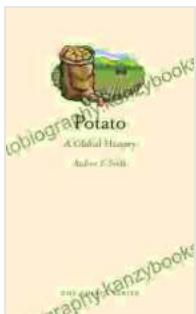


# Potato: A Global History of the Edible Underground Tuber

The potato is a starchy, tuberous crop from the nightshade family, native to the Andean region of South America. It has been a staple food for centuries, and is now grown in over 100 countries worldwide. Potatoes are a versatile food, and can be eaten fresh, boiled, baked, fried, or mashed. They are also used to make a variety of dishes, such as potato chips, french fries, and vodka.

## Origins and Domestication

The potato is thought to have originated in the Andes mountains of Peru and Bolivia, where it was first domesticated by the Inca people around 8,000 years ago. The Inca developed a number of different potato varieties, and used them as a staple food. Potatoes were also used for religious ceremonies and rituals.



**Potato: A Global History (Edible)** by Andrew F. Smith

★★★★★ 4.2 out of 5

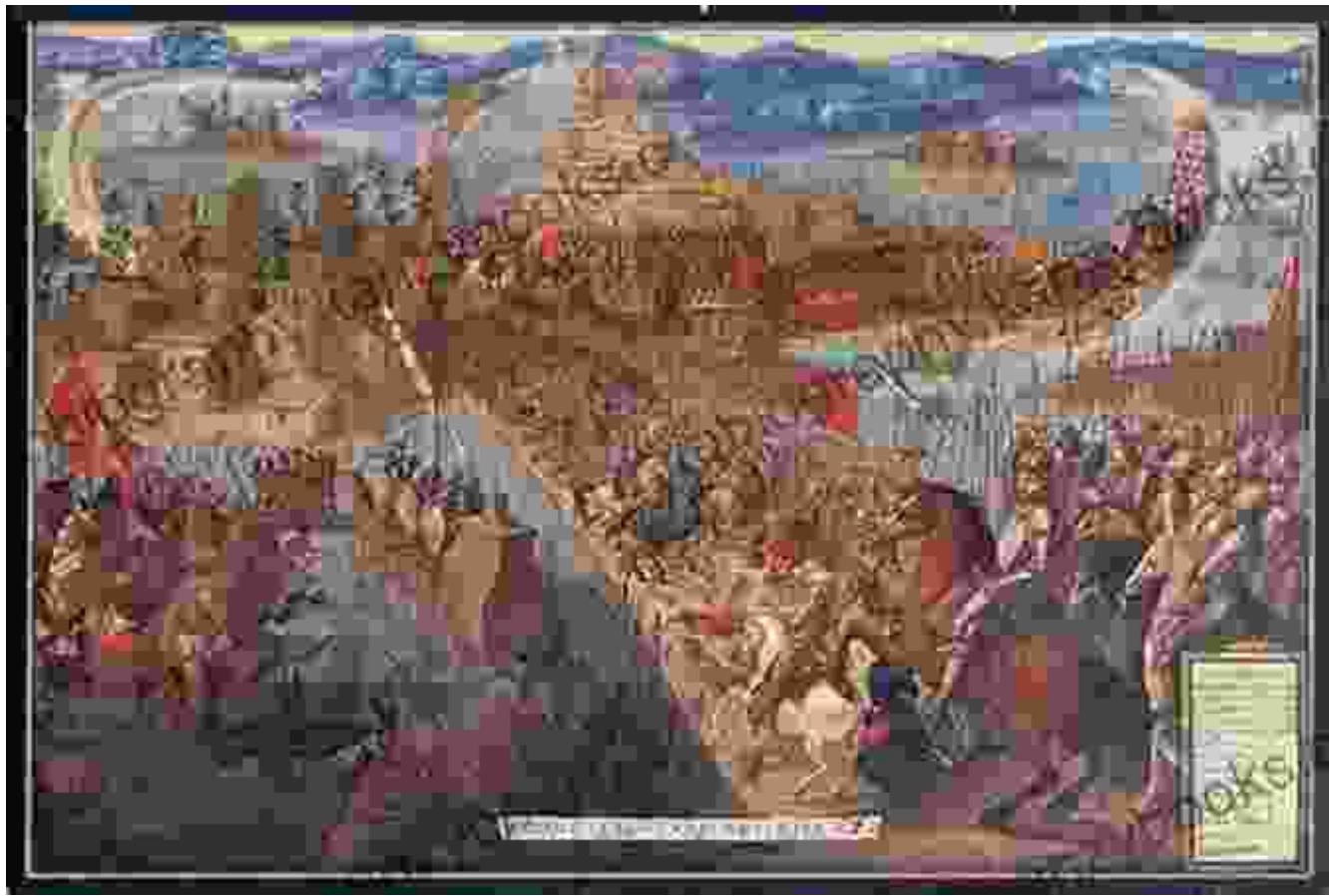
Language	: English
File size	: 2286 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 156 pages

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## Spread to Europe

In the 16th century, Spanish conquistadors brought potatoes back to Europe from their expeditions to South America. At first, potatoes were met with skepticism and resistance, but they eventually became a popular food in many European countries.



