

colonial trade and resistance

Colonial Trade and Resistance: A Complex Interplay

Introduction

The era of European colonialism was defined by a dynamic and often fraught relationship between imperial powers and the colonized populations, a relationship intricately woven through the threads of colonial trade and burgeoning resistance. This period, spanning centuries, saw European nations establish vast empires, exploiting the resources and labor of distant lands to fuel their own economic growth and global dominance. Colonial trade, far from being a simple exchange, was a system of mercantilism designed to benefit the metropole, often at the expense of the colonized economies, leading to significant disruptions in local production and societal structures. However, this economic exploitation invariably sparked a counter-response: resistance. From subtle acts of defiance and economic sabotage to organized rebellions and eventual independence movements, the pushback against colonial trade practices was a constant feature of imperial history. Understanding the multifaceted nature of colonial trade and the diverse forms of resistance it engendered is crucial for grasping the long-term consequences of imperialism and its impact on the modern world.

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The Mechanics of Colonial Trade

Colonial trade was fundamentally shaped by the principles of mercantilism, an economic theory that dominated European thought from the 16th to the 18th centuries. This system posited that a nation's wealth and power were directly related to its accumulated gold and silver. To achieve this, colonies were viewed as vital sources of raw materials and captive markets for manufactured

goods from the mother country. The colonial trade network was characterized by a one-sided flow of wealth, where the metropole extracted resources and labor with minimal reinvestment in the colony's own development. This often involved the imposition of trade restrictions and monopolies, ensuring that colonies could only trade with their specific imperial power. The navigation acts in Britain, for instance, dictated which goods could be transported and by which ships, heavily favoring British merchants and industries.

Mercantilist Principles and Colonial Exploitation

Mercantilism served as the ideological backbone of colonial trade. The core belief was that the global volume of trade was fixed, and thus, each nation's gain was another's loss. Colonies were instrumental in this zero-sum game, providing cheap raw materials like timber, furs, sugar, and tobacco, which were then processed into higher-value manufactured goods in the colonizing country. These finished products were then sold back to the colonies, often at inflated prices, creating a cycle of dependency and ensuring a favorable balance of trade for the metropole. This system actively discouraged the development of local manufacturing in the colonies, thereby preventing them from competing with or even becoming self-sufficient from the imperial power. The economic relationship was inherently unequal, designed to enrich the colonizer at the expense of the colonized.

Trade Routes and Their Impact

The establishment of extensive trade routes was a defining feature of the colonial era. These routes, often traversing vast oceans, facilitated the movement of goods, people, and ideas, but also carried the weight of exploitation and control. The triangular trade, a prominent example, connected Europe, Africa, and the Americas. European manufactured goods were sent to Africa in exchange for enslaved people, who were then transported to the Americas to labor in plantations. The products of these plantations, such as sugar, cotton, and tobacco, were then shipped back to Europe. This system not only generated immense wealth for European traders and nations but also had devastating social and demographic consequences for Africa and the Americas, including the brutal transatlantic slave trade and the disruption of indigenous economies.

Motivations Behind Colonial Expansion

The drive for colonial expansion was multifaceted, fueled by a complex interplay of economic, political, and social factors. While the pursuit of wealth through trade was a primary motivator, it was by no means the sole impetus. Imperial powers sought to extend their political influence, secure strategic advantages, and project their power on a global stage. The desire to compete with rival nations, to acquire new territories, and to spread their cultural and religious beliefs also played significant roles in the decision-making processes that led to the establishment and maintenance of colonial empires.

Economic Incentives: Wealth and Resources

The allure of economic gain was perhaps the most potent driver of colonial

expansion. European nations recognized the immense potential for extracting valuable raw materials from newly discovered and conquered lands. Precious metals like gold and silver, agricultural products such as sugar, tobacco, and spices, and timber and furs were highly sought after in European markets. Colonies served as both suppliers of these raw materials and as captive markets for European manufactured goods, creating a self-sustaining economic loop that enriched the colonizing powers. The desire to monopolize these resources and to prevent rivals from accessing them also fueled competition and further expansion.

