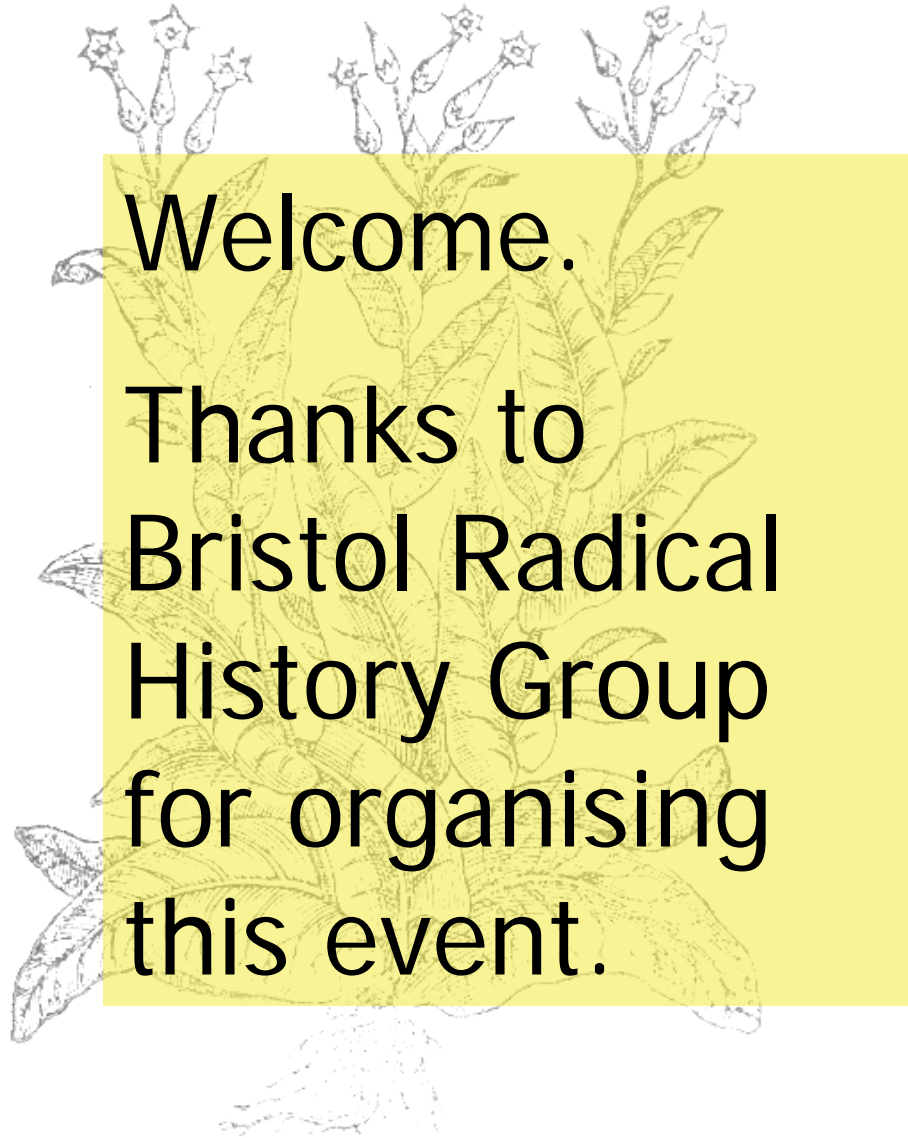


Handwritten scribbles or text at the bottom of the page.

Bienvenue!
Hola!
Willkommen!
Benvenuto!
Welkom!
Boa vinda!
Добро пожаловать!
Υποδοχή!
欢迎!
歡迎!
환영!
歡迎!
Welcome!
Bore da

Welcome.

**Thanks to
Bristol Radical
History Group
for organising
this event.**



Housekeeping

- no smoking
- fire
- toilets

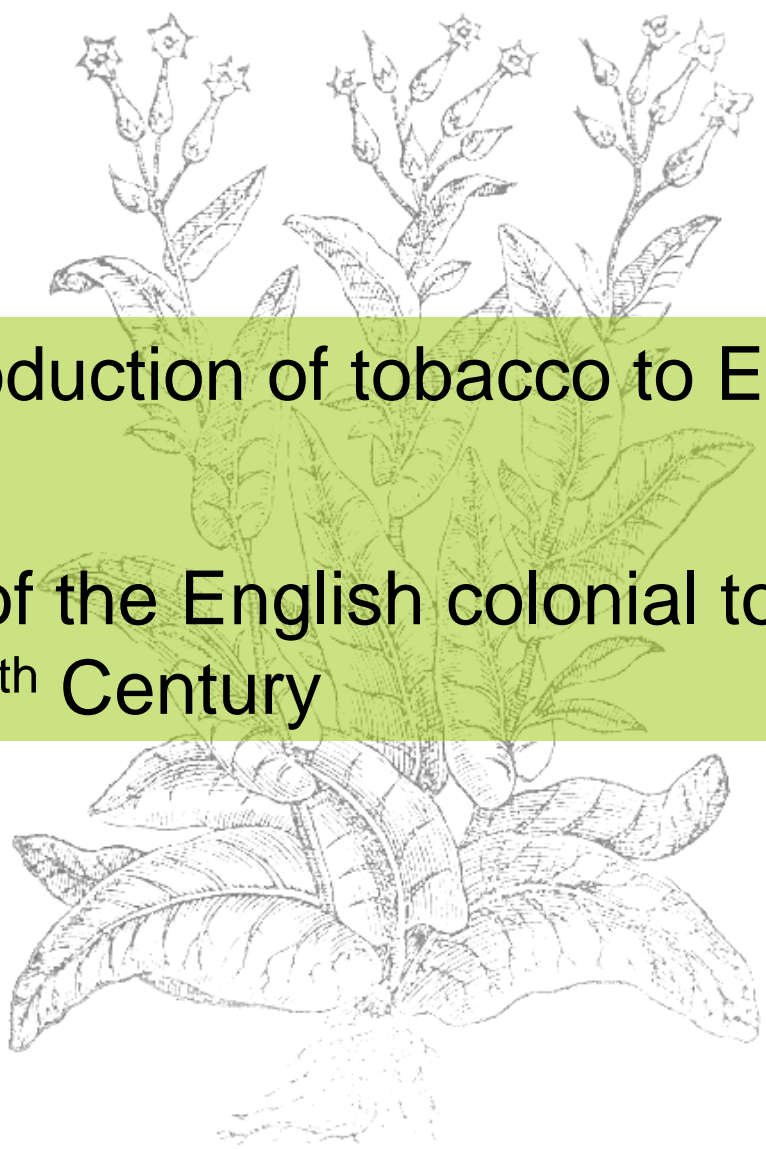


A detailed botanical line drawing of a plant. The illustration is divided into two main parts. The upper part shows three separate flowering stems, each with several small, five-petaled flowers and buds. The lower part shows a larger, more developed vegetative stem with several broad, ovate leaves and a cluster of small, round fruits or buds at its base. The entire drawing is rendered in black lines on a white background.

Copies of these slides and my notes can be e-mailed to you ~ just let me have your email address

The three main strands to this *lightening* talk:

1. How poor small holders in 17th Century Gloucestershire & Worcestershire resisted continual attempts by the state to prevent them from growing tobacco
2. How their lives were linked to the lives and struggles of indentured labourers, slaves and the native people of, what is now, the state of Virginia, USA
3. A look and discussion of today's tobacco industry and repression of subsistence farmers in Afghanistan

- 
- The introduction of tobacco to Europe & England
 - Growth of the English colonial tobacco trade in the 17th Century

A detailed botanical line drawing of tobacco plants. The illustration shows several stems with large, ovate leaves and clusters of small, tubular flowers. The plants are arranged in a group, with some showing the root system at the bottom. The drawing is rendered in a fine-line, engraved style.

Prehistory:

Although there is evidence of tobacco use in the Near East and Africa, there is no indication of habitual use in the Ancient world, on any continent except the Americas.

NO MORE GENOCIDE !

