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THE ORIGIN OF CACAO AND THE CHOCOLATE CONSUMPTION IN EUROPE BY THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY

Summary

With the discovery of the New World, Europe comes in contact with new foods, and one of them is the cacao grain, the main ingredient of chocolate. Although the first association with the word chocolate is a sweet bar, during a bigger part of its history, chocolate has been consumed as a beverage. With references to the available literature and resources, this paper gives an insight into the consumption of chocolate in Europe from the first european contact with this exotic ingredient untill the end of the 18th century. Furthermore, the area of research is restricted to specific domains of Europe since the literature has the most data about Spain, France and England.

Key words: *cacao, chocolate, beverage, Europe, Spain, France, England, New World*