Political and Strategic Considerations

Beyond economics, political and strategic considerations were paramount. Establishing colonies allowed European powers to project their influence and military might across the globe. Colonies served as naval bases, strategic outposts, and sources of manpower, bolstering a nation's geopolitical standing. The competition between European powers was fierce, and the acquisition of colonies was seen as a measure of national prestige and strength. Empires sought to control key trade routes, secure access to vital resources, and prevent rivals from gaining a strategic advantage. This geopolitical rivalry often led to conflicts and wars fought over colonial territories.

Social and Religious Factors

Social and religious motivations also contributed to the expansion of colonial empires. The desire to spread Christianity and European culture was a significant factor for many colonial ventures. Missionaries often accompanied explorers and settlers, seeking to convert indigenous populations to their faith. Furthermore, colonial expansion offered opportunities for social advancement, economic betterment, and escape from social constraints in Europe. For some, the prospect of owning land or finding new opportunities in distant lands was a powerful incentive to participate in colonial endeavors. The idea of a civilizing mission, however paternalistic and self-serving, also provided a justification for imperial rule.

Key Commodities and Their Impact

The exchange of commodities between colonizing powers and colonized territories was central to the colonial trade system. Certain goods, due to their demand, profitability, and the labor required to produce them, had a particularly profound impact on both the economies and societies of the involved regions. These commodities often dictated the nature of colonial administration, the patterns of settlement, and the social hierarchies that emerged. The focus on specific cash crops often led to the neglect of local food production and the exploitation of labor, setting the stage for both economic dependency and resistance.

Sugar and the Plantation Economy

Sugar emerged as one of the most lucrative commodities of the colonial era, particularly in the Caribbean. The establishment of large-scale sugar plantations, driven by the insatiable European demand, led to a brutal system

of forced labor, primarily through the transatlantic slave trade. The cultivation and processing of sugar were arduous and dangerous, demanding vast amounts of manual labor. The plantation economy created a rigid social structure, with a small class of European plantation owners at the top and a massive enslaved population at the bottom. The economic success of sugar colonies was directly linked to the dehumanization and exploitation of millions.

Tobacco, Cotton, and Raw Materials

Tobacco and cotton were other highly valued commodities that fueled colonial trade, especially in North America. Tobacco cultivation in Virginia, for instance, was an early economic success for the British, leading to significant land acquisition and the demand for labor. Cotton production, particularly after the invention of the cotton gin, became a cornerstone of the American South's economy, further entrenching the institution of slavery. Beyond agricultural products, colonies supplied raw materials like timber for shipbuilding, furs for the fashion industry, and various minerals, all essential for the burgeoning industries of Europe. This reliance on raw material extraction often hindered the development of diversified economies in the colonies.

Impact on Indigenous Economies and Societies

The introduction of European trade practices and commodities had a devastating impact on indigenous economies and societies. Traditional subsistence farming and local trade networks were often disrupted as indigenous populations were coerced into producing goods for colonial markets or lost their lands to plantations and resource extraction. The influx of European goods also altered indigenous consumption patterns, sometimes leading to dependency. Moreover, the demand for certain resources, like furs, led to overhunting and environmental degradation. The imposition of colonial economic systems often undermined existing social structures and cultural practices, leading to widespread social dislocation and conflict.

Resistance to Colonial Economic Policies

The exploitative nature of colonial trade naturally bred resistance from the colonized populations. This resistance was not a monolithic phenomenon but rather a spectrum of responses, ranging from subtle acts of non-compliance to outright rebellion. Economic policies, such as high taxes, trade monopolies, and forced labor, were frequent flashpoints for dissent, as they directly impacted the livelihoods and autonomy of the people living under colonial rule. Understanding these acts of resistance is crucial to appreciating the agency of colonized peoples and their efforts to reclaim control over their lives and resources.

Disruption of Trade and Production

One of the most direct forms of resistance involved disrupting the flow of colonial trade and production. This could manifest in various ways, such as organized boycotts of European goods, sabotage of plantations or mines, or refusal to cultivate specific cash crops. By withholding their labor or

refusing to participate in the colonial economic system, colonized populations could exert significant pressure on imperial powers. For example, deliberate acts of spoilage or slow production on plantations could significantly impact the profitability of colonial ventures, forcing colonial administrators to respond to demands or face economic losses.