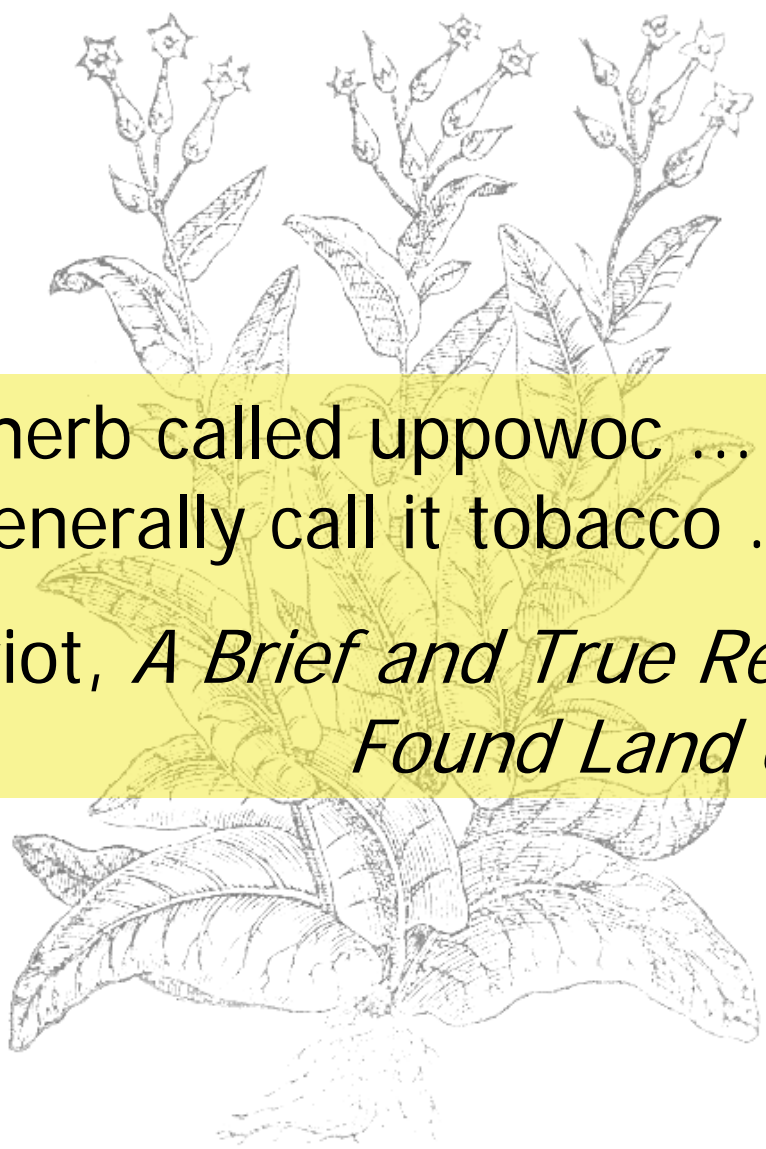
ABOLISH COLUMBUS

1492 Columbus Discovers Tobacco; "Certain dried leaves" received as gifts, and then thrown away.

1492 Rodrigo de Jerez and Luis de Torres first Europeans to witness tobacco smoking (on Cuba); Jerez becomes first European smoker



AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT
OF COLORADO



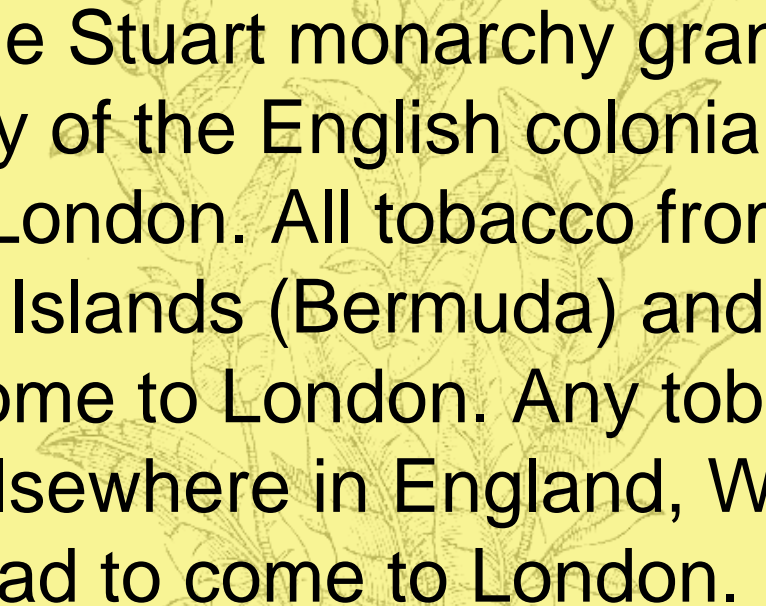
“There is an herb called uppowoc ... but the Spaniards generally call it tobacco ...”

Thomas Hariot, *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*, 1588

1614: First modest export of tobacco from Virginia to England.

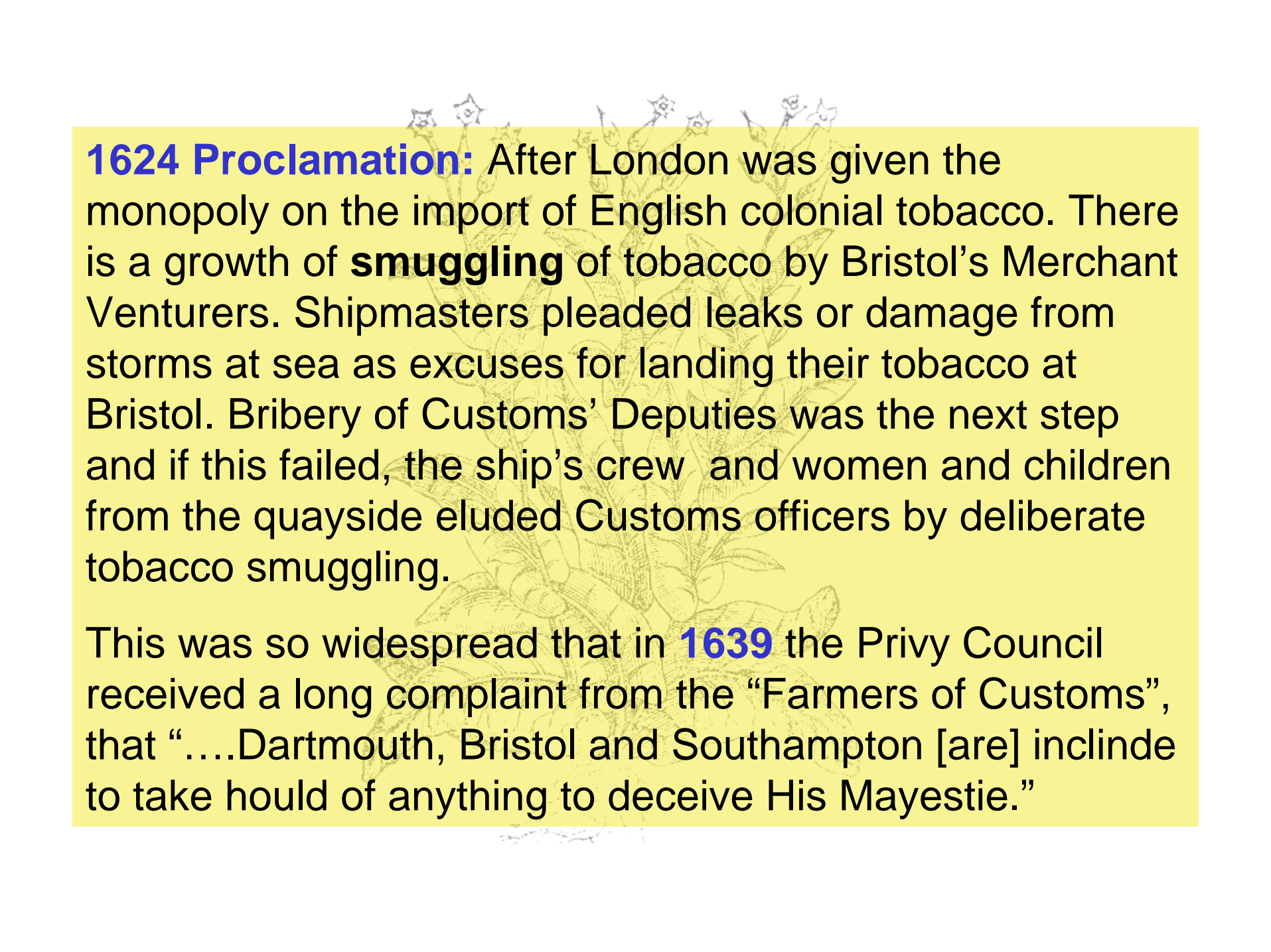
Pre 1619 the price of tobacco was 1/6d or 2/- a pound and imports to Bristol stood at 671 lbs, London imported 2,300 lbs of English Colonial tobacco while the total of Spanish weed was 50,000lbs

The subsequent success of tobacco by small farmers in Virginia lead to the cycle of attraction of more labourers and yeoman farmers and hence more tobacco being grown and more pressure being put on the native population ~ **1622**.



1624: The Stuart monarchy granted the monopoly of the English colonial tobacco trade to London. All tobacco from the Sommer Islands (Bermuda) and Virginia had to come to London. Any tobacco landed elsewhere in England, Wales and Ireland had to come to London.

1630: Price had fallen to 1d a pound and Spanish tobacco was still more popular.



1624 Proclamation: After London was given the monopoly on the import of English colonial tobacco. There is a growth of **smuggling** of tobacco by Bristol's Merchant Venturers. Shipmasters pleaded leaks or damage from storms at sea as excuses for landing their tobacco at Bristol. Bribery of Customs' Deputies was the next step and if this failed, the ship's crew and women and children from the quayside eluded Customs officers by deliberate tobacco smuggling.

This was so widespread that in **1639** the Privy Council received a long complaint from the "Farmers of Customs", that "...Dartmouth, Bristol and Southampton [are] inclinde to take hould of anything to deceive His Mayestie."



