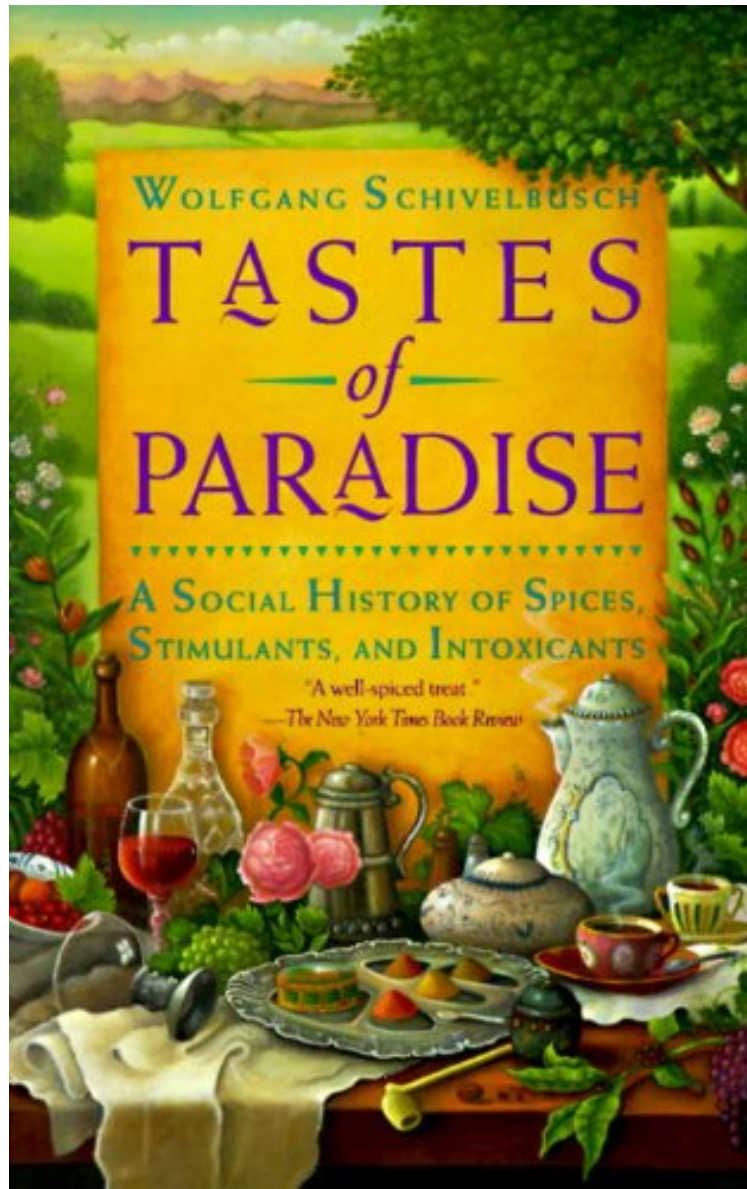


Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants, and Intoxicants

Wolfgang Schivelbusch
audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#112735 in Books Vintage Books 1993-06-29 1993-06-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.10l, .52 #File Name: 067974438X256 pages | File size: 32.Mb

Wolfgang Schivelbusch : Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants, and Intoxicants before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tastes of Paradise: A Social History of Spices, Stimulants, and Intoxicants:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy SamwiseStarts intriguing and informative, but later loses its former quality.20 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Will Leave You Hungry For MoreBy Bruce LoveittI enjoyed this book. It is well written and interesting and I learned quite a bit. The reason I only gave it 3 stars is that the book is too short. There are sections where you wish Mr. Schivelbusch had fleshed things out a bit. The book has many interesting illustrations but in a 228 page book over 100 pages of illustrations are just too much! So, be forewarned! If you are looking for some depth to sink your teeth into this is not the book for you. However, if you are satisfied by small portions than by all means.....Bon Appetit!0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good, but a bit dismissive of past intelligence.By KailaI'm about half through the book and I find it good over all, but there is one aspect that makes me a bit twitchy. I'm currently reading the section about coffee.The author does an excellent job of noting how coffee and the symbolic overtones it took functioned during the early modern period. However, he doesn't seem to know that even today coffee is known to have the side effects attributed to it then. He attributes qualities like "drying", etc, to symbolic or misinformed aspects of the humoral philosophy of medicine, and hypothesizes that "dryness" was attributed to coffee perhaps because it was roasted.Well, while the humoral system was so flawed that that it was laughable, it wasn't entirely wrong. Coffee does dehydrate people. It does cause severe health issues today, and doctors tell people to stop drinking it or reduce intake for many of the same reasons. The terminology was different, but the observations were actually fairly accurate. I agree with the author that coffee was highly contested for socio-religio-political reasons and that the health issues were used to that end, but the author is wrong several times when he reduces those health effects to ONLY symbolic. They were both.I'm actually hoping he resolves this a bit later. Sometimes people can come off heavy in an argument at one point in a text, and then modify that perspective later. This reader looks forward to finding out and if she finds it to be so, will alter her review accordingly.

From the extravagant use of pepper in the Middle Ages to the Protestant bourgeoisie's love of coffee to the reason why fashionable Europeans stopped sniffing tobacco and starting smoking it, Schivelbusch looks at how the appetite for pleasure transformed the social structure of the Old World. Illustrations.

From Publishers WeeklyThis social history of pleasure-producing substances covers the Middle Ages to the modern era from the perch of an adroit and amiable Marxist sociology. Illustrations. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From School Library JournalYA-- A lavishly illustrated, anecdotal survey of all of the substances we chew, drink, or inhale for pleasure and how they were discovered and adopted by humankind. The book shows in fascinating detail how each stimulant, spice, or intoxicant served a particular need for an individual culture and how each, in turn, affected that culture and its behavioral norms. There is no index, but the table of contents is extensive, making it both an effective research tool and an enjoyable source of recreational reading.- Richard Lisker, Fairfax Public Library, VACopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalWritten by a German historian and social scientist, this unique exploration of the origins and evolution of pleasure substances in the industrialized world is well researched and profusely illustrated. The author examines the habits and customs surrounding the consumption of spices, coffee, tea, chocolate, alcohol, and narcotics to reveal the way these substances and the reactions to them reflected the fabrics, tensions, dynamics, and trends of various societies and nations. An unusual mixture of historical documents, amusing anecdotes, and pertinent statistics, this slim, thought-provoking volume should appeal to both history buffs and casual readers.-Linda Chopra, Cleveland Heights-University Heights P.L., OhioCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.