

The commodity I chose to map is tobacco, it is to date a hot commodity. The tobacco industry provides thousands of jobs, income for the advertising industry, and the government (excise duty). Despite research that point out the negative/deadly affect tobacco has on human life it is a revenue train.

Tobacco made from the leaves of the plant *Nicotiana* is indigenous to North and South America. Maya people in Central America used tobacco leaves for smoking in sacred and religious ceremonies. As the Maya people migrated between 470 and 630 AD, tobacco was picked up by neighboring and native tribes. Tobacco was not only used in religious rituals but also for medicinal purposes in treating different illnesses such as earaches, fever, asthma, and depression.

When Columbus landed on the new continent he was introduced to tobacco by the Native Americans. He came to the realization that it was a hot commodity among the natives. They gave tobacco as gifts and used it to trade for goods.

Portuguese and Spanish sailors were instrumental in spreading tobacco around the world. In the 15th century Portuguese sailors were planting tobacco around their trading ports. In the middle of the century Brazil began growing tobacco commercially and it was traded around Europe and the Americas.

In the late 16th century tobacco was in almost every European country and being used in a variety of ways. Tobacco was smoked or snuffed, and as stated previously used to cure a multitude of ailments.

It was during the Revolutionary war that tobacco became popular in the U.S., it was used as collateral for the loans France provided to the revolutionaries.

Philip Morris began selling hand-rolled Turkish cigarettes in 1847 and in 1849 an American company J E Ligette & Brother followed suit.

The invention of the cigarette making machine was the vehicle that took tobacco to the next level. The American Tobacco Company is part of the British American Tobacco, a global company generated over 13 billion dollars in revenue in 2015. Tobacco is used in many ways around the world. It is a cash crop for not only farmers but governments as well.

China, the US, India, and Brazil are the major tobacco growing and consuming countries. This has revealed that although globally tobacco is known to be detrimental these four countries are still generating revenue at the expense of the people and just as we see in the history book although the farmers may generate income it is the "elites" that are the real benefactors of this commodity at the expense of the commoners.

www.tobaccofreelife.org

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov