
Reminders

Short Essay V2 due
today!

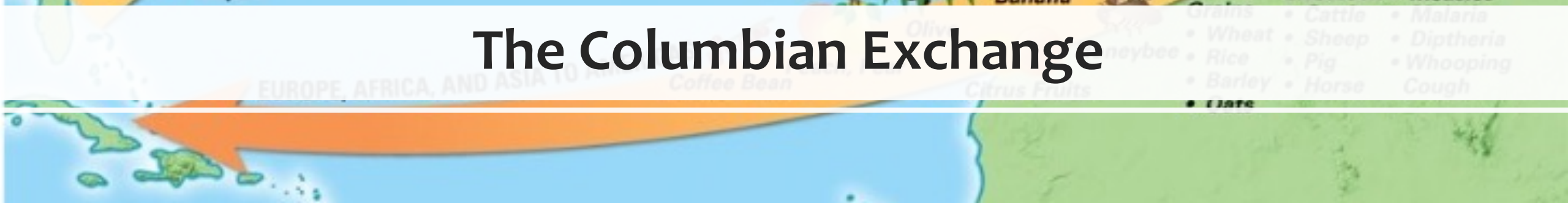
Research Assignment
Step #5 due Dec. 3rd

Final Exam Thursday
Dec. 5th 1:30 p.m.





The Columbian Exchange



Foods that only existed in the Americas



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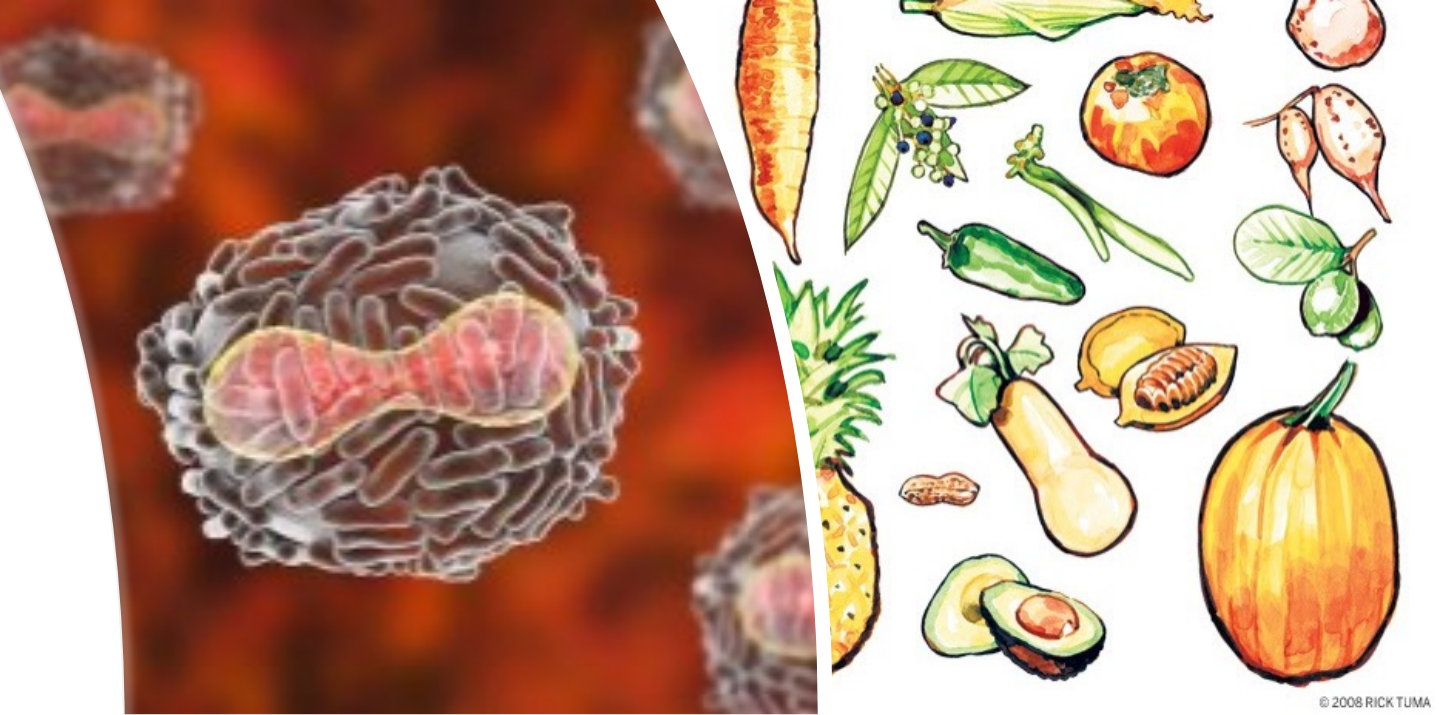
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Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (1972)



