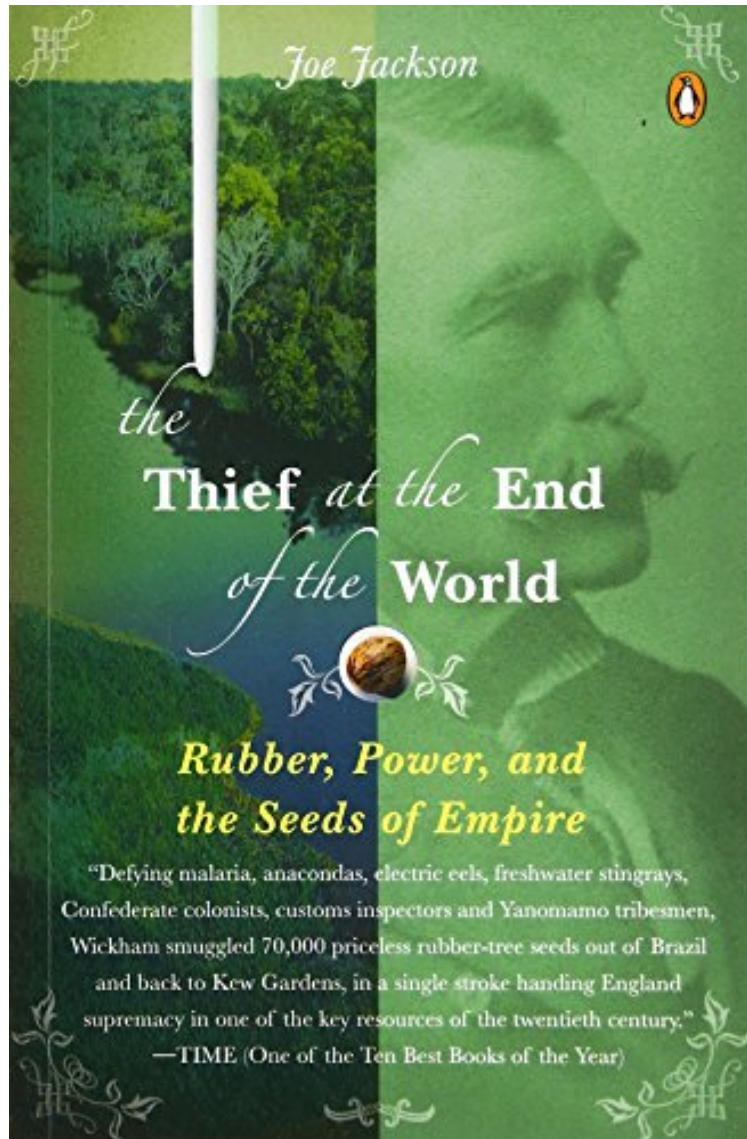


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# The Thief at the End of the World: Rubber, Power, and the Seeds of Empire

Joe Jackson

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#1405303 in Books Joe Jackson 2009-02-24 2009-02-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.43 x .89 x 5.53l, .78 #File Name: 0143114611432 pages The Thief at the End of the World Rubber Power and the Seeds of Empire | File size: 58.Mb

**Joe Jackson : The Thief at the End of the World: Rubber, Power, and the Seeds of Empire** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Thief at the End of the World: Rubber, Power, and the Seeds of Empire:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A book with a journey!By GerryI read this book between 27 January