Smuggling and Black Markets

The strict trade regulations imposed by colonial powers often led to the development of thriving smuggling operations and black markets. Colonized populations, seeking to circumvent these restrictions and obtain goods directly or sell their products at fairer prices, engaged in clandestine trade with other colonies or even with rival European nations. Smuggling not only undermined the monopolistic control of the metropole but also provided a vital economic lifeline for many communities, allowing them to retain a degree of economic autonomy and resist complete dependence on the colonial system. These informal economies were often highly organized and provided a significant challenge to imperial authority.

Tax Evasion and Non-Compliance

Taxation was a constant source of grievance and a frequent trigger for resistance in colonial societies. Colonial administrations levied taxes on various aspects of economic activity, often to fund their own administrative costs and military presence. Colonized populations frequently resisted these taxes through evasion, non-compliance, or outright refusal to pay. This could involve hiding goods, manipulating records, or organizing collective resistance against tax collectors. Such acts, while seemingly small individually, could collectively paralyze colonial revenue collection and demonstrate the widespread discontent with imperial economic policies. These acts of defiance challenged the legitimacy of colonial rule itself.

Forms of Resistance During the Colonial Era

Resistance to colonial rule was a pervasive and multifaceted aspect of the colonial experience. It manifested in a wide array of forms, from everyday acts of defiance to large-scale armed revolts. These varied responses reflected the diverse circumstances, cultural contexts, and political environments of different colonial territories. Understanding the spectrum of resistance provides a richer and more nuanced picture of the colonial encounter, highlighting the persistent efforts of colonized peoples to assert their autonomy and challenge imperial dominance.

Everyday Resistance and Cultural Preservation

Perhaps the most common and enduring form of resistance was everyday resistance, often referred to as "everyday acts of resistance." This encompassed a multitude of subtle, often overlooked, actions that allowed colonized individuals and communities to maintain their dignity, cultural identity, and a degree of autonomy within the oppressive colonial system. This could include the preservation and practice of indigenous languages, customs, and religious beliefs, often in private or adapted forms to avoid detection. It also involved acts of passive resistance, such as feigning

ignorance, slowing down work, or subtly subverting colonial directives. These acts, while not overtly confrontational, represented a continuous assertion of selfhood against the forces of assimilation and control.

Economic Sabotage and Non-Cooperation

Economic sabotage was a potent tool employed by colonized populations to undermine the profitability and sustainability of colonial enterprises. This could involve the deliberate destruction of crops, the spoilage of goods, or the refusal to participate in forced labor schemes. Non-cooperation with colonial economic policies, such as boycotts of imported goods or refusal to pay taxes, also served as a significant form of resistance. These actions aimed to disrupt the colonial economic machine, demonstrate discontent, and exert pressure on colonial authorities to reconsider their policies. The economic impact of such actions could be substantial, forcing colonial administrators to negotiate or face mounting losses.

Armed Rebellions and Uprisings

The most overt and visible form of resistance were armed rebellions and uprisings. These were often large-scale, organized movements that sought to overthrow colonial rule through military force. Notable examples include the Sepoy Mutiny in India (1857), the Mau Mau Uprising in Kenya (1950s-1960s), and numerous revolts against Spanish and Portuguese rule in the Americas. These rebellions, though often brutally suppressed, served to highlight the deep-seated grievances of the colonized populations and demonstrated their willingness to fight for their freedom. They played a crucial role in shaping nationalist sentiments and laying the groundwork for future independence movements.

Economic Resistance Strategies

Faced with the economic exploitation inherent in colonial trade, colonized populations developed a range of strategic responses aimed at mitigating its negative impacts and reclaiming economic agency. These strategies were often born out of necessity and ingenuity, reflecting a deep understanding of the colonial economic system and its vulnerabilities. By manipulating or circumventing colonial economic policies, these strategies aimed to preserve local wealth, foster self-sufficiency, and undermine the imperial power's control.

Development of Local Industries and Craftsmanship

In response to the colonial imposition of manufactured goods and the suppression of local production, many colonized communities actively sought to revive and develop their own industries and craftsmanship. This involved preserving traditional skills and techniques, adapting them to new demands, and fostering local markets for these goods. The development of local textile production, pottery, metalworking, and other crafts provided an alternative to imported goods, creating employment, retaining wealth within the community, and fostering a sense of economic independence. This focus on local production was a direct challenge to the colonial economic model, which favored the import of finished goods from the metropole.

