

**ECONOMICS  
AGRICULTURE**

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## Secret Power

There are myths that tell of the divine origin of plants, see them as mediators between the worlds of the real and the supernatural. For centuries, plants have had an impact on people's lives as foodstuffs and merchandise. They were treated with reverence in the countries where they originated. But since the ascendancy of the Western principle of profit maximization, plants have also come to influence social structures, they have become hidden manipulators of business and politics.

- 01 Cotton – The Stuff Dollars Are Made of**
- 02 Cotton – The Stuff of Sweat and Tears**
- 03 Cocoa – The Chocolate Bar War**
- 04 Rubber – A Tree's Tears**
- 05 Rubber – The Discovery of Speed**
- 06 Maize – Agrobusiness**
- 07 Potatoes – The Golden Fruit**