1626 Charles I restricted Spanish imports in favour of imports from Virginia and the Sommer Islands.

Domestically there were prohibitions on tobacco growing in 1619, 1620, 1627, 1630 and 1634. Warrants were frequently issued to root out crops and local Justices of the Peace urged to assist Royal Officers.

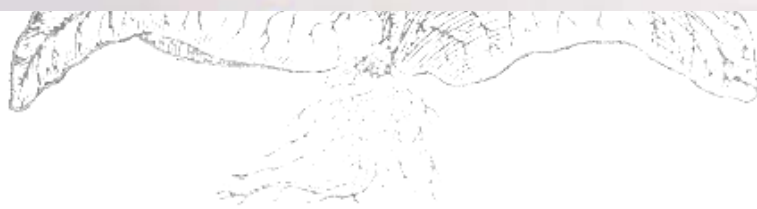
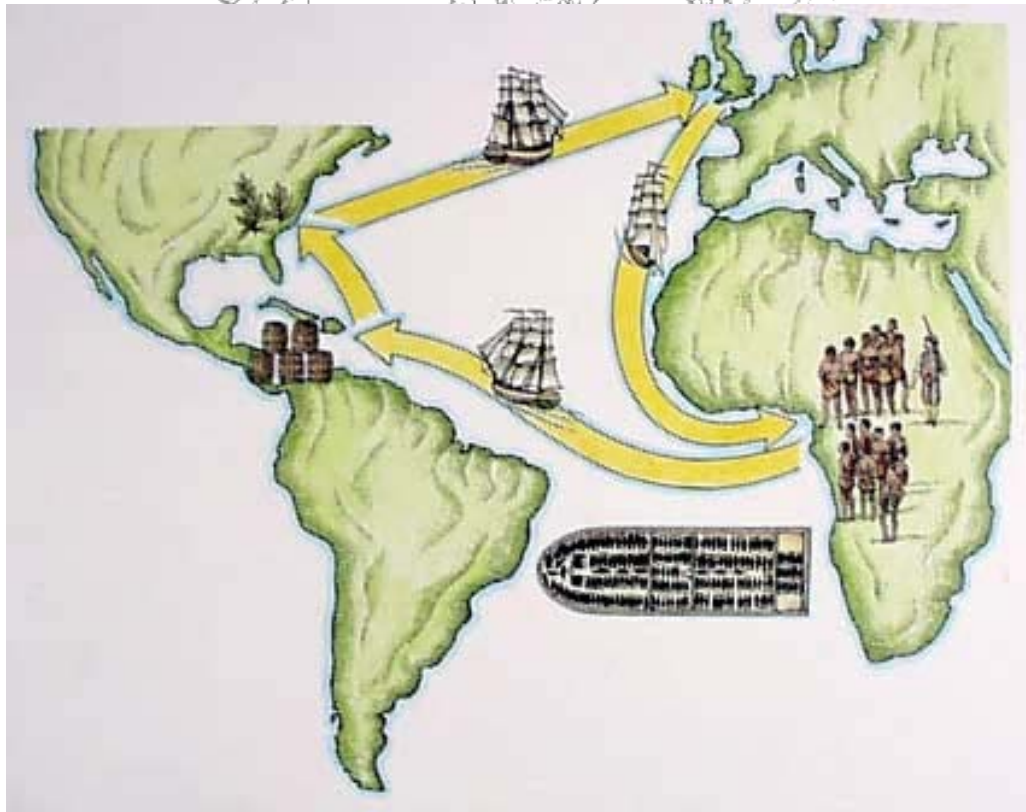
Small wonder that the local tobacco growers supported the parliamentary cause against monarchy.

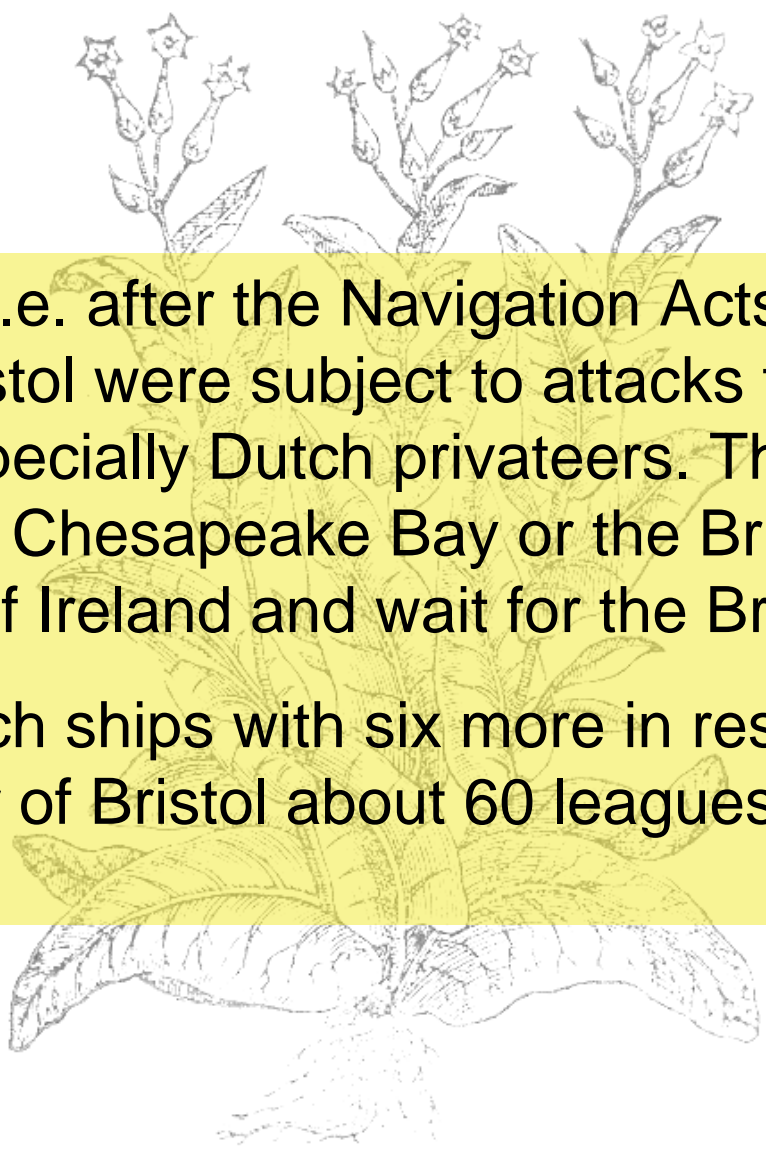
1641: Local Bristol merchants including one Thomas Colston (fellow Monarchist with Humphrey Hooke and a member of the Merchant Venturers) tried cases of illegal tobacco smuggling which had occurred from 1639 when Bryan Rogers took bribes from local merchants in return for granting landing licences.

It should be borne in mind that the colonial tobacco growers and the Bristol Merchants were, frequently, related.

1651 Navigation Act

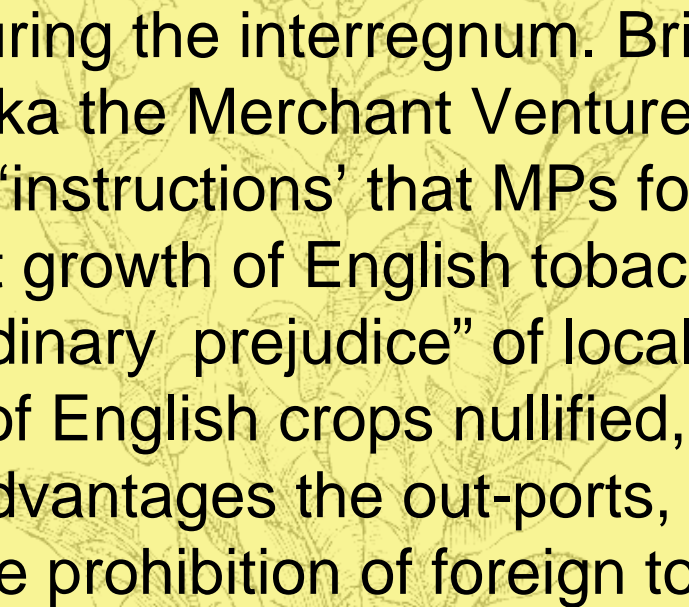
- This completed the monopoly system for English Merchants.
- As economic dependencies of England, the Chesapeake Colonies were bound by the mercantile system.
- This system enabled England to receive colonial raw goods, turn them into finished goods, and market them to the rest of the world.
- In exchange for providing England with supplies of natural resources, the colonies were forbidden any production or trade outside of this arrangement.
- English slave trade made 'legal'
- Cromwell's "Western Design" ~ Jamaica
- **1660** Navigation Act





1651 to 1680 i.e. after the Navigation Acts, imports of tobacco to Bristol were subject to attacks from pirates and privateers. Especially Dutch privateers. The Dutch would wait outside of Chesapeake Bay or the Bristol or English Channels or off Ireland and wait for the British ships.

E.g. Eight Dutch ships with six more in reserve captured the “Alexander of Bristol about 60 leagues Westward of Ireland”.