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From the Americas to Africa and Eurasia

- beans
- cacao
- cassava (manioc)
- chilies
- maize (corn)
- peanuts
- pineapples
- potatoes

- squash
- sweet potatoes
- Syphilis [debated]
- tobacco
- tomatoes
- turkeys
- vanilla

From Eurasia to the Americas

- almonds
 - apples
 - bananas
 - cattle
 - cherries
 - chickens
 - Coconuts
 - Dandelions
 - onions
 - Oranges
 - Peaches
 - Pears
 - Plums
 - rice
- Diphtheria
 - Influenza
 - Typhoid
 - Smallpox
 - Measles
 - Meningitis
 - Whooping cough
 - Chicken pox
 - Horses
 - Sheep
 - Sugar
 - wheat

From Africa to the Americas

- African rice
- coffee
- collard greens
- okra
- palm oil
- yams

Our focus today...

- Introduction of Disease to the “New World”
- Return of Disease to the “Old World”
- Cultivation and Disease
- Food: Example of the Sweet Potato in China
- Animals: Horses and Sheep



Diseases Introduced to the New World

- Major diseases introduced to the New World: Smallpox, measles, typhus, cholera, and malaria.
- Catastrophic depopulation: Estimates of 80–95% population decline in the Americas.
- Examples: Taino population and Central Mexico's demographic collapse.
- Disease as a silent invader: Spread faster than explorers, leaving incomplete records of original populations.



