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World Civilization II
Chapter 15: Research & Writing
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Reading about commodities in this chapter had me thinking to myself about how far the word “network” stretches beyond just connecting or exchange for information, goods or services, etc. Products and services are unique because of the cultural practices attached behind everything crafted and exchanged. One of the main ideas presented was The Columbian Exchange where not only plants, animals, materials from the Europeans connecting to the Americas and the Afro-Eurasian network, but also diseases followed. If I’m not mistaken this is where the comparison of quality vs. quantity comes into play because things that are able to be transported in bulk that was value as well as the smaller local items that were being exchanged. The commodity that I picked that might be simple, but a(n) essential is timber for shipbuilding, on top of timber being necessary a plus was also that timber would be brought in bulk because of the weight and the distance to be traveled from the consumer. Those who were peasants up to the elites needed wood for heating and cooking in the household. Another advantage is the ability to float so across rivers and canals and even along the bodies of water that were restricted the British navy had access to timber supplies from different parts of Scandinavia and Baltic. What created a problem of deforestation in the Late Agrarian Era the lack of timber and shipyards being shut down periodically in Venetian leading to higher demands for heating, cooking, and shipbuilding in one combination. I would have got into the topic of a commodity at that time to follow was the human aspect of trade, slavery. That’s a topic for another discussion!

? *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture, Volume Two: Since 1350.*

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