1654, July During the interregnum. Bristol Corporation (aka the Merchant Venturers) expressed a desire, in its 'instructions' that MPs for the city should prevent growth of English tobacco which was to the "extraordinary prejudice" of local trade. The constant sale of English crops nullified, to a large extent, what advantages the out-ports, e.g. Bristol gained from the prohibition of foreign tobacco.

1692-93 Giles Merrick, Bristol merchant and ex-Mayor of Bristol, prosecuted for importing tobacco on board a Dutch vessel.



- Virginia – early colonisation, tobacco monoculture, indentured servants, use of slaves, impact on indigenous peoples

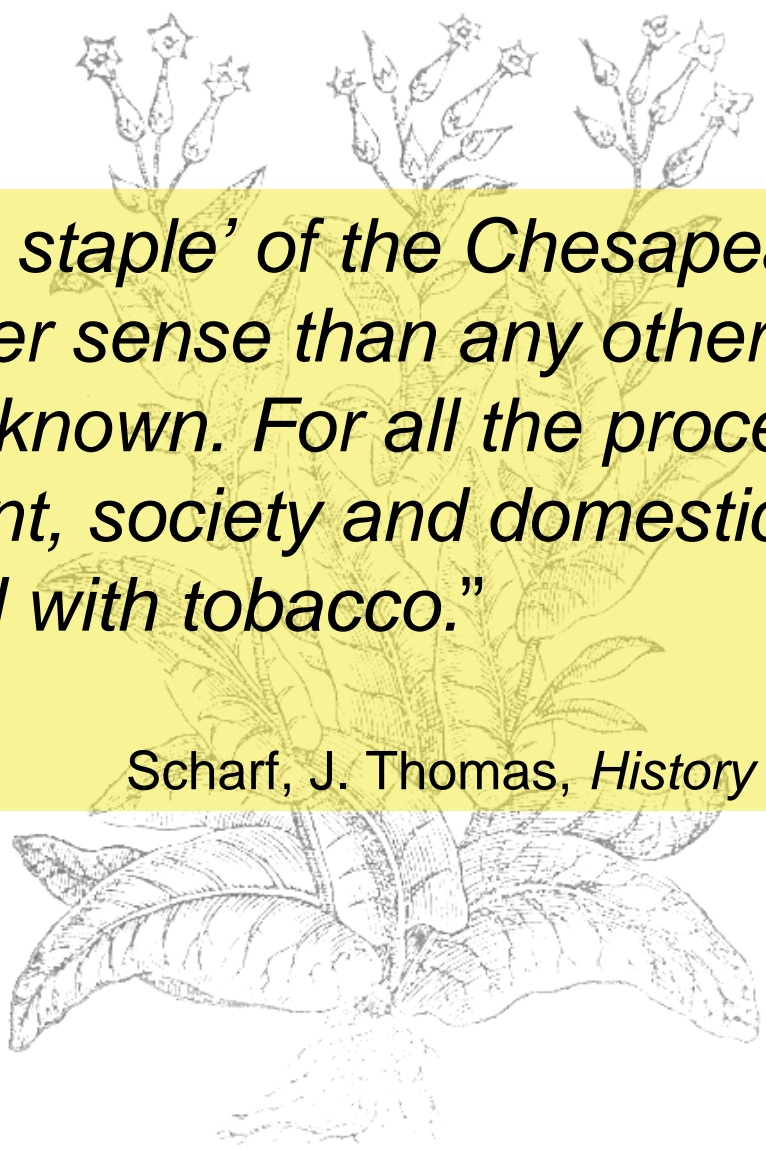


While it is important to focus on the Virginia tobacco trade. Early English tobacco was also grown on the island of Bermuda.

1505 Bermuda Islands named after Juan de Bermúdez.

1609 Expedition under Admiral Sir George Somers, nine ships carrying about 500 colonists sent by the Virginia Company of London to Jamestown, Virginia. The flagship foundered off Bermuda.

This led to the British colonisation of Bermuda, called the Somers Islands, in **1612**, when the Virginia Company sent Richard More to establish a seat of government.



“It was the staple’ of the Chesapeake colonies in a broader sense than any other staple the world has known. For all the processes of government, society and domestic life began and ended with tobacco.”

Scharf, J. Thomas, *History of Maryland*, 1967

How Virginia Tobacco became known as “Green Gold”

1701: American colonies were England's most important trade partner after Holland. The colonies exported an average of £205,000 worth of commodities per year from 1701-1710.

They imported £200,000 worth of English goods.

1760: English trade with these colonies was £1,197,000.

The Tobacco Coast provided Britain with 54 percent of all its imports and consumed 30 percent of its exports.

1770: Of the £1,750,000 worth of North American exports in tobacco alone accounted for over half, at £900,000. The profits of slave-produced tobacco to the mercantile system were enormous.



And why was tobacco no longer a scarce commodity by 1660?

Slaves served as the backbone of the tobacco economy. Without them there would have been no one to till the ground, plant the seeds, raise the plants, harvest, and cure the tobacco.

Just to cover all eventualities the government of Virginia passed an Act in 1682 decreeing that all blacks who are not Christian when purchased will be slaves.

Between 1650 – 1675 in Virginia slave populations grew from 2% to 42% of the population.

Bristol slave ships supplied half the slaves to Virginia in the first half of the 1700s.

Virginia Tobacco Exports : Number of Slaves

1616: 2,300 lbs.

1617: 20,000 lbs.

1618: 50,000 lbs.

1622: 60,000 lbs.

1626: 300,000 lbs.

1627: 500,000 lbs

1639: 1,500,000 lbs.

1648:

1670:

1700: 22,000,000 lbs.

1790:

20 slaves

23 slaves

1% of population

Demand for labour exceeds the supply of indentured servants.

300 slaves (2% of population)

2,000 slaves (5% of population)

8,000 slaves (14% of population)

287,959 slaves (42% of population)



Tobacco as currency:

“Persons encouraging Negro meetings were to be fined 1,000 pounds of tobacco; owners letting Negroes keep horses were fined 500 pounds tobacco.”

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Maryland, 1967

And, let's not forget the clergy of Virginia.

If a person wanted to become married, he had to go to the rector of his parish and pay the clergy in tobacco.

1639 Clergy were paid their 'Tithes' in tobacco (10lbs of tobacco per pole for every tithable person).

1758 The authorities in Virginia tried to get the clergy to accept money instead of slave grown tobacco ~ the clergy refused.



