



## Shea Butter Republic: State Power, Global Markets, and the Making of an Indigenous Commodity (Paperback)

By Brenda Chalfin

Taylor Francis Ltd, United Kingdom, 2004. Paperback. Condition: New. New.. Language: English . Brand New Book. Shea butter (*butyrospermin parkii*) has been produced and sold by rural West African women and circulated on the world market as a raw material for more than a century. Shea butter has been used for cooking, making soap and candles, leatherworking, dying, as a medical and beauty aid, and most significantly, as a substitute for cocoa butter in chocolate production. Now sold in exclusive shops as a high-priced cosmetic and medicinal product, it caters to the desire of cosmopolitan customers worldwide for luxury and exotic self-indulgence. This ethnographic study traces shea from a pre- to post-industrial commodity to provide a deeper understanding of emerging trends in tropical commoditization, consumption, global economic restructuring and rural livelihoods. Also includes seven maps.



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