and 12 February, 2013. I enjoyed this book and the education of the many good Indian tribes. This book was everything I expected in terms of the historical story of rubber, the environment, and the encroachment of humans upon a necessary resource. Parts of the book will cover the environment by default but this isn't the topic of the book. The topic is the history of rubber. My interest in this book is the attachment it has to the Second World War and the Imperial Forces of Japan in their capture of the Malayan peninsula because of their need for rubber. The rubber groves there were started as a result of the smuggled seeds from Brazil through one Henry Wickham. A terrific story that will take you on many journeys. I am giving this 4 stars as opposed to 5 because I believe another 100 pages of material could have been added based on scientific evolution and production numbers; slight more detail in this regard would have suited this book better. However, it is a very good story and historical account of people found the following review helpful. Wonderful, full of history and adventure. By Trevor Simply a wonderful book, well researched and full of passionate analysis of what actually happened. As somebody interested and well experienced in the science of rubber and has witnessed first hand the plight of the rubber producing areas and people, it was a fascinating read. For somebody not experienced, it would serve as a wonderfully insightful and eye-opening look into a largely unknown part of our cultures history. The stories behind the tire on your car, told through the eyes of an adventurous (mis-adventurous, perhaps!) man of the past. This book will fill in gaps in your historical knowledge, while also serving desires for adventure and nature. Worth every penny. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An epic about rubber and its history. By Denis Benchimol Minev Rubber would not at first seem like such an exciting product. However, the history of it, from La Condamine's first samples brought from the to France to the momentous steal of seeds by Wickham (main character of the book) to Kew Gardens and later to Malaysia, is a truly outstanding saga of what would today be known as biopiracy but was at the time simply the obligation to serve the British crown. The economic collapse left behind by rubber in the is coupled with the progress brought upon the British colonies in southeast Asia. The book contemplates the history of why rubber (along with coal and steel) became such a valuable material desired and needed for much of the industrial and railroad revolution. The bottleneck was supply of rubber, which came from the tree in not too reachable circumstances in the . Wickham and the British crown sought to make it more productive and widely available (hence cheaper). In the midst of it all is the curious Wickham character - part idealist, part opportunist, who would eventually sacrifice everything (family, love, etc.) chasing dreams across the world from the to New Guinea. I highly recommend this book for anyone who is widely knowledgeable about the and would like more info on this singular event that changed its history.

The amazing tale of one of history's most daring acts of biopiracy-and how it changed history In this thrilling real-life account of bravery, greed, obsession, and ultimate betrayal, award-winning writer Joe Jackson brings to life the story of fortune hunter Henry Wickham and his collaboration with the empire that fueled, then abandoned him. In 1876, Wickham smuggled 70,000 rubber tree seeds out of the rainforests of Brazil and delivered them to Victorian England's most prestigious scientists at Kew Gardens. The story of how Wickham got his hands on those seeds-and the history-making consequences-is the stuff of legend. *The Thief at the End of the World* is an exciting true story of reckless courage and ambition that perfectly captures the essential nature of Great Britain's colonial adventure in South America.

From Booklist Featuring a strange adventurer and a revolution in the production of rubber, Jackson's tale takes readers to the hypnotic heart of the in the 1870s. There they meet Englishman Henry Wickham (1846-1928) toiling at the first of a series of obsessive failures as a planter. However, Wickham's name redounds through botanical and industrial history as the man who absconded from Brazil with seeds of *Hevea brasiliensis*, the rubber tree. Explaining that those seeds became the genetic root of the British Empire's domination of world rubber production in the early twentieth century, Jackson's comparison of that result with its origin in one eccentric's activity in the back-of-beyond yields a fascinating tale. In a finely crafted narrative, Jackson shows how Wickham embarked on his adult life hoping to become an explorer-writer but abandoned his travels in India for the lure of wild rubber. Domesticating rubber was on the agenda of Kew Gardens in London, and as Jackson links Wickham to Kew, his humanizing of the hard-to-like Wickham results in a winning storytelling performance. --Gilbert Taylor "Joe Jackson has written a compelling story of science and politics." -The Dallas Morning News "An exhilarating narrative, sweeping us through great discoveries and international rivalries." -Jenny Uglow, author of *The Lunar Men* About the Author Joe Jackson is the author of four works of nonfiction and a novel. He was an investigative reporter for the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot for 12 years, covering criminal justice and the states death row. He lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He can be reached through his website, [joejacksonbooks.com](http://joejacksonbooks.com).