Consumer Boycotts and Non-Consumption

Consumer boycotts emerged as a powerful tool of economic resistance, allowing colonized populations to leverage their purchasing power to influence colonial policies. By collectively refusing to purchase specific imported goods or to patronize colonial businesses, they could inflict economic damage and force concessions from colonial authorities. These boycotts were often highly organized and were frequently linked to broader nationalist movements. The principle was to reduce the demand for goods that benefited the colonizer, thereby weakening the economic ties that bound the colony to the metropole. The success of these boycotts depended on widespread participation and the availability of viable local alternatives.

Alternative Currency and Barter Systems

In some instances, colonized communities developed alternative currency and barter systems to circumvent the use of colonial currency or to facilitate trade outside the official colonial channels. These systems could involve the use of traditional forms of exchange, precious metals, or locally valued commodities. The establishment of these alternative economic networks allowed for greater economic autonomy and provided a means to trade with neighboring communities or even with rival colonial powers without direct oversight from the metropole. These systems often represented a deep-seated rejection of the imposed economic order and an assertion of local economic control.

Political and Social Resistance

Beyond direct economic action, resistance to colonial rule also manifested in the political and social spheres. Colonized populations sought to challenge the legitimacy of colonial governance, to preserve their cultural heritage, and to mobilize collective action for political change. These efforts were crucial in shaping nationalist ideologies and in laying the groundwork for eventual independence movements, demonstrating that resistance was not solely an economic phenomenon but a comprehensive struggle for self-determination.

Formation of Nationalist Movements

The economic and political grievances fostered by colonial rule invariably led to the formation of organized nationalist movements. These movements, often led by educated elites who had experienced both colonial education and its limitations, aimed to articulate the aspirations of the colonized people for self-governance and independence. They employed various strategies, including political organizing, public awareness campaigns, and petitions to colonial authorities and international bodies. These movements provided a platform for collective action and helped to unify diverse groups under a common banner of national liberation, directly challenging the political structures of colonial trade and governance.

Legal and Constitutional Challenges

In some colonial contexts, resistance took the form of legal and constitutional challenges to colonial policies and practices. Colonized individuals and groups utilized the colonial legal system, when possible, to

challenge land dispossession, unfair labor practices, and discriminatory laws. They also engaged in lobbying and advocacy, seeking to influence colonial legislation and to advocate for greater representation and rights. While the colonial legal system was often designed to uphold imperial interests, these legal challenges represented a sophisticated form of resistance, attempting to exploit the very mechanisms of colonial power for the benefit of the colonized.

Cultural Revival and Intellectual Resistance

Cultural revival and intellectual resistance played a vital role in undermining the ideological underpinnings of colonialism. Colonized intellectuals and cultural leaders actively worked to reclaim and celebrate their own histories, languages, and traditions, challenging the colonial narrative of cultural superiority. This involved the publication of histories, literature, and philosophical works that affirmed indigenous identities and critiqued colonial oppression. By reasserting their cultural heritage, these movements fostered a sense of pride and solidarity, providing the intellectual and cultural foundations for political resistance and the eventual pursuit of national sovereignty. This intellectual resistance was a direct counterpoint to the cultural impact of colonial trade and its associated social changes.

The Intertwined Nature of Trade and Resistance

It is impossible to fully understand colonial trade without acknowledging the pervasive presence and impact of resistance. The two concepts are inextricably linked, with colonial economic policies often acting as direct catalysts for resistance, and resistance, in turn, shaping the evolution and effectiveness of colonial trade. The continuous interplay between the imposition of trade regulations and the various forms of pushback from colonized populations created a dynamic and often volatile environment. Colonial powers were constantly forced to adapt their trade strategies in response to the challenges posed by resistance, leading to shifts in policies, increased repression, or sometimes, albeit rarely, concessions.

How Colonial Trade Fueled Resistance

The fundamental inequities of colonial trade were the primary drivers of resistance. The extraction of raw materials without fair compensation, the imposition of monopolies that stifled local enterprise, and the exploitation of labor to produce goods for the metropole created widespread resentment and hardship. When colonial trade practices led to poverty, land alienation, and the disruption of traditional livelihoods, it naturally generated opposition. The very commodities that enriched the colonizers were often produced under conditions of extreme duress and exploitation, making their trade a focal point for grievances and a breeding ground for dissent.

