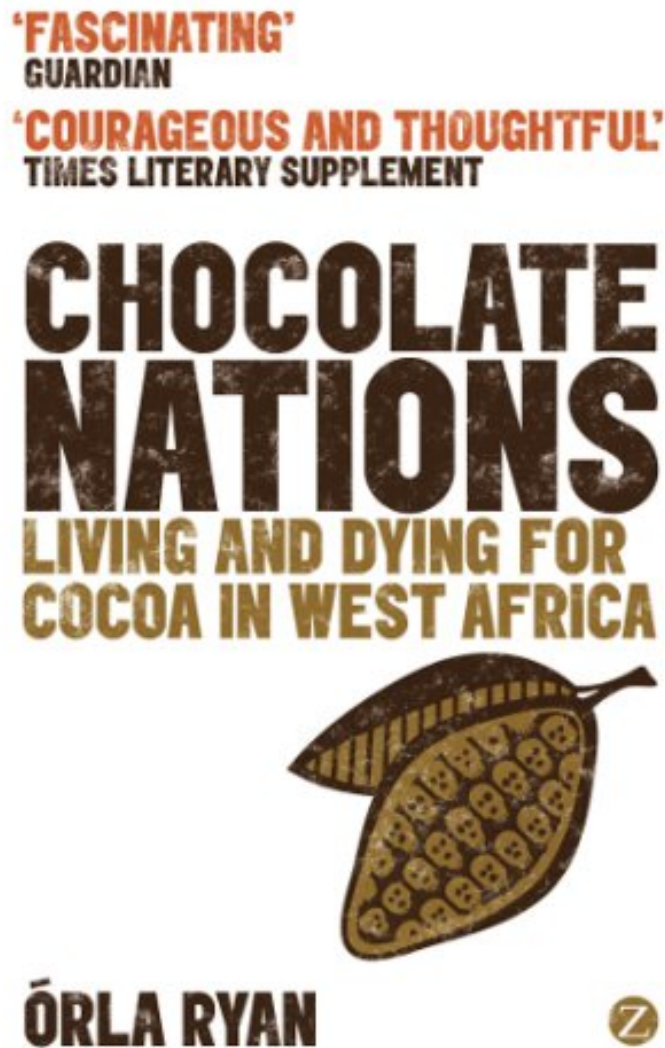


## Chocolate Nations: Living and Dying for Cocoa in West Africa (African Arguments)

*Oacute;rla Ryan*

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**Oacute;rla Ryan : Chocolate Nations: Living and Dying for Cocoa in West Africa (African Arguments)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chocolate Nations: Living and Dying for Cocoa in West Africa (African Arguments):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Revelatory and thoughtfulBy Kwei QuarteyI am so glad that I read this book. In preparing to write an article for the Huffington Post about chocolate and cocoa, I was introduced to issues about which I had previously had no knowledge. A couple other reviewers have given good summaries, so I won't

attempt to add, but I want to say that if you are a chocolate consumer or anyone with an interest in how this crazy world works (or doesn't), I recommend you read this. Every couple pages I found myself thinking, "Oh! Really?" every time I came across a new piece of information. The book is short, so not having enough time to read it is no excuse. (I don't have any time either, but I read it.) Once you've done that, you'll never buy or think about chocolate in the same way as before. You'll understand the history behind that delicious nibble. I for one will now buy only Omani chocolate, one of the few brands actually made in Ghana, the second largest cocoa bean producer in the world. One of the most interesting aspects of the book is Ryan's examination of the fair trade issue. Think it's simple? Yes, I thought so too. I was wrong. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful account  
By A Customer  
I walked away from this book with a deeper understanding of the complex issue of cocoa farming. Orla does a fantastic job of adding objectivity and nuance to a heated topic - and she does it in an engaging and easy-to-read way. Highly recommended read! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An interesting read on the west African chocolate industry and ...  
By TED KAZA  
An interesting read on the west African chocolate industry and how it works. Very interesting I felt it dragged at points but all and all, very informative!

Chocolate - the very word conjures up a hint of the forbidden and a taste of the decadent. Yet the story behind the chocolate bar is rarely one of luxury. From the thousands of children who work on plantations to the smallholders who harvest the beans, *Chocolate Nations* reveals the hard economic realities of our favourite sweet. This vivid and gripping exploration of the reasons behind farmer poverty includes the human stories of the producers and traders at the heart of the West African industry. Orla Ryan shows that only a tiny fraction of the cash we pay for a chocolate bar actually makes it back to the farmers, and sheds light on what Fair Trade really means on the ground. Provocative and eye-opening, *Chocolate Nations* exposes the true story of how the treat we love makes it on to our supermarket shelves.

'A captivating read, painting a lively picture of the West African cocoa trade from a variety of perspectives.' Daniel Balint Kurti, *Global Witness* 'I gave up eating chocolate years ago after seeing at first hand the exploitation that surrounds its production in Africa. Since then, endless panaceas and fair trading schemes have failed to improve the lot of the farmers. It was about time a book like this was written.' Stephen Chan OBE, author of *The End of Certainty* 'That Mmmoment when our lips meet the melticious chocolate bar we've been waiting for all day ... well, it could be the last bite we take of it that tastes right after reading this expose of the cocoa industry. "Fair trade" is a great feelgood advertising line, but it is often a contradiction in terms. Not much profit trickles down from the shelves of our shops to the farmers and child labour (in reality, trafficked or slave labour, Ryan says) of Ghana and Ivory Coast whose poverty is covered up by weasel words from trade associations and financial interests glibly defending exploitation and profiteering.' *The Times* 'A fascinating account of the struggles of cocoa producers in West Africa, almost all of them smallholders, and what it takes to turn a crop of cocoa into a warehouse full of Ferrero Rocher.' *The Guardian* 'Paints a disturbing and subtle picture of an industry few chocolate consumers think about.' *Sydney Morning Herald* 'Arresting and provocative. The author's interviews with labourers movingly illuminate the struggles that lie behind an icon of western indulgence.' *Financial Times* 'Presents the tragic and shocking detail behind the world's favourite confectionery.' *New Agriculturist* 'A courageous and thoughtful account of a murky industry.' *Times Literary Supplement*  
About the Author  
Orla Ryan is a freelance journalist based in London. She previously worked for the BBC, and as a journalist in Africa. In recent years she worked for Reuters in Ghana, where, among other stories, she covered the West African cocoa sector.