

Rubber Notes

Hevea brasiliensis. Euphorbaceae

Up to 40 m tall.

R strategy plant (latex)

Can be tapped for up to 25 years.

Well-drained soils

Native to Brazil.

Hevea from the Quechua word hieve for the rubber tree.

Aztec – Olmec – Maya Technology

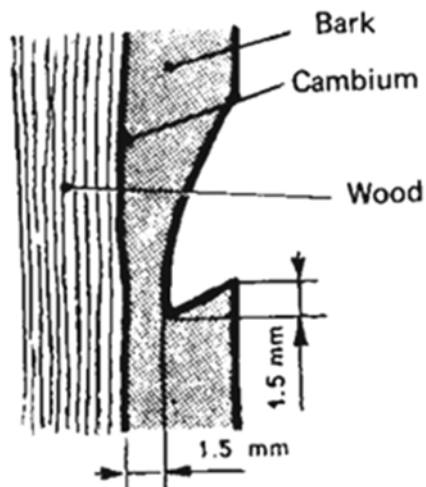
Mixed latex of *Castilla elastica* with morning glory juice
balls, sandals, incense

Limited use until vulcanization in 1839. Bicycles in 1890s

Two problems.

Transportation

Labor – skilled work



Labor – the production process

Who will do it. Drought of 1879

Atrocities, Roubichon and Casement.

The Rubber Boom and the development of Manaus.

Wealth – the theater.



Trade (herbs today).

The development of plantations in SE Asia.

1876 – Harry Wickam smuggles several thousand rubber seeds to Kew Gardens in England.
Seedlings from Kew are planted in Sri Lanka

Limited interest until the price of tea declines.

Vietnam. Oppression, poor working conditions.

Red Earth vs. Red Dust. Cultural comparison.

Fordlandia – ability for Ford Motor Company to get rubber



WWII – Japan takes over SE Asia rubber plantation. Where will rubber come from for the Allies?

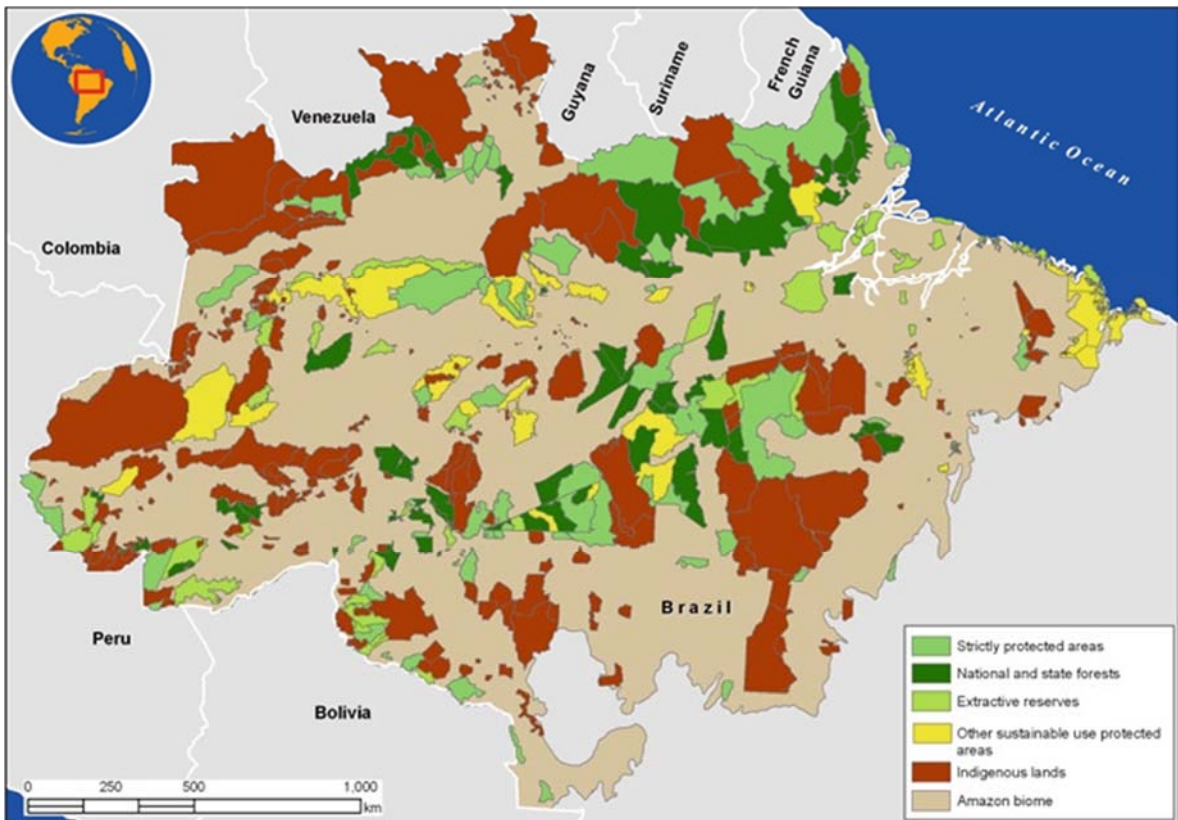
Rubber Soldiers



Rubber soldiers and 1988 constitution

Synthetic Rubber

Chico Mendes and Extractive Reserves



Changes among rubber tappers – urbanization and change in livelihood strategies

Illegal logging continues

Plantations in SE Asia

Carbon credits?

Rubber wood furniture