

Garo Tavitian

Professor Doerr

Intro to International Studies

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Vanilla

Vanilla is a natural flavor that is used in food/beverages, baking, and scent. Madagascar is the largest exporter of Vanilla. Over half the world's vanilla is exported from Madagascar. In the past 4-5 years, vanilla's price has spiked up to around \$500-600. Due to high demand, there has been violence throughout the country. Farmers are forced to defend their crops, large corporations have no sympathy for the farmers, and most live-in poverty; making around 1-2\$ a day. Child labor is increasing and forests have been destroyed due to large corporations. Children are forced to work nonstop just to provide for their family. Most consumers do not understand the situation in Madagascar. Big corporations such as Sambava do not show consumers how the farmers live. Crime has risen in the country. Vanilla thieves have been more frequent due to the spike in vanilla prices. Vanilla is a commodity that is used throughout the world. With the shortage of vanilla, the demand for the commodity has risen. Farmers do not receive the recognition they deserve. With this presentation, I encourage the audience to take action and donate towards these farmers who are stuck in poverty.