

The Power of Sugar Cane

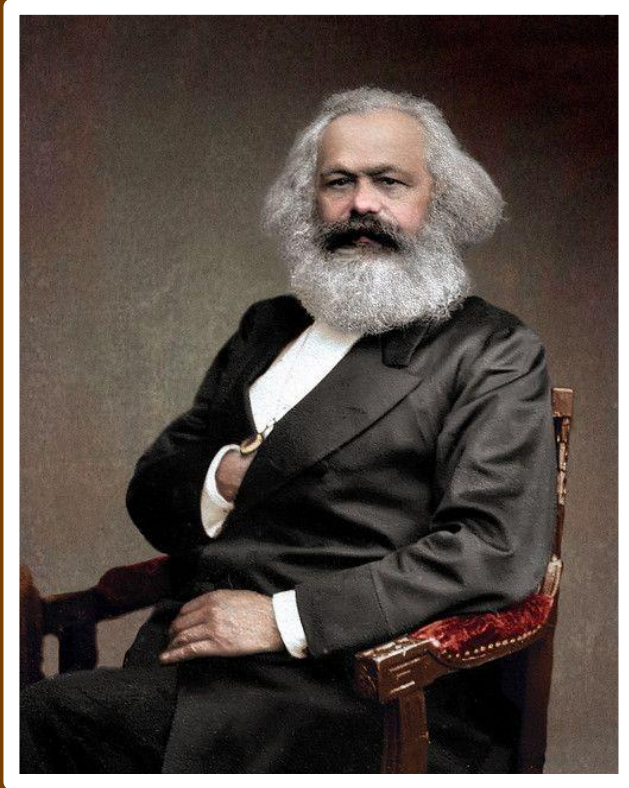
Materialities in Anthropology
Letícia M da S Pontes
10/22/2023



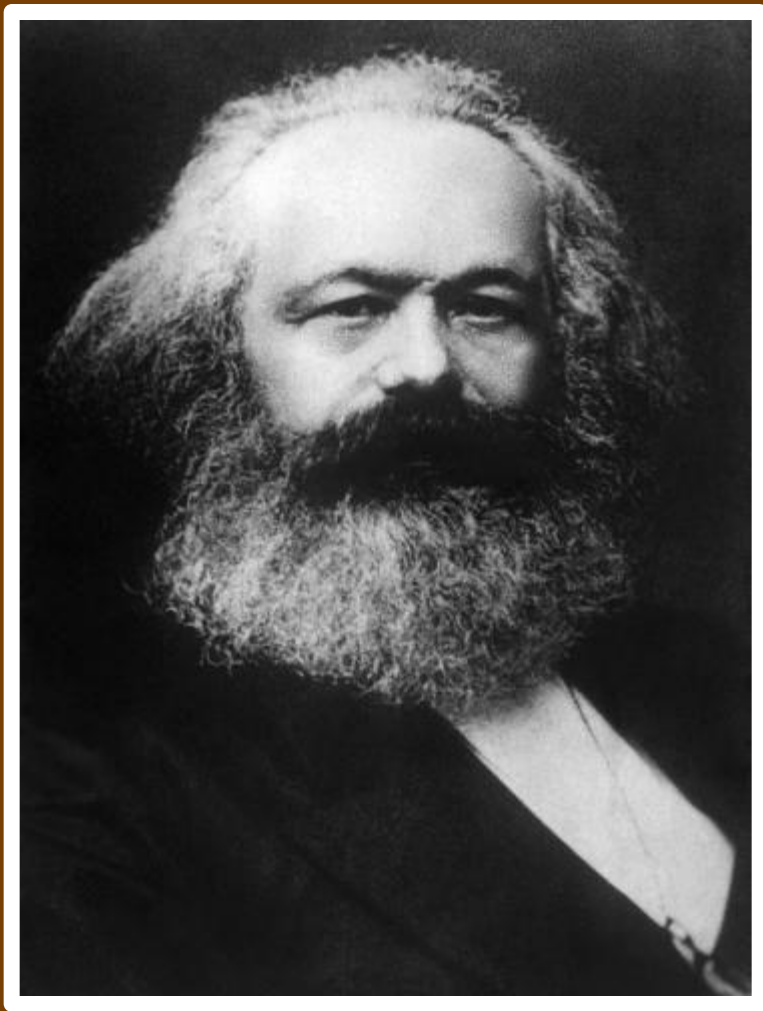
Introduction

- The power of Sugar Cane during the period of Modern history explained by the Marxist theory.