How Resistance Shaped Colonial Trade Practices

The persistent efforts of colonized populations to resist colonial trade had a tangible impact on how these systems operated. For instance, widespread smuggling forced colonial authorities to increase patrols and impose stricter

enforcement measures, thereby escalating the costs of administering trade. Successful boycotts of certain goods might lead colonial powers to seek alternative markets or to diversify their colonial production. Moreover, major uprisings and rebellions often resulted in temporary disruptions to trade, forcing colonial governments to reassess their policies and sometimes leading to the implementation of reforms, however limited. Resistance, therefore, was not merely a reaction but an active force that shaped the ongoing development of colonial economic relationships.

Legacy of Colonial Trade and Resistance

The enduring legacy of colonial trade and the resistance it engendered continues to shape the global economic and political landscape. The economic structures established during the colonial era often laid the foundation for post-colonial dependency, while the struggles for liberation forged national identities and continue to inform contemporary geopolitical relationships. Understanding this complex history is essential for comprehending contemporary global inequalities and the ongoing efforts of many nations to decolonize their economies and assert their sovereignty.

Economic Disparities and Dependency

The economic models implemented during colonial rule, which prioritized resource extraction and the suppression of local industrial development, have had lasting consequences. Many former colonies continue to grapple with economic disparities, relying heavily on the export of raw materials and facing challenges in diversifying their economies and competing in global markets. This legacy of dependency, rooted in the very nature of colonial trade, remains a significant hurdle for many developing nations seeking economic self-sufficiency and equitable development.

Shaping of National Identities and Political Structures

The shared experience of colonial exploitation and the collective struggle against it were pivotal in the formation of modern national identities and political structures in many parts of the world. The resistance movements that arose in response to colonial trade and governance provided the impetus for independence, forging a sense of common purpose and shared destiny among diverse populations. The political systems and national narratives that emerged from these struggles continue to influence the governance and international relations of post-colonial states, carrying the imprint of the colonial encounter and the resistance it inspired.

Conclusion

The intricate relationship between colonial trade and the multifaceted resistance it generated is a cornerstone of understanding the imperial era and its lasting global impact. From the mercantilist doctrines that dictated economic exploitation to the diverse strategies employed by colonized populations to reclaim their agency, this dynamic interplay shaped economies, societies, and political landscapes across continents. The legacy of this

historical period is evident in ongoing global economic disparities and the continuing pursuit of self-determination by nations that once experienced the yoke of colonial rule. Recognizing the agency of those who resisted and the enduring consequences of colonial trade practices is vital for a comprehensive understanding of our interconnected world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were the primary drivers behind colonial trade in the 17th and 18th centuries?

The primary drivers were mercantilism, which aimed to enrich the mother country by accumulating precious metals through a favorable balance of trade. Colonies provided raw materials and served as markets for manufactured goods, creating a system of economic dependence and benefit for the colonizing power.

How did the Navigation Acts shape and restrict colonial trade?

The Navigation Acts mandated that colonial trade be conducted in English ships with English crews, and that certain enumerated goods (like tobacco and sugar) could only be shipped to England or other English colonies. This ensured English control over colonial commerce and benefited English merchants and shipbuilders, while limiting colonial economic autonomy.

What forms of resistance emerged against British trade policies in the American colonies?

Resistance included smuggling to circumvent Navigation Acts, boycotts of British goods (most famously the non-importation agreements), protests and riots against tax collectors and customs officials, and ultimately, armed rebellion and revolution.

How did the concept of 'no taxation without representation' fuel resistance to trade policies?

Colonists argued that since they had no elected representatives in the British Parliament, Parliament had no right to levy taxes on them. Trade policies, especially those that involved internal taxes or duties intended to raise revenue (like the Stamp Act or Townshend Acts), were seen as infringements on their liberties and economic freedoms.

What role did inter-colonial trade play in fostering a sense of shared identity and resistance?

Despite British regulations, inter-colonial trade networks developed, allowing colonies to share resources and ideas. This fostered a sense of common grievance against British policies and facilitated the coordination of resistance efforts, laying the groundwork for a unified colonial response.

How did the French and Indian War (Seven Years' War) impact colonial trade and lead to increased resistance?

