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Global Lit II

*This chapter talks about a number of global commodities exchanged on the Late Agrarian network, but traced only one, silver, in any detail. The operations of the network and its global and political ramifications are often visible in fascinating detail when you follow the travels of a single commodity. Pick one of the commodities mentioned here (or another one)—sugar, coffee, tobacco, cotton cloth, potatoes, muskets—and map the network of its travels. What new information does your map reveal about the workings of the global network?*

Legend says that coffee was first discovered in Ethiopia by a goat herder in 700 AD who noticed that when his goats ate these berries that they had additional energy to the point that they wouldn't go to sleep at night. This was then shared with a local monastery that started eating these berries to stay awake for evening prayer. The word began to spread east on the effects of these berries that helped people stay awake and alert while they performed their duties throughout the day.

By the 15th century coffee was being grown and traded in the Arabian peninsula. It was at this time that these berries were being roasted, brewed and then drunk instead of eaten. By the 16th century people from Europe were fascinated by this black beverage that was being drunk by the "people of the east". It was shortly after this that coffee was being brought into Europe. At first it was not accepted by many. They thought this was a drink from the devil but by the late 17th century it was quite popular and "coffee shops" began to be created and people began to go regularly. By this time Europe began exploring to the west in hopes of finding new trade routes and instead found a new world that they then brought coffee with them too. As the demand for coffee went up people began trying to grow coffee trees. They found that these coffee trees did quite well in the new world. Coffee is still one of the most exported goods in some parts of the world.

## References

Home Grounds

<https://www.homegrounds.co/history-of-coffee/>

The History of Coffee, NCAUSA,

<https://www.ncausa.org/about-coffee/history-of-coffee>