Marxist Theory



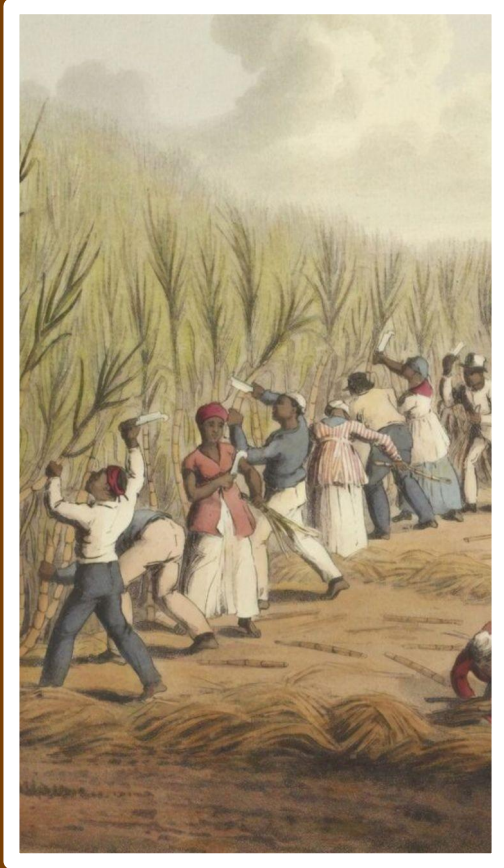
- Political economy
- Power dynamics between the bourgeoisie and the workers.
- False Consciousness
- Anti - Religion
- Argues that the only change comes through Revolution.



- Modes of Production
 1. Hunting Stage
 2. Domestic Stage
 3. Feudalism
 4. Capitalism

- “[...] (For Marx) opened the door to a solidification, as it were, of materiality itself as irreducibly real regardless of any human effort to conceptualize it as autonomous; and as determinative, in the last instance, of everything else.” - The Handbook of Material Culture, p 14.

Sugar Cane Plantations in the Americas



- Sugar cane had its origin in the regions of Southeast Asia.
- Could produce: sucrose (sugar), Rum, syrups, Molasses, Cachaça (alcoholic drink) and ect.
- Biggest plantations in Colonial Brazil during the 16th Century.
- Also big plantations in the Antilles.

Sugar Cane Plantations in the Americas

- The bigger the Plantation the more Power the Colonizer held (Portuguese, Spaniards, Dutch, French)
- Helped in the influenced of European culture around the Americas, through Assimilation and Syncretism.
- Was responsible for increase in the slave labour in the Americas, a very profitable commerce between Europe, African and the American Colonies.
- “Around the 1580s in the Northeast region of Brazil, there were around 2,000 enslaved people working in the sugar cane plantations of the Portuguese Colony.” - Sugar Cane Plantation in the Formation of Brazilian Society: Bahia 1550 - 1835.

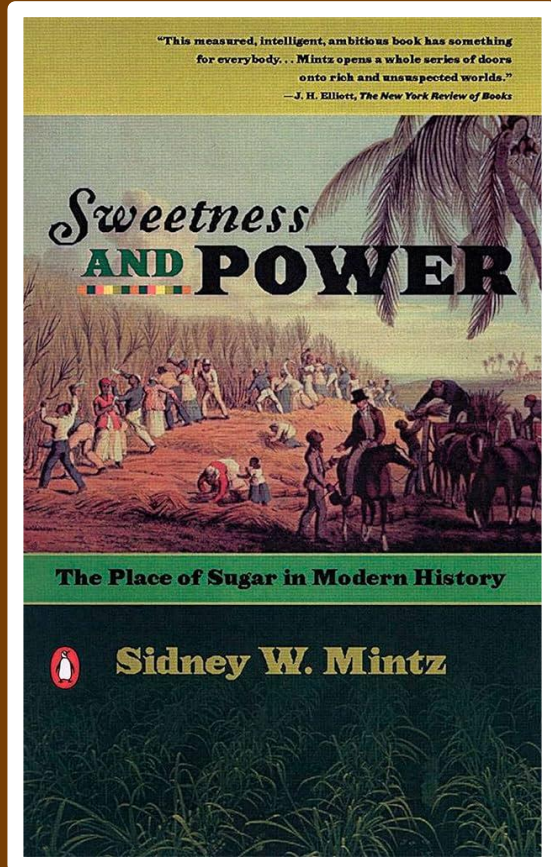


"Sugar Plantation Barbados, Carting Sugar Canes To The Mill"

W. L. Johnson & Co. Ltd., Barbados. No. 15



Bibliography



- C. Tilley, W. Keane, S. Kulcher et al. "The Handbook of Material Culture" (Sage: London), (eds), p 13–28.
- Schwartz, Stuart B. *"Sugar Cane Plantation in the Formation of Brazilian Society: Bahia 1550-1835"* University of Cambridge Press, 1985.
- Sidney W. Mintz "Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History". (Penguin Books, New York).