Hoeing & sowing on cleared ground ~ note freshly felled trees



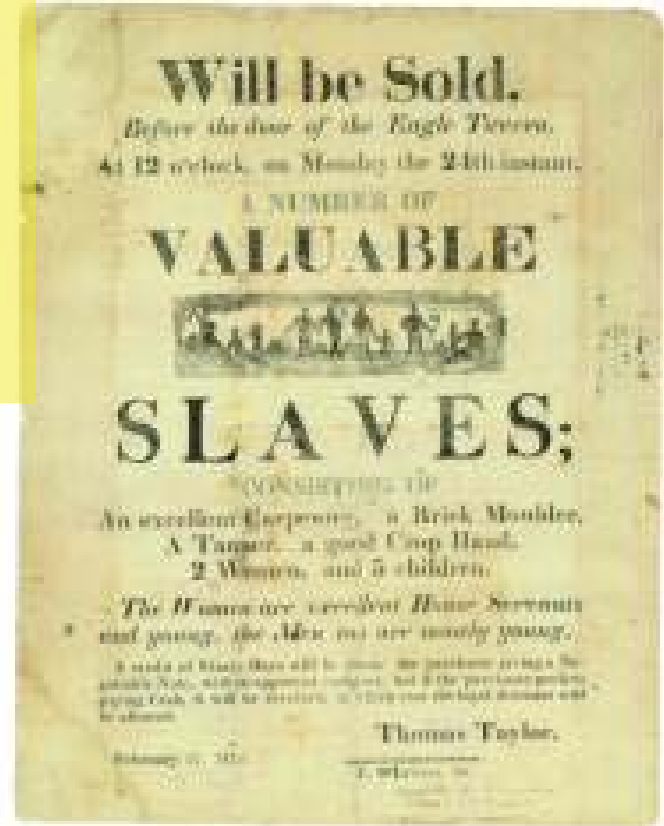
Skills



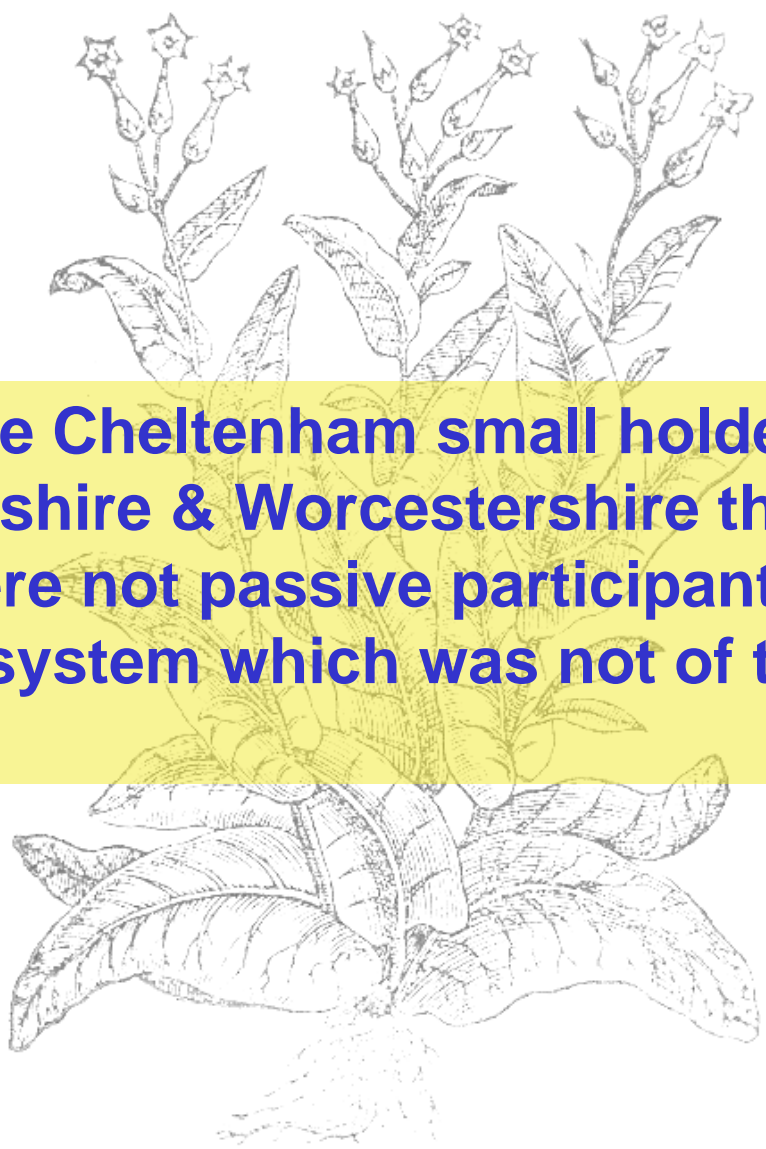
Women slaves



Right: Broadside; “Will be Sold, Valuable Slaves,” letterpress with illustration of slaves in tobacco field. Courtesy of Swann Galleries



Left: Image of black tobacco plantation slaves and a white master

A detailed botanical illustration of tobacco plants. The top part shows three upright stems with small, five-petaled flowers and buds. The bottom part shows a larger, more mature plant with broad, veined leaves and a central stem with a developing flower bud. The entire illustration is rendered in a fine-line, engraved style.

Just like the Cheltenham small holders of Gloucestershire & Worcestershire the slaves of Virginia were not passive participants in an economic system which was not of their making....

1663, Virginia. First serious slave conspiracy in Colonial America involving plot of white servants and black slaves in Gloucester County.



inst, at the Market-House.
A parcel of likely YOUNG NEGROES
consisting of a man about 30 years of
age, a woman about 20, a boy about 12,
and a girl about 10.

1730, Virginia. Slave conspiracies.

and continue until they are sold. Due at-
tendance will be given by
Devi Carico.

1800, Virginia. Gabriel Prosser wanted to establish a black state in Virginia. Only a storm forced the suspension of an attack on Richmond, by Prosser and 1,000 slaves.

paid down and the remainder on a more
James
James

1831, Virginia. Nat Turner's revolt.
57 whites killed. The actions of the
rebels and their massacre by troops
helped to bring about changes
policies by the white establishment.



inst, at the Market-House.
A parcel of likely YOUNG NEGROES
consisting of a man about 30 years of
age, a woman about 25, a boy about 12,
another boy about 5, and another boy about

1834, St. Kitts. Strike and then rebellion
against the Act to transform slaves into
'apprentices'. 16 leaders were put on trial, 5
were deported to **Bermuda**. Their rebellion
contributed to the decision of the British
Government to reduce apprenticeship to 4
years and abolish slavery on August 1, 1838.

1841, Virginia. Slave revolt on slave trader ship the 'Creole'. Slaves overpowered crew and sailed vessel to the Bahamas where they were granted asylum and freedom.



A parcel of likely YOUNG NEGROES consisting of a man about 30 years of age, a woman about 25, a boy about 12, another boy about 5, and a girl about 3. Sale will commence about 10 o'clock and continue until all are sold. Due attendance will be given by

1859, Virginia. John Browns raid on Harpers Ferry by his small army of liberation.

Nashville, May 3-

Notice to

THE subscriber r the citizens of Nashville and the public in general, that he has again star-



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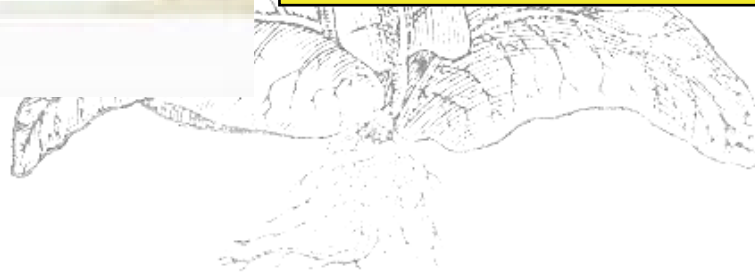


Between 1830 and 1860, the tobacco planters of Virginia sold out of that state some 300,000 slaves who walked with coffles as far as Arkansas.

A new era of exploitation had begun in the cotton fields of the South.



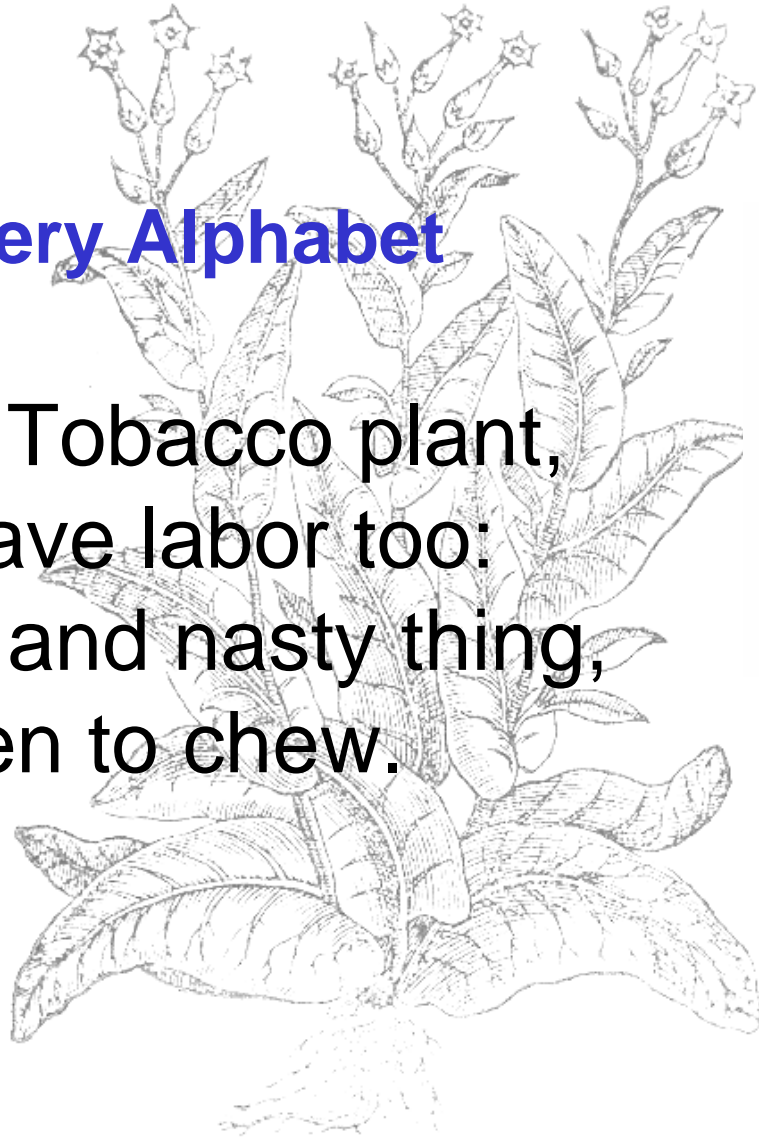
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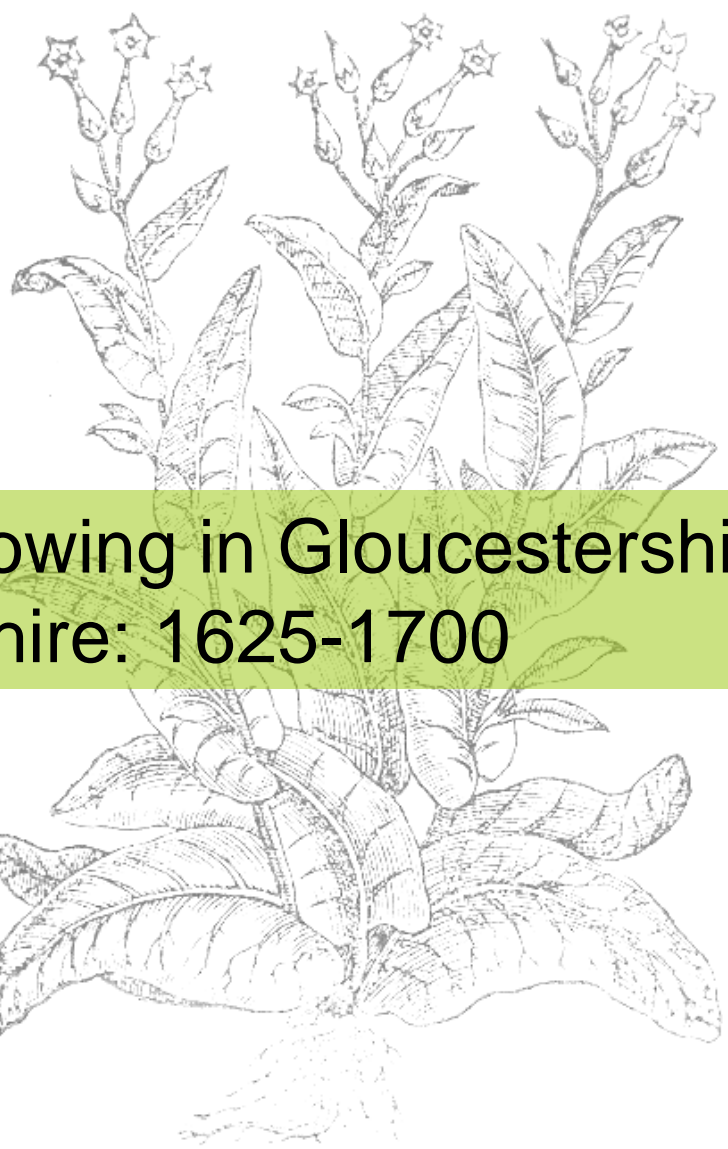