Return of Disease to the Old World

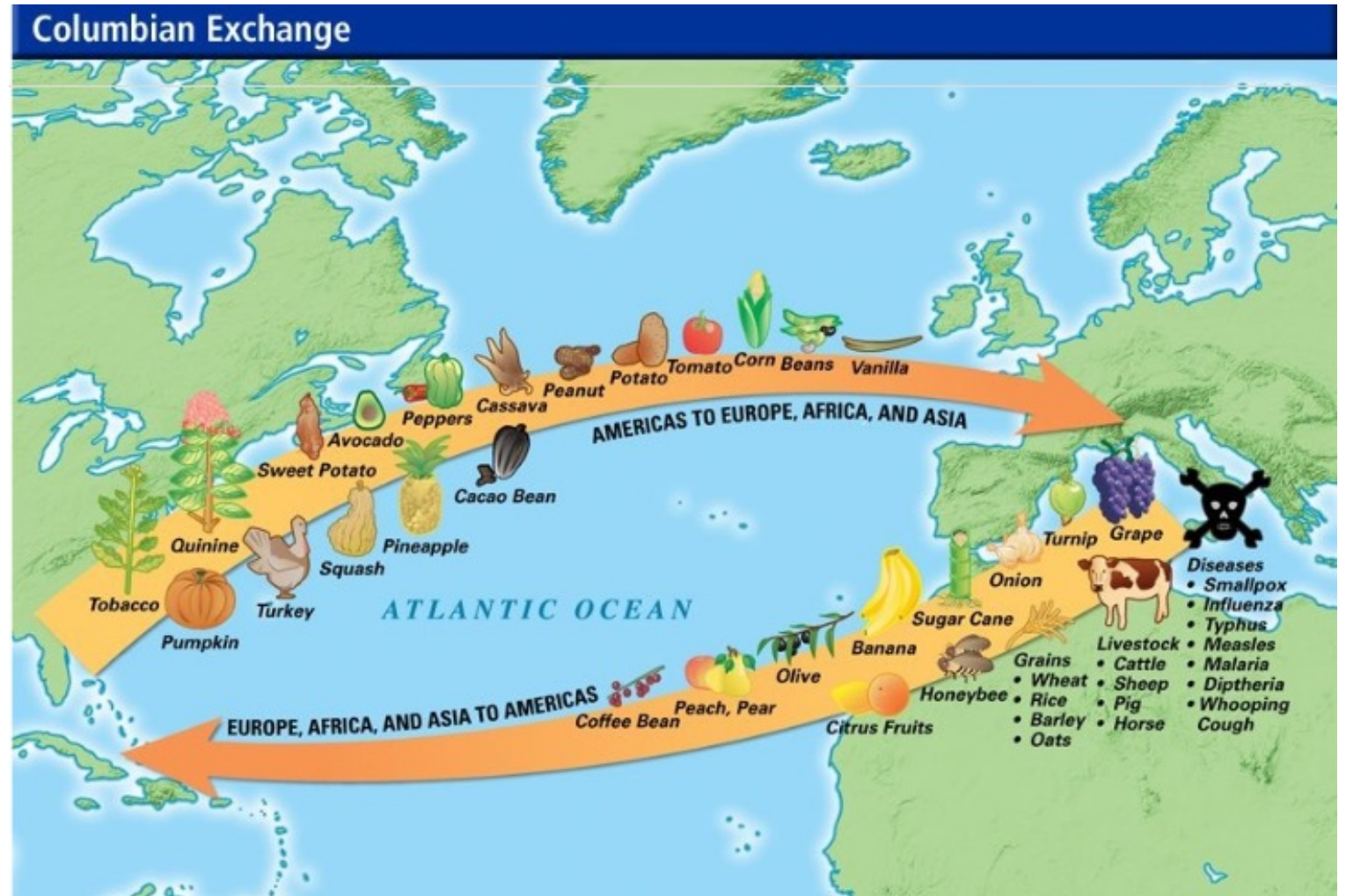
- Syphilis in Europe: significant social disruption. Long-term consequences on European populations and medical practices.
- Two Hypotheses:
 - 1. Columbian Hypothesis: Syphilis was introduced to Europe through the Columbian Exchange
 - 2. Pre-Columbian Hypothesis: Syphilis *always* existed in Europe, accounts of the disease noted in symptom descriptions
- Hypothesis 2 is common amongst historians of medicine, archaeological findings slowly turning it into a theory
- Italian physician Gherolamo Fracastoro coined the name Syphilis



Cultivation in the ‘New World’: The Role of Asia and Africa

- Quinine from the New World enabled European colonization in tropical regions.
- Connection to the devastation of indigenous populations.
- Indirect botanical and economic impacts on these continents.
- The introduction of potatoes significantly increased the population and urbanization
- Hansen’s disease and the humble potato

FOOD



Humours:
fluids
within the
body



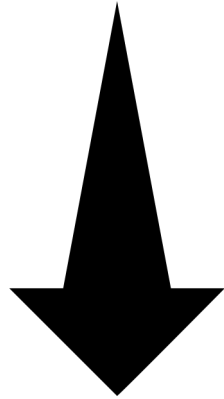


Sweet Potato in China

- China: ecological peak in middle of the 17th century
- Little Ice Age - more droughts

China's Population

1650 - 140 million people



1850 - 425 million people



Introduction of Horses: Navajo society and culture

Animals

- Horses (e.g. of Navajo)
- Sheep in Mexico



**“A world untouched by
the Columbian
Exchange would look
(and taste) very different
from the world we
know.”**

**--Rebecca Earle in *The
Oxford Handbook of
Food History***