
Sprouting soy beans on cotton. By bringing together two materials: Soy Beans and Cotton, this project seeks to shed a light on the colonial past of the Speicher XI build as a cotton storage, and relate it to today's global hunger of Soy Beans as a commodity.

What you are seeing are **soy beans sprouting on cotton**. By bringing them together in this space, this project seeks to reveal the **invisible** past of this building as a cotton storage facility, and relate it to the current **global (europe, west?)** dependency for commodities such as soybeans.

- estamos no predio onde esses produtos eram armazenados
- produtos produzidos pelas colônias europeias
- produzidas grande parte por trabalho escravo
- isso possibilitou em grande parte pra atual situação econômica da europa e também dos países colonizados
- essa história agora se repete com diferentes atores, tecnologias através da produção de monocultura
- produção de monocultura que ta destruindo o meio-ambiente, mas ao mesmo tempo é oq hj em dia possibilita o brasil ter uma situação econômica relativamente ok (que também em parte possibilita eu e vc estarem aqui [])
- essa é uma história que se repete por muitos dos corpos que aqui estão etc

soja.

soya beans growing in the speicher-xi building.

the speicher-xi building was using for mainly for cotton storage during from the end of XIX century till after WWI.

It has served, as many other places in port locations throughout europe, as a hub, a storage unit of goods coming from historically colonized regions of the world, specially latin america and africa.

the goods here stored carried a history of exploited bodies and usurped lands.

and Bremen, for some time being a hub of the european colonial trade, shows many marks of this history.

One could say, much of the infrastructure that now surrounds us, and enables the current social economical standards lived in this city and beyond germany and western europe, was made possible by the economic activities of colonialism.

Brazil, as many other places in latin america, was part of such history. Much of the coffee and sugar which was brought here and made Bremen "a coffee city" was produced in plantations in brazil which mainly used slave labour from different places of africa (senegal, gambia, guiné-bissau, angola, mossambique, nigeria)





Bremen Cotton Exchange



SS Bremen - Passanger ship that cough fire because of cotton boxes in the pier.

Pics

<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/cotton-shipment.html?sortBy=relevant>

Research

Why cotton is called the dirtiest crop in the world

Cotton is a very pesticide-intensive crop. It is grown on 2.5% of the world's agricultural land but consumes 16% of all the insecticides and 7% of all herbicides used worldwide - that's more than any other crop in the world. Very harmful chemicals are used on cotton crops, including nerve agents and neurotoxins.

Facts on chemicals of cotton production

Almost 1kg of hazardous pesticides is used globally for every one hectare of cotton cropland. US\$ 3.3 billion of chemicals are sprayed on cotton crops globally every year.

Speicher XI is one of the quarter's rare pre-war facilities. It was founded in 1912 as a cotton depot with cartpushers, dockers, and tallymen working there for more than 80 years. The work was tough and often dangerous, especially for those who worked at the wharfs.

In 2021, Germany imported **\$1.22B** in Soybean Meal, mainly from Brazil (\$550M), Netherlands (\$389M), India (\$79.4M), Italy (\$37.9M), and Argentina (\$35.2M).

-addendum: Germany was prohibited from importing cotton from British colonies (India and Egypt), so there was a cotton shortage in the early 20th century. Cotton was being imported mainly from Turkey.

Germany's dependence on soy imports, especially from Brazil, is increasingly viewed with scepticism by many parts of the society. We are investigating whether and how imports can be reduced and how this affects the markets in Germany and the exporting countries.

A new Trase study finds that Germany is exposed to deforestation risk from Brazilian soy embedded in processed products and imported through ...

By importing soy from that hotspot, Germany contributes to the loss of biodiversity. Germany has a special responsibility in this regard as it has a high

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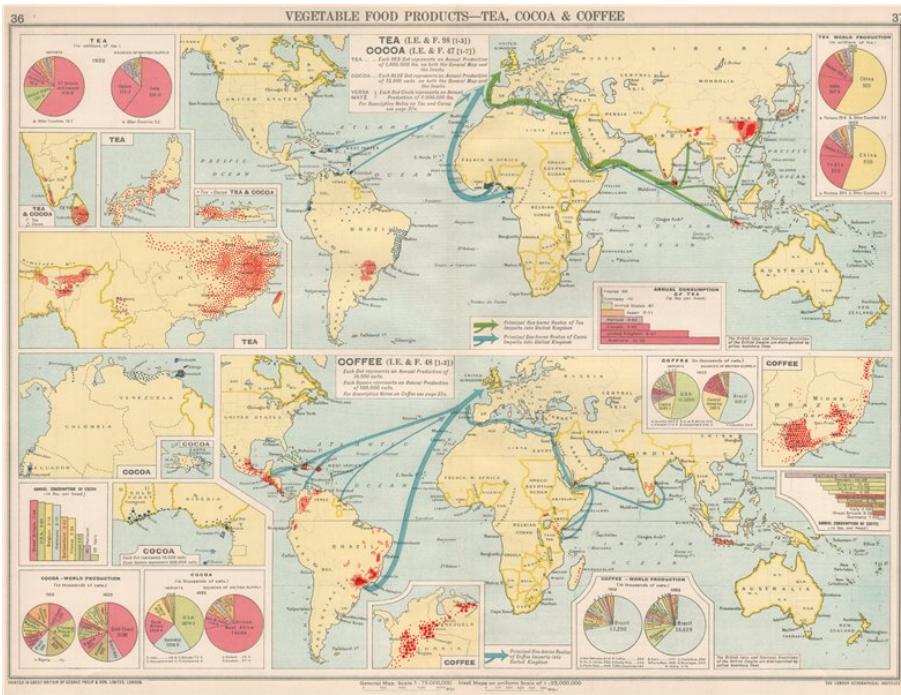
Description sketch:

Making the invisible history of a space visible. Surfacing history.
Speicher XI has been a depot for imported cotton coming from European Colonies, like Egypt and India for most of the 20th century.

This project aims to reveal the hidden history of this building. To bring to surface the colonial and exploitation history of the neighborhood. The soy bean seeds growing in the cotton represent the European dependency of commodities produced in [global south](#)/ Latin America and how that is connected to current rainforest deforestation. Brazil is the largest soy exporter in the world and crops are located mainly around Brazil's 'ring of deforestation' in the states that border that Amazon region. The world's hunger for commodities fuels the expansion of this agricultural border, putting the rainforest in danger.

By connecting the past to the present, the project reveals the interconnectedness of the [global north](#)'s Europe's hunger for primary products and the exploitation of land and people





Sprout?