Spanish conquistadors bringing potatoes back to Europe

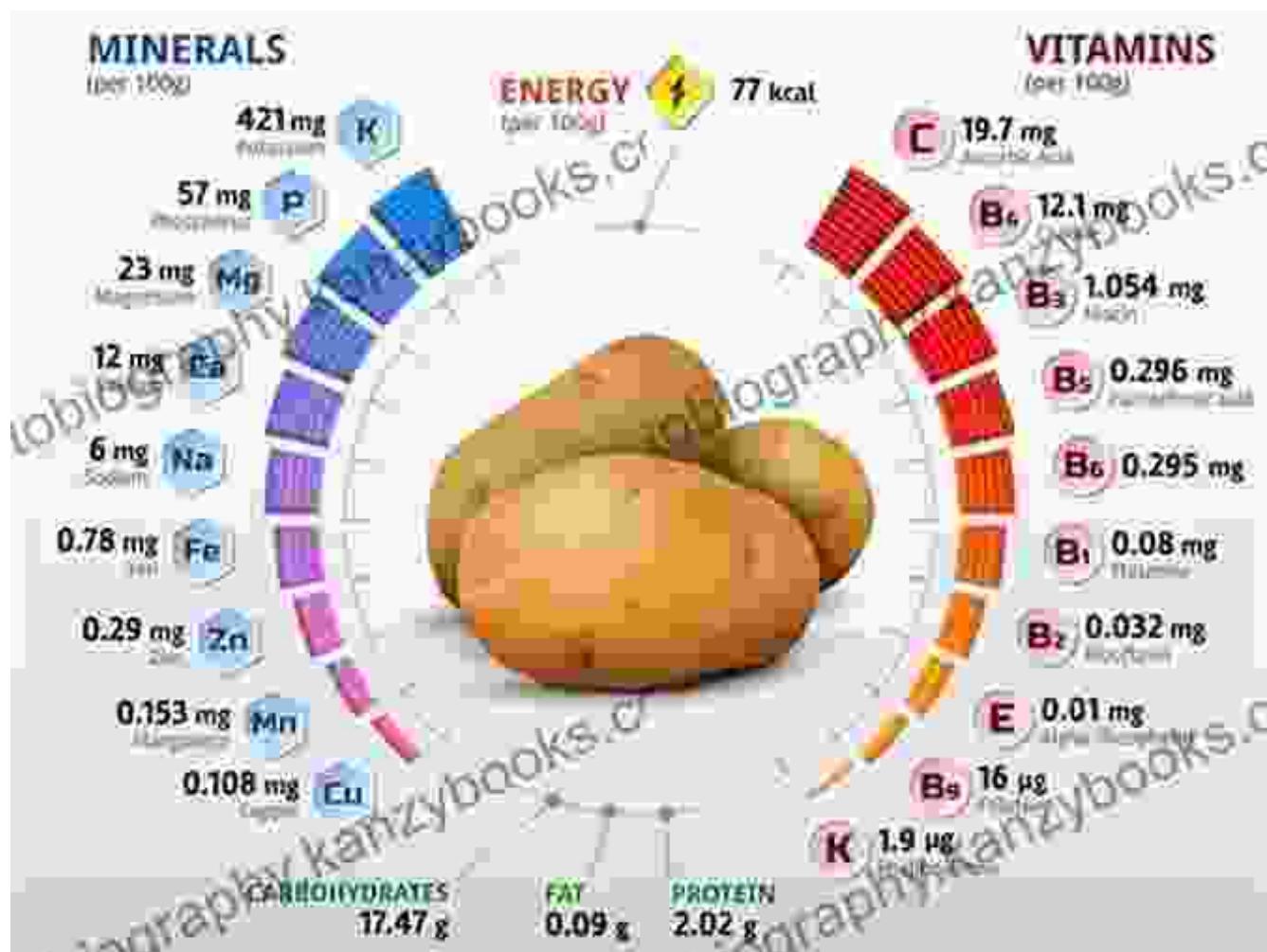
### **Spread to the Rest of the World**

From Europe, potatoes were introduced to other parts of the world, including North America, Asia, and Africa. Today, potatoes are grown in over 100 countries worldwide, and are a staple food in many cultures.



## Importance of Potatoes

Potatoes are an important source of food and nutrition, and are a good source of carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals. They are also a versatile food, and can be used to make a variety of dishes. Potatoes are also relatively easy to grow, and can be grown in a variety of climates.

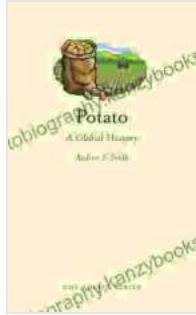


A chart showing the nutritional value of potatoes

The potato is a food that has shaped the history of the world. It is a versatile and nutritious food that is enjoyed by people all over the globe. The potato is a testament to the ingenuity and resilience of the human spirit, and is a symbol of our interconnectedness.

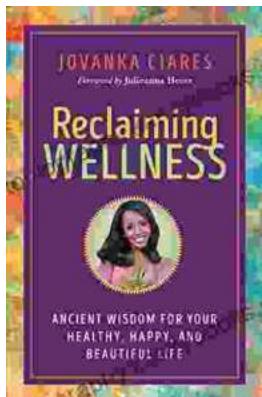
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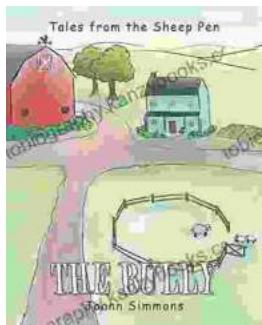
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