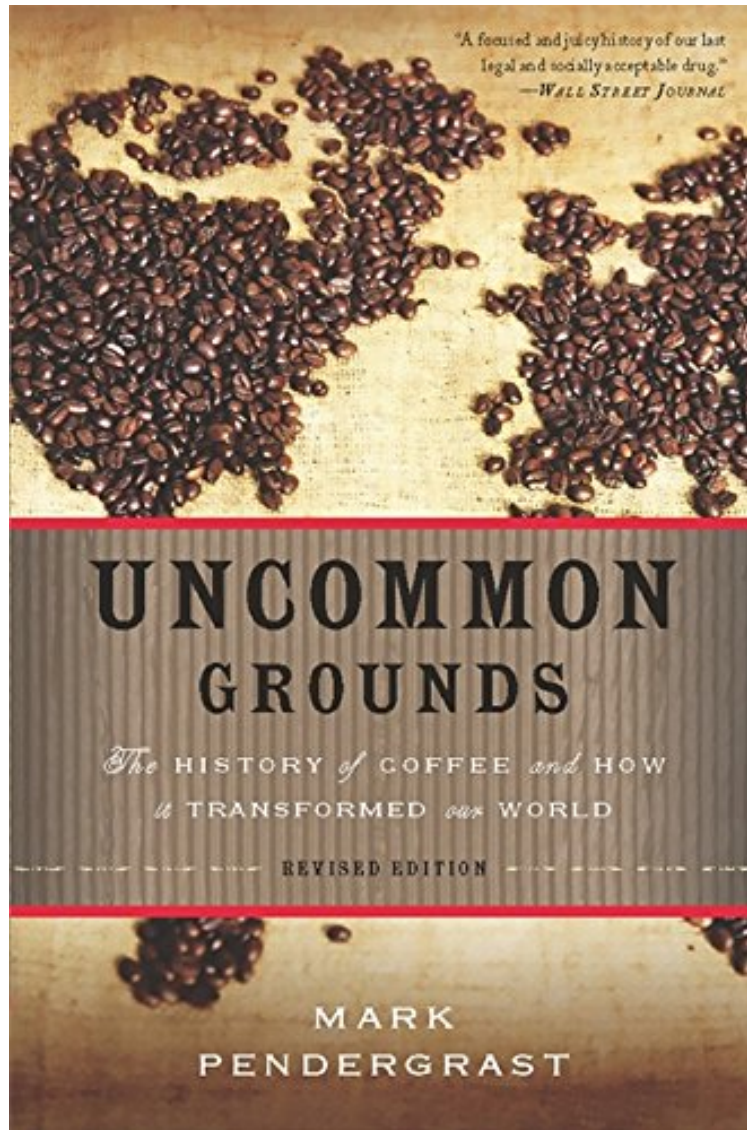


[Download] Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World

Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World

Mark Pendergrast

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#40175 in Books Mark Pendergrast 2010-09-28 2010-09-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.25 x 6.131, 1.25 #File Name: 046501836X480 pages Uncommon Grounds The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World | File size: 28.Mb

Mark Pendergrast : Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. And interesting but biased book with a narrow focus By D. Nykiel As

a coffee lover, I had bought *Uncommon Grounds* several years ago because I was genuinely interested in the history of coffee and its impact on world history. I was totally misled by the book's title. As one other reviewer had noted, it is clear that the author and/or publisher had deliberately packaged it as a world history of coffee in order to make it sell. A better---and more honest---subtitle for this book should have been *The Economics of Coffee and How it Transformed the Americas*. In reality, it is less a book on history than a very biased, polemical work NOT on the HISTORY of coffee, per se, but the ECONOMICS of coffee and how they transformed not the world, as much as how it transformed the AMERICAS. If one reads the book, you will notice that there is very little attention paid to the origins of coffee, how it had impacted Africa, Europe, Asia (including the Middle East), or the Pacific (except for Hawaii). The vast majority of the book seems to focus on the business of coffee and the competition between coffee companies and how they tried to one-up one another in selling their particular brand of coffee, and all of those companies are based in either North, South or Central America. I also was extremely irritated by how the author, a journalist named Mark Pendergrast, tried to pass off his personal tastes and opinions regarding coffee as objective fact. He constantly dismissed Robusta coffee---and probably other forms of coffee and/or other brands---as being objectively bitter, or bad coffee, while pointing to others as being good coffee, as if there is some sort of objective standard that everyone---including those who are known in the coffee business as cuppers (i.e. people in coffee factories who taste coffee at different stages of the manufacturing process)---all supposedly agreed on what types of coffee was good or bad. That is ridiculous. Imagine someone writing a cookbook and listing certain recipes as good or bad based solely on the fact that he or she did not like certain ingredients in the food. I wish Mr. Pendergrast's editor had encouraged him to leave his own personal opinions out of the book, and I wish that he had been encouraged to add more chapters on the role coffee played in the history of Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific. As a couple of other reviewers have pointed out, it appears that Mr. Pendergrast seems to define "the world" as the Americas---either out of a shocking ignorance of the fact that coffee is grown all around the world---including Ethiopia, where it was first discovered and Yemen, where it was first grown professionally and where it was first drunk as a drink in the Middle Ages. In fact, as a historian and a scholar of Islamic World Studies, it is worth noting---and this is something that the author does NOT mention in this book, especially given the fact that this author focuses so much on coffee production in the Americas---that coffee was first introduced to the Americas by the Ottoman Turks in the 1600's and 1700's. I know this from my own study of the history of Islam and the Middle East. Given this book's narrow focus and its lack of objectivity, IF you choose to buy this book---particularly if you buy it in Kindle format as I had---I also HIGHLY recommend that you also download the book *All About Coffee* by William H. Ukers onto your E-reader as a supplemental source since, despite the fact that Mr. Ukers' book was published in 1922, it nonetheless has two advantages over *Uncommon Grounds*: 1) *All About Coffee* is much more comprehensive and really does focus on the ENTIRE WORLD, NOT just the Americas and Ukers' book focuses on ALL aspects of coffee---NOT just the coffee industry 2) Mr. Ukers' book is much more objective and less polemical. To sum up, if you are interested in economics, or if you are somehow involved in the economic aspects of coffee, and if you agree with the author's opinions about coffee, this is your book. But if you are interested in a book on the HISTORY of coffee, and one which is OBJECTIVE and free of bias or spin, then please skip this book. If you want a book that will give you the objective facts about the HISTORY of coffee, then skip this one, and buy "*All About Coffee*" by William H. Ukers instead.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Easy and Interesting Read
By bookworm2
Have given multiple times as gift to coffee lovers - always a hit.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Charles
Very informative book of you are at all interested in coffee or history.

Uncommon Grounds tells the story of coffee from its discovery on a hill in ancient Abyssinia to the advent of Starbucks. In this updated edition of the classic work, Mark Pendergrast reviews the dramatic changes in coffee culture over the past decade, from the disastrous Coffee Crisis that caused global prices to plummet to the rise of the Fair Trade movement and the third-wave of quality-obsessed coffee connoisseurs. As the scope of coffee culture continues to expand, *Uncommon Grounds* remains more than ever a brilliantly entertaining guide to the currents of one of the world's favorite beverages.

About the Author
MARK PENDERGRAST is an independent scholar who brews a fantastic cup of coffee. He is the author of many books, including *For God, Country and Coca-Cola*, *Mirror Mirror*, *Inside the Outbreaks*, and other books. He lives in Colchester, Vermont."