



Review of African Political Economy >

Volume 34, 2007 - [Issue 112](#)

2,483 26

Views | CrossRef citations to date | Altmetric

3

Original Articles

'Fair Trade' with Africa

Michael Barratt Brown

Pages 267-277 | Published online: 25 Jun 2007

🗨 Cite this article 🔗 <https://doi.org/10.1080/03056240701449653>

Sample our
Politics & International
Relations Journals



>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

📄 Full Article

📊 Figures & data

📖 References

🗨 Citations

📊 Metrics

📄 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

🔗 Share

Abstract

The origin of Africa's current failure to benefit from the expansion of world trade lies in the colonial division of labour, the consequences of which persist in economic structures far more than in other continents. The consequent economic distortions emphasising export of primary products have been preserved by external forces and are now being reinforced by free markets. The 'fair trade' concept seeks to ensure a measure of surplus for some producers that the market – dominated by middle-men and oligopsonistic Western corporations – denies them. A leading force in the movement, TWIN, originated in London in the 1980s, and the movement now has worldwide trade approaching £1 billion, mainly in coffee, cocoa and tea, but also in rice and cotton. African countries have been prime beneficiaries. Although growth of 'fair trade' is extremely high, it is unlikely ever to displace 'free trade' in importance, but it may nevertheless promote a way out of poverty (including dependence on the commodities in question) for many people otherwise trapped in the hangover of

colonial power. This may be through gaining increasing control over the commodity chains of which at present they are only the first, fragmented element.

Notes

1. ‘Golden Guinea’: The guinea came into existence in 1663 under King Charles II and brought to Britain from Guinea by the Africa Company. It would have been worth one pound and one shilling (£1.05).

Related Research Data

[The Political Economy of Industrial Policy](#)

Source: Unknown Repository

[The Changing Structure of the British Economy](#)

Source: The Economic Journal

Linking provided by [ScholeSplorer](#)

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
26

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2025 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#)

[Accessibility](#)

 Taylor and Francis Group

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG