1	175.8	50.5	124.7
<b>Total Farms Cuba</b>	<b>159,958</b>	<b>11,452,400</b>	<b>28,298,880</b>	<b>9,077,086</b>	<b>22,429,480</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>140.2</b>

Source: Investments in Cuba. 1953. US Department of Commerce.

79.3%

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

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



### Sugar Industry of Cuba: The Factories explained

## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban Sugar Machine

*The sugar industry of Cuba*

*Our next masterclass session will be about the factories (centrales) of Cuba.*

*We will analyze the Cuban factories next week.*

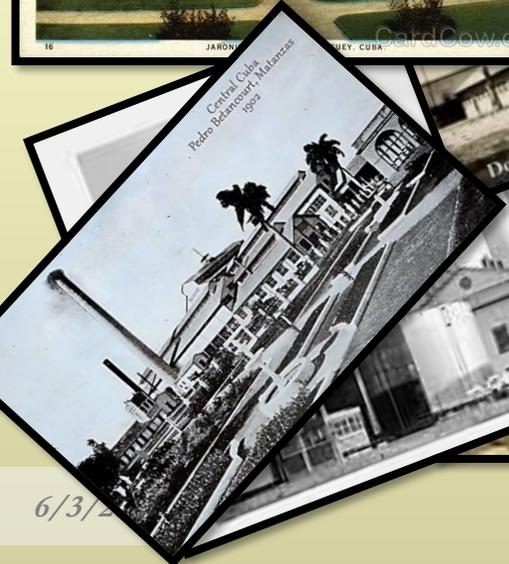
The factories of sugar in Cuba couldn't have produced those high levels of tons per year, without the higher plantation yields (in the hands of low-wage workers) and without the expansion of sugar plantations. The Cuban sugar cane planted area in hectares grew as follows:

1899:	162,532 hectares
1904:	174,460 hectares
1908:	335,506 hectares
1945:	1,103,197.09 hectares

Our strategy house will extend the study of the Cuban Model of Sugar Production for one extra episode given the extension and our acuteness analysis of the topic.

See you next Friday, with the Centrales Sugar factories analysis.

We will only cover data until the year 1945.



6/3/2

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# 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 IX. The Cuban Sugar Machine

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



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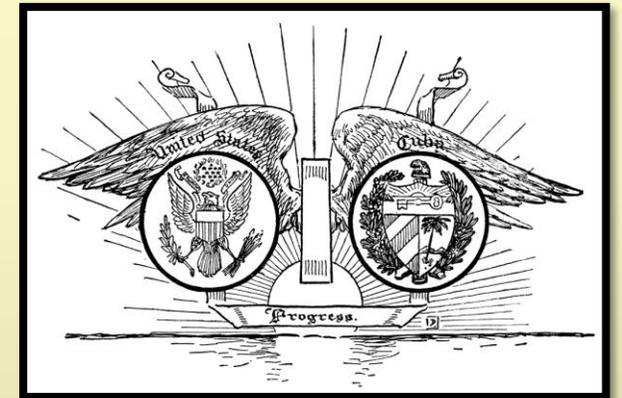


## Sugar-Sugar. America Part IX. The Cuban Sugar Machine

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



Source: [https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/25100/25131/us\\_cuba\\_25131.htm](https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/25100/25131/us_cuba_25131.htm)



Sugar sugar in Central America 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries  
Photo: Galería Guatecaña.

*Thank you*

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

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