

# AZUCAR

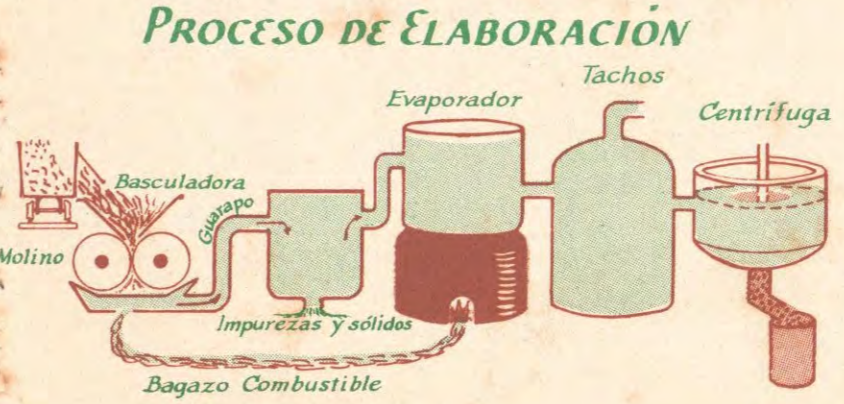
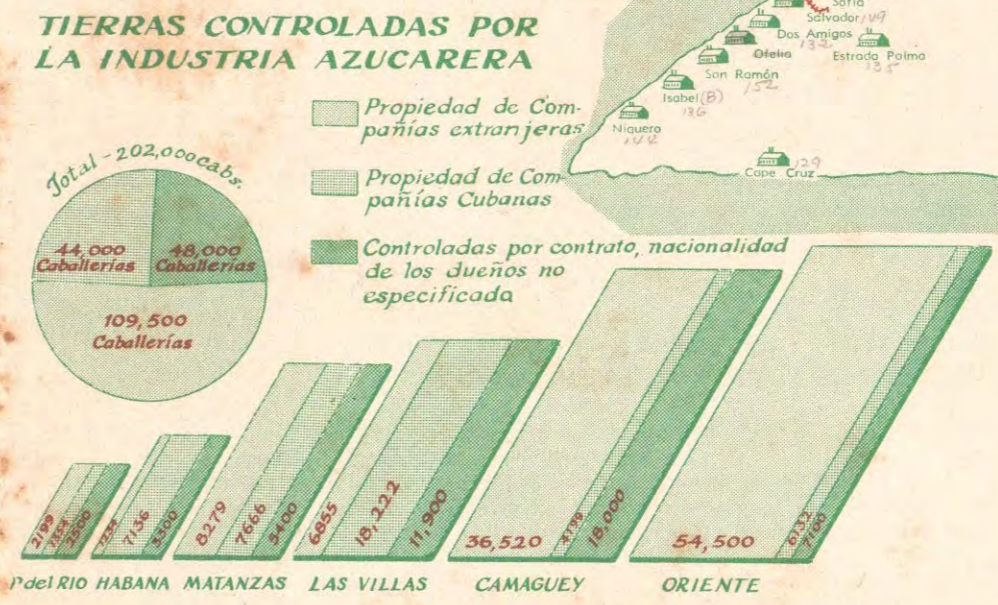
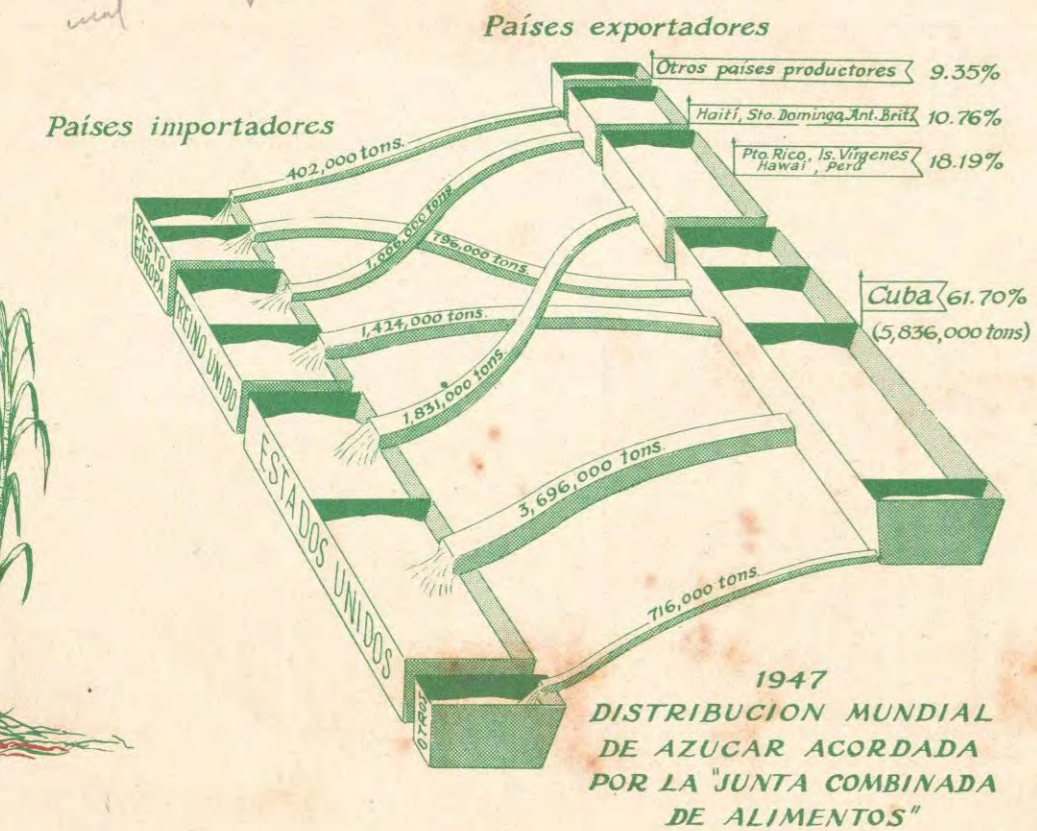


Cuba exporta más de la mitad del azúcar mundial

LA HABANA



Los rectángulos representan el consumo anual de azúcar en distintos países antes de la II Guerra Mundial



Cuba has 44,164 square miles. Of this total 10,300 square miles are controlled by the sugar industry. In 1938 the area planted with sugar cane amounted to 2,270 square miles. The war provided a stimulus for a rapid expansion of sugar output. Therefore, land area planted with sugar cane increased to about 3,820 square miles in 1947. It amounts to 52% of all cultivated land in Cuba. A good deal of this expansion was done at the expense of minor crops which used to supply domestic consumption. However, the unusual high income made possible by the sugar exports of those years permitted an increase in imports that more than offset the loss of this domestic production. The end of the war and the reconstruction of other sugar producing areas is expected to put the brakes to any further expansion of sugar output. A falling price of sugar and accumulated sugar surpluses do not necessarily have to produce an acute economic crisis in Cuba if the original program of diversification is resumed on time to avoid it. The accumulated dollar balances of these prosperous years may serve as a cushion for the transition period and as the basis for investment in the expansion of other fields of production.

In recognition of the United States dependency on Cuba for its supply of sugar in times of an emergency, a larger share of the United States consumption should be claimed for the island. Such an effort together with a diversification program enhanced by a revision of Cuba's fiscal, tariff, wages, credit, and investment policies may allow for an effective reformation of the economy. Such action may prevent a fall of the standard of living reached in recent years and allow for a future expansion of the national income on a more secure and stable basis than it has done so far.