

# History of Coffee

## History of Coffee – Quick Reference Notes

### 1. Origins & Early Use (9th–15th centuries)

| Period       | Region                      | Key Developments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9th–12th c.  | Ethiopian highlands (Kaffa) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Legend of Kaldi the goat herder discovering the energizing effect of red berries.</li><li>Local use as a “food/medicine” – boiled or chewed for stamina.</li></ul>                                                                                                                      |
| 12th–15th c. | Yemen (Arabian Peninsula)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First large-scale cultivation on the slopes of the Yemeni highlands (e.g., Mocha).</li><li>Development of the <i>qahwa</i> (coffee) beverage, initially as a thin, spiced brew.</li><li>Coffee houses (<i>qahveh khaneh</i>) appear in major cities (Mecca, Cairo, Damascus).</li></ul> |
| 15th c.      | Ottoman Empire              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coffee spreads to Istanbul; the first Turkish coffee house opens (1475).</li><li>Coffee becomes a social hub for poets, merchants, and political discussion.</li></ul>                                                                                                                  |

### 2. Spread to Europe (16th–17th centuries)

| Date      | Event                                                                                 | Significance                                                                                      |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1511      | First documented shipment of coffee beans to Venice (via the Ottoman/Venetian trade). | Venice becomes the European entry point for coffee.                                               |
| 1550–1600 | Coffee houses open in major ports: Venice, Genoa, London, Paris.                      | Coffee houses dubbed “Penny Universities” – places for news, business, and intellectual exchange. |
| 1615      | First coffee house in England opens (St. Michael’s Alley, London).                    | Coffee replaces ale as a stimulant for the emerging merchant class.                               |

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| Date | Event                                                                                     | Significance                                                             |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1650 | Dutch East India Company (VOC) establishes coffee plantations on <b>Java</b> (Indonesia). | First large-scale, non-Arabian coffee production; breaks Arab monopoly.  |
| 1661 | First coffee house in Paris (Café Procope).                                               | Becomes a meeting place for Enlightenment thinkers (Voltaire, Rousseau). |

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## 3. Colonial Expansion & Global Production (18th–19th centuries)

| Region                 | Year(s)                                                     | Milestones                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Caribbean</b>       | 1720–1730                                                   | French and British colonies (Martinique, Saint-Domingue) begin large-scale coffee estates using enslaved labor.                     |
| <b>Brazil</b>          | 1727 (first seedlings) ?<br>1850 (world's leading producer) | Portuguese governor <b>D. João VI</b> promotes coffee; Brazil's plantation system (largely slave-based) fuels global supply.        |
| <b>Central America</b> | 1800–1850                                                   | Coffee introduced to Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Honduras; becomes a cornerstone of export economies.                                |
| <b>Africa (East)</b>   | 1840–1900                                                   | German and British colonies (e.g., German East Africa, Kenya) develop coffee farms; later, Ethiopia's "Yirgacheffe" region emerges. |
| <b>Vietnam</b>         | Early 20th c. (French colonists)                            | Introduced as a cash crop; later, after 1975, state-directed expansion makes Vietnam the world's second-largest producer.           |

### Technological & Economic Drivers

- **Plantation model** (large estates, slave/forced labor) ? massive volume, low price.
- **Improved shipping** (clipper ships, steamships) ? faster, cheaper transport to