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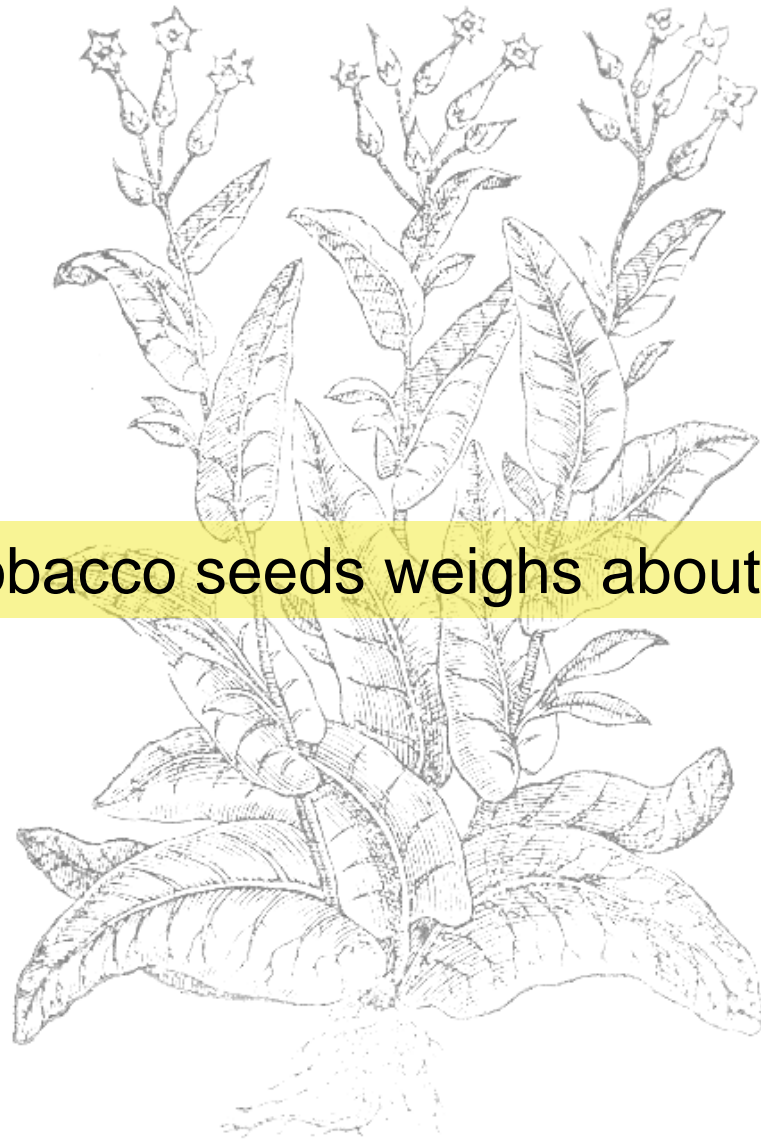
The Anti-Slavery Alphabet

T is the rank Tobacco plant,
Raised by slave labor too:
A poisonous and nasty thing,
For gentlemen to chew.

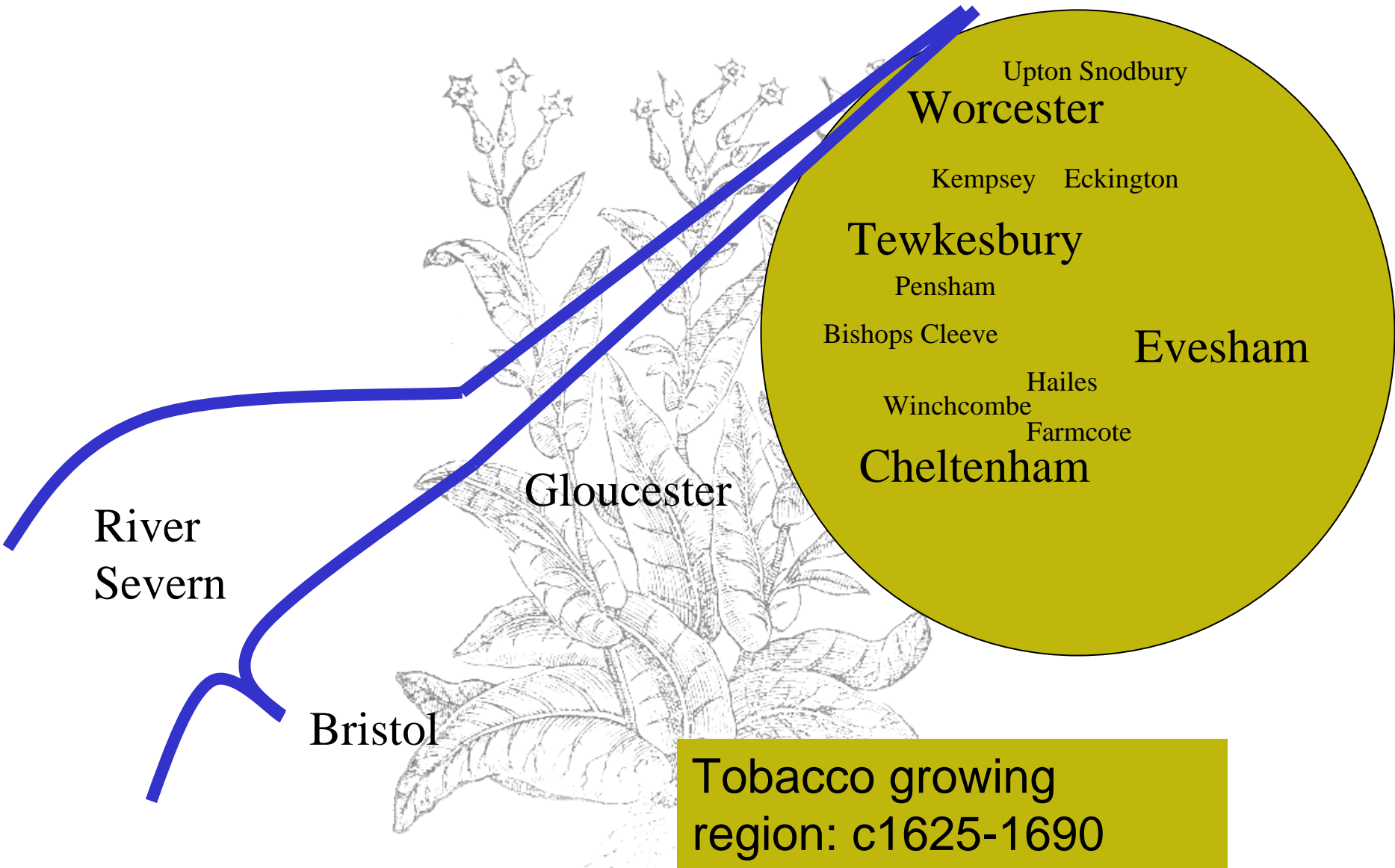




- Tobacco growing in Gloucestershire & Worcestershire: 1625-1700



- 1,500,000 tobacco seeds weighs about one ounce



Taking on the Stuart State



1598: In the House of Lords discuss that English and Irish farmers might be permitted to grow tobacco at a profit.

1619: London merchant, John Stratford, purchased spare land in and around Winchcombe and planted tobacco.

1619: Act banning Tobacco growing in England passed – just as first crop in Winchcombe ready to harvest.

Taking on the Stuart State

1631: Charles 1st Proclamations were read out in Gloucestershire.

Justices of the Peace in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire urged to take immediate action.

