

THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE WAS THE TRADE

The Columbian exchange moved commodities, people, and diseases across the Atlantic, an economic theory that rejected free trade and promoted mercantilism.

To the chagrin of the Spanish crown, much of the silver mined in the Andes was delivered not to Spain but to far-away China. But this agricultural revolution had its downsides, as many mountain forests fell victim to the new cropland. In short, a forest with worms is a different one from a forest without them. Some livestock were cows, pigs, sheep, etc. Horses, donkeys, mules, pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, large dogs, cats and bees were rapidly adopted by native peoples for transport, food, and other uses. The goods included cacao beans, pineapples, corn, potatoes, squash, etc. This widespread knowledge amongst enslaved Africans eventually led to rice becoming a staple dietary item in the New World. An example of using the colonies in the Americas to their fullest. Elite indigenous men regularly petitioned in the sixteenth century for permission to own and ride a horse. Mann argues that this had far-reaching consequences. Plasmodium falciparum, a parasite that causes malaria, now gained a foothold in North America. Oceans no longer represented barriers to people, goods, animals, plants and microbes. Along with food and crops, many domesticated animals such as horses, donkeys, and camels were being traded too, including slaves. By: Michelle Pelletier The Columbian exchange transported many goods, animals, slaves, plants, diseases, and ideas all the way to Eastern and Western world, in other words the Columbian exchange Europeans brought ideas from Asia and from other parts of the world; diseases were spread to people that weren't immune to them. When these early European colonizers first entered North America, they encountered fence-less lands which indicated to them that this land was unimproved. Changing Winners and Losers Increasing contact between the continents certainly led to progress, but it brought suffering and exploitation, as well. The "Columbian Exchange" -- as historians call this transcontinental exchange of humans, animals, germs and plants -- affected more than just the Americas. The Columbia Exchange, also sometimes called the Great Exchange, was one of the most immense global trade which involved both the West and the East in the exchange goods with each other. As foodies in the U.S. Ships from the Americas brought many items the Europeans, Asians and Africans had never seen before, and viceversa. American corn or maize, for instance, became a huge staple in Africa and China. Europeans also introduced several things into the Americas, from livestock animals [cattle, pigs, horses] to food [bananas, yams, and wheat] to diseases [smallpox and measles]. Many had migrated west across Eurasia with animals or people, or were brought by traders from Asia, so diseases of two continents were suffered by all occupants. The Powhatan farmers in Virginia scattered their farm plots within larger cleared areas. After Spanish colonization, we sometimes see horse hoof prints appearing on the roads alongside the human foot prints, as we see in the example above. The end goal of mercantilism was for the nation to become completely self-sufficient, not needing anyone's help. On October 31, 1494, the tomato was given its first name anywhere in Europe when a house steward of Cosimo I de' Medici, Duke of Florence, wrote to the De' Medici's private secretary that the basket of pomi d'oro "had arrived safely". The smallpox epidemics are believed to have caused the largest death tolls among Native Americans, surpassing any wars [26] and far exceeding the comparative loss of life in Europe due to the Black Death. These larger cleared areas were a communal place for naturally growing and useful plants. Then by it was million, by it was million, and by it had raised to million. Yet they, too, were brought to America by Europeans, and hardly with fewer consequences than those of other, more famous immigrants. England encouraged their colonies to specialize in the production of raw goods so that they could ship them back to Europe for a small price, get manufactured into something, for example raw cotton is turned into cloth. The Columbian Exchange also transferred diseases that killed thousands of Native Americans. The mountain tribes shifted to a nomadic lifestyle, as opposed to agriculture, based on hunting bison on horseback and moved down to the Great Plains. It was mostly practiced in Europe from the 15th to the 18th centuries.