The war significantly increased Britain's national debt. To recoup these costs, Parliament imposed new taxes and stricter enforcement of trade laws on the colonies. This led to increased resentment and resistance, as colonists felt unfairly burdened and their economic freedoms curtailed.

What were the economic consequences of colonial resistance for both Britain and the colonies?

For Britain, resistance disrupted trade flows and led to the loss of valuable colonial markets and resources. For the colonies, resistance often involved economic hardship due to boycotts and disruptions, but it also spurred the development of domestic industries and ultimately led to greater economic independence after achieving self-governance.

Beyond economic grievances, what other factors contributed to colonial resistance against trade regulations?

Enlightenment ideals emphasizing natural rights, liberty, and self-governance played a crucial role. Colonists also resented the perceived arbitrary power of the British government and the lack of respect for their colonial assemblies and institutions.

How did specific events like the Boston Tea Party exemplify the connection between trade policies and resistance?

The Boston Tea Party was a direct protest against the Tea Act, which granted the British East India Company a monopoly on tea sales in the colonies. Colonists viewed this as another instance of Parliament interfering with their trade and imposing taxation without representation, leading to the iconic destruction of the tea.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to colonial trade and resistance:

1.

The Price of Empire: Britain and the Atlantic Trade

This book explores the intricate and often brutal economic system that fueled British imperial expansion. It delves into the goods traded, the profits generated, and the human cost involved in the transatlantic exchange. The narrative highlights how trade was not just commerce but a powerful tool of colonial control and wealth accumulation.

2.

Salt of the Earth, Sweat of the Brow: Labor and Colonialism in the Americas

This work examines the foundational role of coerced and exploited labor in establishing and maintaining colonial economies. It traces the impact of slavery, indentured servitude, and other forms of forced work on both the enslaved and the colonizers. The book argues that the wealth of colonial powers was intrinsically linked to the brutal exploitation of human beings.

3.

Roots of Rebellion: Indigenous Resistance to European Encroachment

This title focuses on the diverse and persistent efforts of indigenous peoples to resist European colonization across various continents. It details the strategies, alliances, and motivations behind these struggles for sovereignty and self-preservation. The book emphasizes that resistance was not a singular event but an ongoing process shaped by unique cultural and political contexts.

4.

Sugar and Slaves: The Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies

This seminal work investigates the economic and social structures that emerged from the dominance of sugar plantations in the English Caribbean colonies. It analyzes how the insatiable demand for sugar fueled the intensification of the transatlantic slave trade and shaped the power dynamics between planters and enslaved Africans. The book illustrates the profound and lasting impact of this single commodity.

5.

The Spirit of Liberty: Colonial Dissent and the American Revolution

This book delves into the intellectual and political currents that led to the American Revolution, emphasizing the role of colonial resistance to British trade policies. It examines Enlightenment ideas, colonial grievances, and the growing sense of separate identity among colonists. The narrative showcases how opposition to economic restrictions became a powerful catalyst for political upheaval.

6.

Beyond the Barricades: Women's Resistance in Colonial Societies

This work sheds light on the often-overlooked contributions of women to movements of resistance against colonial powers. It explores how women engaged in economic boycotts, provided support networks, and participated in direct action. The book challenges traditional narratives by highlighting the multifaceted roles women played in challenging colonial authority.

7.

The Silk Road of Smuggling: Illicit Trade and Colonial Control

This title investigates the prevalence of smuggling and black markets within colonial trade networks, arguing that they were not just criminal activities but forms of resistance. It explores how colonists circumvented imperial regulations to pursue their own economic interests, undermining colonial authority. The book highlights the constant tension between imperial control and local agency.

8.

From Tribute to Taxes: Colonial Taxation and Popular Uprising

This book analyzes the imposition of new tax systems by colonial powers and the ensuing popular resistance they generated. It examines the specific taxes levied, the justifications offered by colonial governments, and the widespread opposition that often erupted. The narrative demonstrates how financial policies became a flashpoint for colonial discontent.

9.

The Silent Trade: Indigenous Economies Under Colonial Pressure

This work examines the ways in which indigenous economies adapted to, and resisted, the pressures of colonial trade. It explores how indigenous communities navigated the introduction of new goods and economic systems while striving to maintain their traditional practices and autonomy. The book illustrates the resilience and ingenuity of indigenous peoples in the face of overwhelming external forces.

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