

Alexis Taylor

World Civilization II

26 January 2023

Research and writing 1

The first believed documentation of coffee trade was a rather small exchange between Ethiopia and Yemen in the mid 1500's. It was harvested in Ethiopia, and transported across the red sea, it was used for performing rituals as an aid in worshipping. Around 1522, is when coffee started spreading faster. It became big in the ottoman empire when they conquered egypt, where coffee was established in the city of Mecca. It was used in the islamic world as a beverage and for medical purposes. Still into the 1600's, coffee stayed primarily being exported from Ethiopia and Yemen. In 1620 is when Muslim traders were joined by the British and started trading coffee as well with India. Coffee then spread rapidly throughout Europe and in 1651 the first British coffee house was opened in Oxford. All while the coffee was still being brought over from the middle east. In 1689 coffee came to be considered with commodities like spices and teas, and was then traded further as a luxury from Asia to all of Europe. This included Paris and Germany. In 1699 a coffee plantation was established in Java, an Indonesian island. Many countries followed, such as the British establishment in the Caribbean, and the French establishing them in Jamaica, Cuba, and Mexico throughout 1730-1790.

It is amazing to see how the trading process grew and connected as the product reached different parts of the world. It started as a privately grown, religion based, plant, and grew to be a booming industry that connected every continent of the world.