A number of arrests but the practice of growing tobacco and selling (sometimes as Virginia tobacco) continued.

1635: Officers trying to interfere with tobacco growing in Gloucestershire were met with resistance.

1640-48: Small holders, who rent from Landlords, support Parliamentary cause in English Revolution.



Taking on the Commonwealth State

1652: A fresh Act in prohibiting the domestic growing of tobacco as it was still forming competition with the Virginian Trade. The growers succeeded in gaining a year's reprieve, arguing that *"their crops will be perilled and lost, and it will be ye ruin of very many labourers . . ."*

Cromwell allowed just one years crop to be sown and reaped.

MPs for Bristol support the Act as the city's merchants want to maintain colonial trade (By 1670 half of Bristol's shipping was employed in the tobacco trade).



Taking on the Commonwealth State

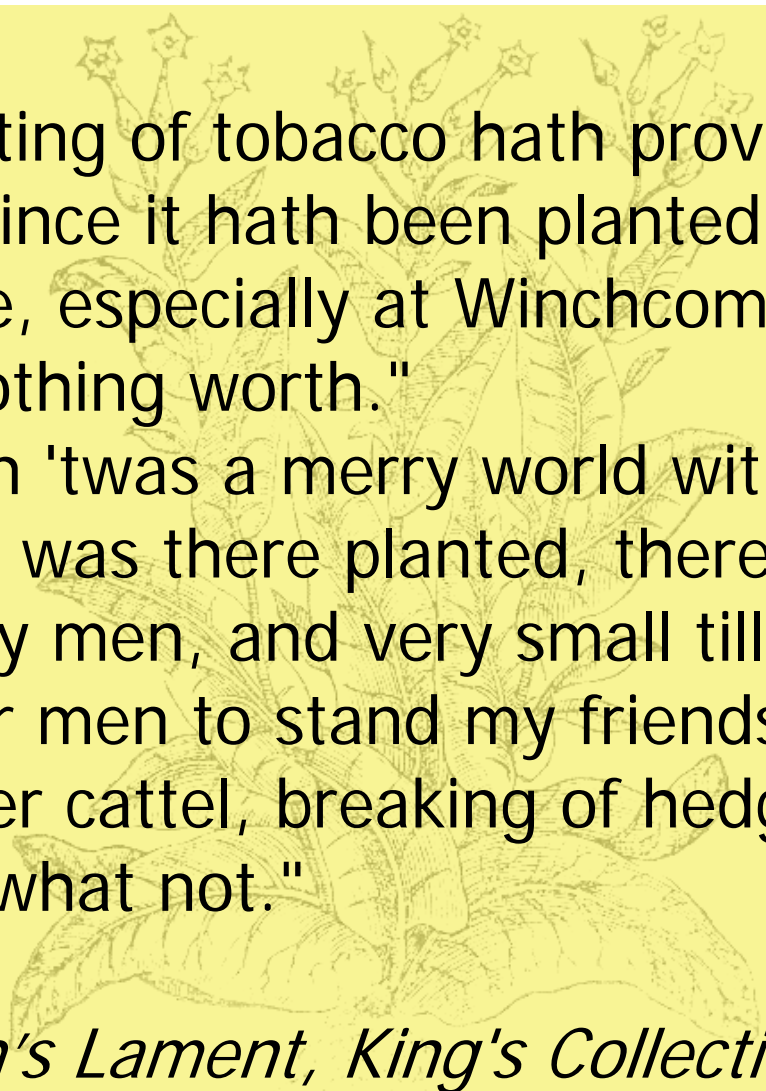
1654: The tobacco crop was larger than ever

Bristol merchants protest. Bristol Corporation (aka the Merchant Venturers) instructed that their MPs should prevent growth of English tobacco.

Special Commissioners empowered by Parliament to prohibit domestic tobacco growing. But their enforcement of the law resulted in the locals raising a force of some three hundred horse and foot to resist government troops.

1655: So popular was tobacco growing in the area the Gloucestershire hangman lamented....





"The very planting of tobacco hath proved the decay of my trade, for since it hath been planted in Gloucestershire, especially at Winchcombe, my trade hath proved nothing worth."

He adds: "Then 'twas a merry world with me, for indeed before tobacco was there planted, there being no kind of trade to employ men, and very small tillage, necessity compelled poor men to stand my friends by stealing of sheep and other cattel, breaking of hedges, robbing of orchards, and what not."

Hangman's Lament, King's Collection, June 11, 1655

Taking on the Commonwealth State

1658: Thomas Colclough, monopolist tobacco merchant. He was one of eight signatories to a Petition to the state to stop Cotswold tobacco growing.

The Petition's outcome is found in a letter from Jo Beaman to Colclough:

"... I got together 36 horse and went to Cheltenham early and found an armed multitude guarding the tobacco field. We broke through them and went into the town but found no peace officer but a rabble of men and women calling for blood for their tobacco so had there been any action blood would have been spilt. The soldiers stood firm and with cocked pistols bade the multitude disperse but they would not and 200 more came from Winchcombe.... Ten men would not in 4 days destroy the good Tobacco about Cheltenham. The Cornet would not act and some of the County troops are dealers and planters. I was forced to retreat; the justices rather hinder than help us. The soldiers say if this be suffered, farewell all levies and taxes, and farewell the Virginia trade for tobacco. I can do nothing till I hear from you."



Taking on the Commonwealth State


1658: Colonel Wakefield, the Governor of Gloucester sent a Troop of Horse to uproot the crops. One contemporary described it thus:

"The country did rise against in a great body, to the number of 500 or 600, giving them very reviling and threatening speeches, even to kill them, horse and man, if that he [Wakefield] and his soldiers did come onthe tumult being so great he was constrained to draw off, and nothing more done."



Taking on the Commonwealth State

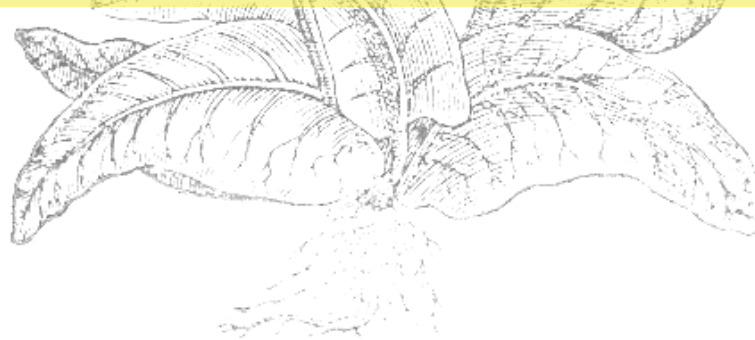
1659: *As force was not effective court cases were brought against plantation owners in Kempsey, Upton Snodsbury, Pensham and Eckington for growing and curing tobacco. Each had 400 poles (About 2.5 acres ~ 80 poles/acre) under cultivation and each was fined £400 (£1 per pole).*



Taking on the Orange Monarchist State ~ years of counter revolution



1662: Direction that crops should be banned, and long-term monarchist Sir Humphrey Hooke (associate of Thomas Colston), ex-Mayor of Bristol, and Sheriff of Gloucestershire, was ordered in the May of that year to resist anybody who tried to stop him from destroying the crops. The growing of tobacco actually spread to other counties and to Ireland





Taking on the Orange Monarchist State ~ years of counter revolution

1667: Diary of Samuel Pepys: September 19th.

“...the lifeguard... was sent down into the country about some insurrection, was sent to Winchcombe, to spoil the tobacco there, which it seems the people there do plant contrary to law, and have always done, and still been under force and danger of having it spoiled, as it hath been oftentimes, and yet they will continue to plant.”



Taking on the Orange Monarchist State ~ years of counter revolution

1678: Thomas Colclough, again, was organiser of a petition to the King from seventy-six "Merchants, planters and traders to the English Plantations in America but more especially Virginia setting forth the great detriment of planting tobacco in England and imploring that an Act of Parliament be speedily passed to prevent the abuse"

