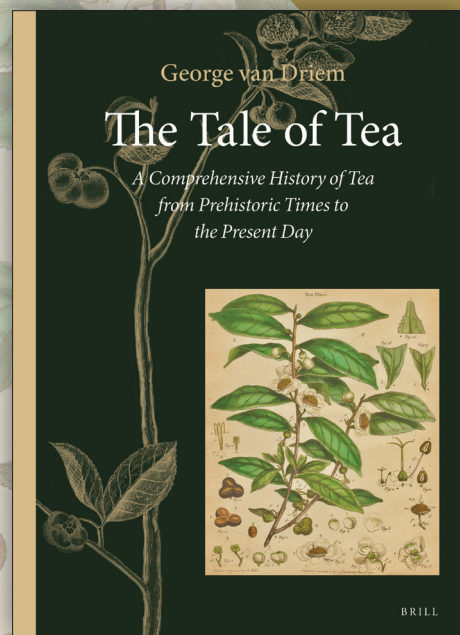


# The Tale of Tea

## *A Comprehensive History of Tea from Prehistoric Times to the Present Day*

George van Driem

March 2019  
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large format 193 x 260mm)  
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*The Tale of Tea* is the saga of globalisation. Tea gave birth to paper money, the Opium Wars and Hong Kong, triggered the Anglo-Dutch wars and the American war of independence, shaped the economies and military history of Táng and Sòng China and moulded Chinese art and culture. Whilst black tea dominates the global market today, such tea is a recent invention. No tea plantations existed in the world's largest black tea producing countries, India, Kenya and Sri Lanka, when the Dutch and the English went to war about tea in the 17th century. This book replaces popular myths about tea with recondite knowledge on the hidden origins and detailed history of today's globalised beverage in its many modern guises.

**READERSHIP:** Specialists and others interested in tea, institutes, academic and public libraries, students of economics, history, politics and ethnobotany, people involved in the tea trade and tea industry.

### About the Author

**George van Driem** directs the Linguistics Institute at the University of Bern, where he occupies the Chair of Historical Linguistics. He has written grammars of Limbu, Dzongkha, Bumthang and Dumi and authored the two-volume ethnolinguistic handbook *Languages of the Himalayas* (Brill, 2001).

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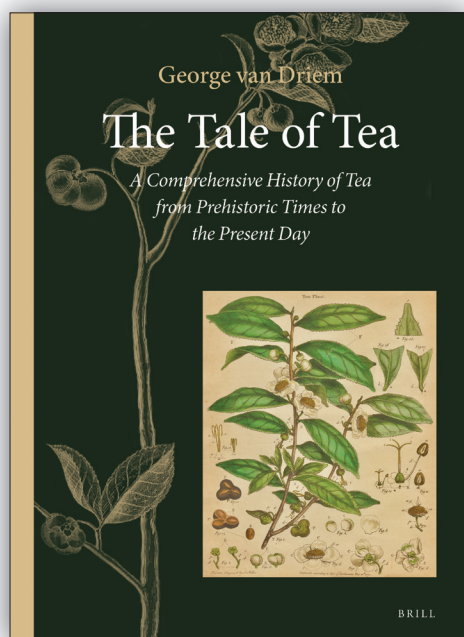
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