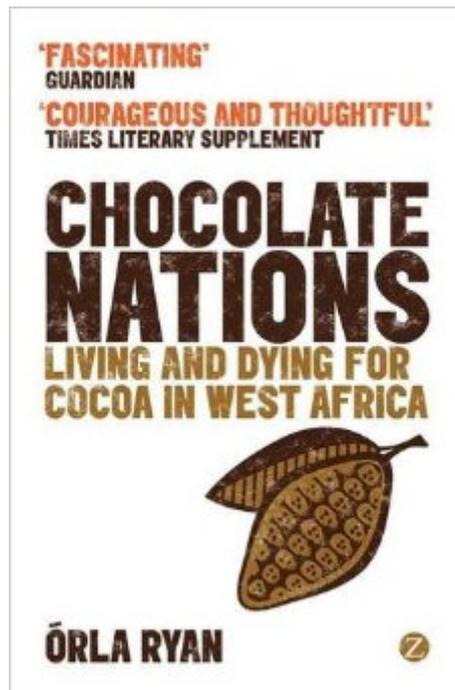


The book was found

# Chocolate Nations: Living And Dying For Cocoa In West Africa (African Arguments)



## Synopsis

Chocolate - the very word conjures up a hint of the forbidden and a taste of the decadent. Yet the story behind the chocolate bar is rarely one of luxury... From the thousands of children who work on plantations to the smallholders who harvest the beans, Chocolate Nations reveals the hard economic realities of our favourite sweet. This vivid and gripping exploration of the reasons behind farmer poverty includes the human stories of the producers and traders at the heart of the West African industry. Orla Ryan shows that only a tiny fraction of the cash we pay for a chocolate bar actually makes it back to the farmers, and sheds light on what Fairtrade really means on the ground. Provocative and eye-opening, Chocolate Nations exposes the true story of how the treat we love makes it on to our supermarket shelves.Â

## Book Information

Series: African Arguments

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Zed Books; 2nd edition edition (April 12, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1780323093

ISBN-13: 978-1780323091

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #294,721 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 inÂ Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking by Ingredient > Chocolate #150 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Industries > Agriculture #355 inÂ Books > Business & Money > Economics > Development & Growth

## Customer Reviews

I have an unusual problem with reviewing this book: It is so intensely thought-provoking I'm having trouble just telling you what's actually in it. When I type, I start wildly drifting into my own tangents. Let me start with this, which I never knew before: Most of the world's cocoa comes from Ghana and the Ivory Coast, and nearly all of it is cultivated by hand on small, family-operated farms. It is the last of the global crops to be cultivated this way, and it represents the largest portion of each country's wealth. To buy chocolate - even those convenience-store staples from Hershey, Cadbury and Mars - is to directly connect with its harvesters in West Africa. After reading this book, I developed a respect and appreciation for the common Hershey's bar that I had until now reserved

for the produce at my local farmer's market. Orla Ryan is a former Reuters reporter who covered the cocoa industry in Ghana and Ivory Coast before taking leave to publish this book. Because I feel a tangent coming on, I'll be quick: This is an exceptionally readable, comprehensive, smart and objective book that smashes any assumptions you may have been making since I told you it was about poor African farmers harvesting most of the world's chocolate with hand tools. I recommend it to anyone interested in journalism (for the way it presents information that I suspect will leave the farmers, consumers and chocolatiers feeling they have been portrayed fairly) business and commodities trading (for the way it analyzes a whole commodity market from the soil to the store) and social activism (for ideas in how to identify and implement policy changes that will actually reach the poor, as this author has tried to do).

Orla Ryan is a Financial Times journalist who previously worked for Reuters in Ghana, where she reported on cocoa for its general and financial news service. In this book she attempts to cast a factual, dispassionate and objective eye on the cocoa trade in Africa; adopting an analytical rather than an emotional approach. There are eight chapters in this short (160 page) but heavy-hitting work. The first two look at the contrasting histories of cocoa growing in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. This is followed by a chapter that examines the extent to which child labour is used on cocoa farms, and the distinction between child and slave labour. The fourth chapter concentrates on corruption in Cote d'Ivoire and the fate of journalist Guy Andre, a man who asked too many questions about where cocoa money was disappearing to. The fifth chapter looks at the practical trials and tribulations of Steve Wallace, an American with a dream to produce chocolate in Ghana, including the very real physical location and structural difficulties of operating there. Chapter six seeks to separate the "myths and reality" of the various fair trade approaches to cocoa growing and buying, while the penultimate chapter examines how the cocoa trade really works - a complicated set of power dynamics involving global corporates, country cocoa boards and cocoa speculators, but rarely cocoa farmers themselves. The final chapter looks forward to how to create a sustainable future for a cocoa industry which is struggling to meet world demand, where cocoa farmers often struggle to survive and where, in consequence, the younger generation do not want to enter the business.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Chocolate Nations: Living and Dying for Cocoa in West Africa (African Arguments) Chocolate Islands: Cocoa, Slavery, and Colonial Africa Inventing Arguments (Inventing Arguments Series) Inventing Arguments, Brief (Inventing Arguments Series) Chocolate, Chocolate, Chocolate From

Cocoa Bean to Chocolate (Start to Finish, Second Series: Food) South Africa (Eoa) (Exploration of Africa; The Emerging Nations) Essentials in Hospice Palliative Care - Second Edition: A basic end-of-life manual explaining how to care for the dying and helps health care workers, family and patients deal with death and dying. Frugal Living: 55 Tips to Save Money! Enjoy Living on a Budget, Become Debt Free, and Have Complete Financial Independence (Frugal Living Books, frugal living for dummies, frugal living made simple) The Iroquois: The Six Nations Confederacy (American Indian Nations) How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity (Early African Christianity Set) African Rhythm and African Sensibility: Aesthetics and Social Action in African Musical Idioms African Masks Coloring Book: A Coloring Book Featuring Over 30 Images Inspired By Traditional African Masks,Cultural History,Folk Art Coloring Book,African Art Decor The Little Books of Champagne, Chocolate, and Roses: The Little Book of Champagne/The Little Book of Chocolate/The Little Book of Roses Chocolate Modeling Cake Toppers: 101 Tasty Ideas for Candy Clay, Modeling Chocolate, and Other Fondant Alternatives Essence of Chocolate: Recipes for Baking and Cooking with Fine Chocolate The Ghirardelli Chocolate Cookbook: Recipes and History from America's Premier Chocolate Maker Chocolate Wars: The 150-Year Rivalry Between the World's Greatest Chocolate Makers Guittard Chocolate Cookbook: Decadent Recipes from San Francisco's Premium Bean-to-Bar Chocolate Company The Chocolate Connoisseur: For Everyone With a Passion for Chocolate

[Dmca](#)