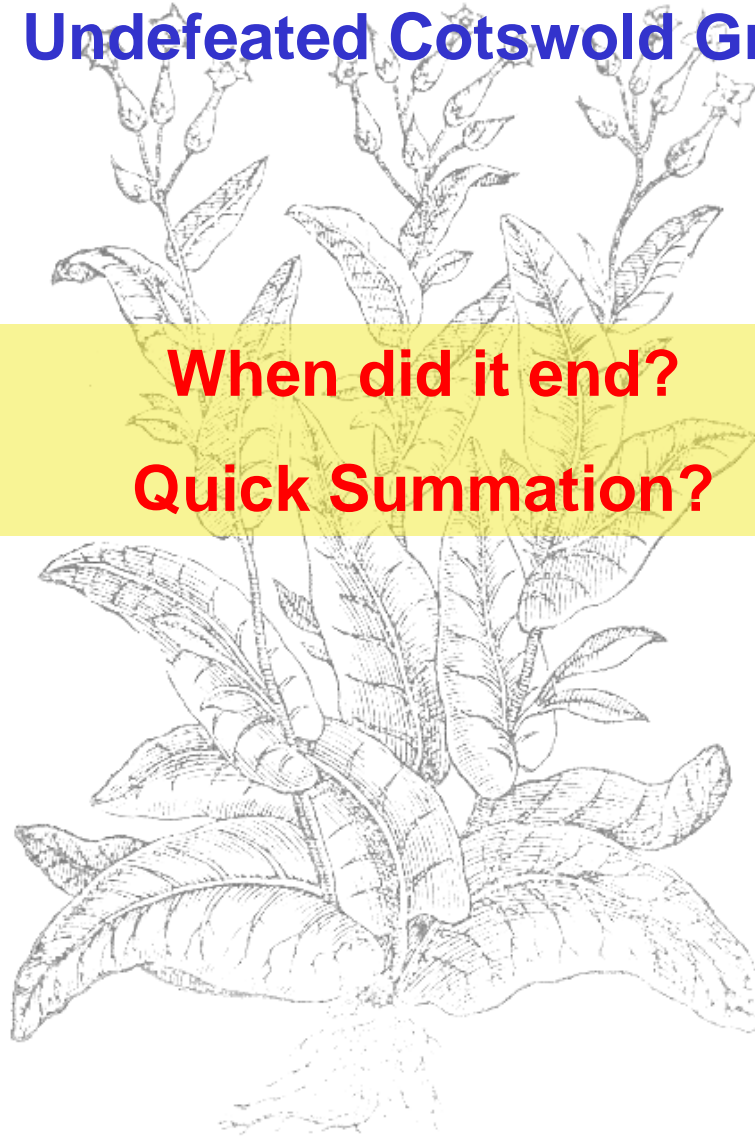


**Taking on the Orange
Monarchist State ~ years of
counter revolution**

1695: John Redding of Kempsey was fined for planting, growing, setting, making, and curing tobacco at Kempsey.

Undeclared Cotswold Growers

**When did it end?
Quick Summation?**





- Today's European tobacco growing industry



Tax

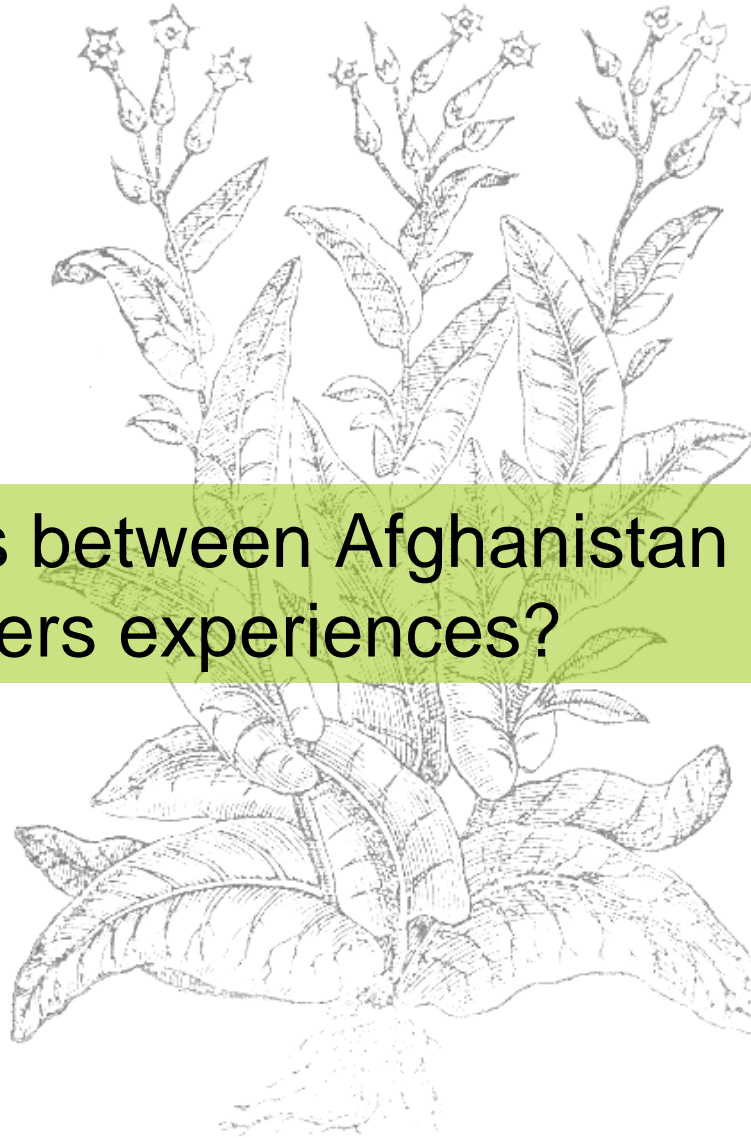
People in the UK spend £12 billion a year on tobacco products of which £10 billion is tax.



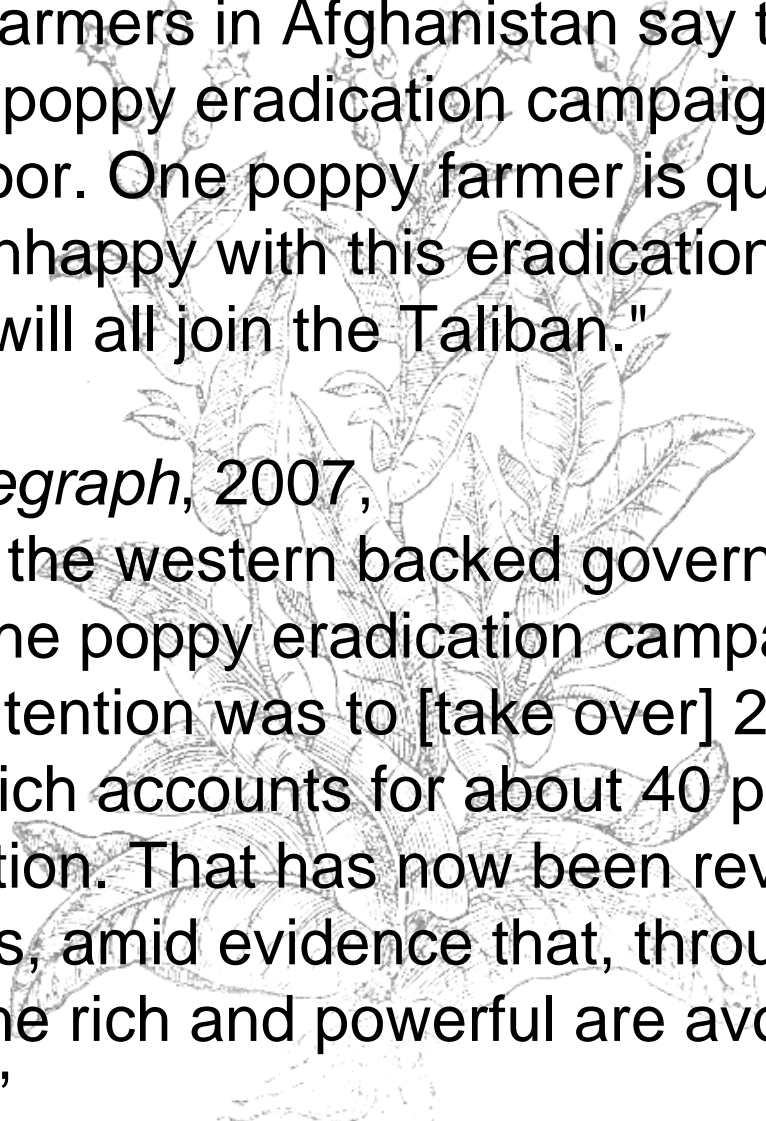
European tobacco growing today

1997 EU spent £735 million on subsidies, £5,370 for each of the 135,000 tobacco growers in France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Belgium.

A high proportion of tobacco grown in Europe is unmarketable. It is sold at give-away prices to Eastern Europe and Africa.




- Similarities between Afghanistan and Cotswold small farmers experiences?

- 
- Some poppy farmers in Afghanistan say that the government's poppy eradication campaign will leave them jobless and poor. One poppy farmer is quoted as saying "People are unhappy with this eradication campaign; if it goes on they will all join the Taliban."

The Daily Telegraph, 2007,

- "Corruption in the western backed government is undermining the poppy eradication campaign in Helmand. The original intention was to [take over] 22,000 hectares in a province which accounts for about 40 per cent of national poppy production. That has now been revised downward to 7,000 hectares, amid evidence that, through bribery and intimidation, the rich and powerful are avoiding destruction of their crops."



Afghanistan ~ Cost of war (USA only) 2002-07 = \$126 Billion = \$25billion a year

World Hunger ~ The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates that over 800 million people worldwide are hungry

An annual increase of \$24 billion in anti-hunger effort would reduce hunger, faced by 800 million people, by half by 2015



Again, State authorities have clear choices plainly laid before them.

- **It was: Slave-grown tobacco or home-grown?**

- **It is now: War and oil or elimination of world hunger**

Unfortunately State authorities operate with a mindset fixed in the C17th

Fortunately, we know that people across the world continually and successfully resist any subjection to this mindset

Thank you, and, my thanks to the Bristol Radical History Group for inviting me to speak this afternoon.

Your next speaker will be....