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Networks, Society and Coffee

The importance of network connections in shaping the lives of everyday people in the agrarian world highlights the significance of social relationships and informal institutions in shaping social life. While hierarchies certainly played a role in some agricultural societies, it was often the strength of social networks that provided people with the resources and support they needed to survive and thrive. Unlike in modern societies, where social hierarchies are often based on formalized structures such as class, education, and occupation, social relations in the agricultural world were primarily based on informal networks of kinship, neighborhood, and patronage.

In the agricultural world, while network connections were significant, the localism and limited horizons of most people still prevailed. In most cases, people's social networks and relationships were limited to their immediate geographic area, with interactions occurring within a relatively small radius of their homes and communities. Furthermore, the limited technology and transportation available in the agrarian world often made it difficult for people to expand their networks beyond their immediate surroundings. Most people had limited access to education, communication, and travel, restricting their opportunities to build connections and relationships outside their local communities.

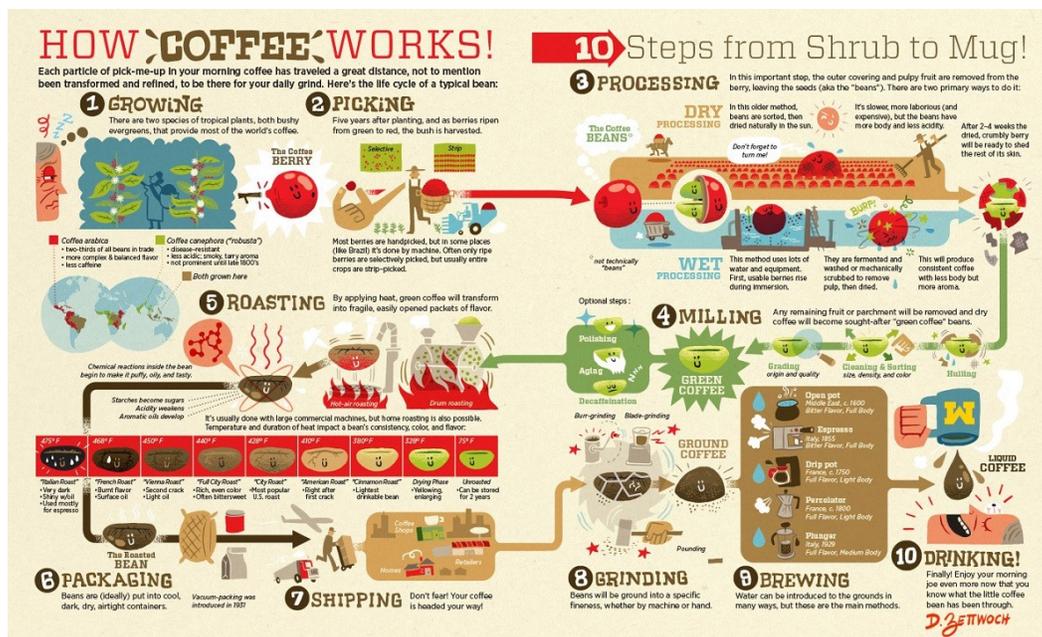
It is important to note that while networks played an essential role in shaping people's lives in the agrarian world, they were not the only factor at play. Economic, political, and

environmental factors were also significantly, often influencing the nature and extent of their social networks. Networks made it possible to exchange information and enable the creation of technologies.

Nowadays, we can list basic things that are commonly found in our lives: Food and water; Clothing; Shelter (housing) and essential household items; Personal hygiene products; Transportation (car, bike, public transportation, etc.); Communication and Entertainment technology (phone, computer, internet, TV, streaming services, gaming devices, etc.)

Agricultural networks connect farmers, food processors, distributors, and retailers; Supply chain networks join textile manufacturers, designers, distributors, and retailers; Real estate networks connect property owners, builders, architects, and contractors. Manufacturing and supply chain networks connecting producers, distributors, and retailers of household items; Manufacturing and supply chain networks connecting producers, distributors, and retailers of hygiene products; Transportation networks connecting vehicle manufacturers, logistics companies, and transportation providers (e.g., airlines, bus companies, ride-hailing services); Telecommunication networks connecting internet service providers, phone and cable companies, data centers, and network equipment providers to support Media and entertainment networks connecting content creators, distributors, and broadcasters.

If we stop to think about it, even the coffee we drink involves many technological steps. The coffee we buy today in a coffee shop like Starbucks probably passed through many countries before it reached our hands. Starbucks sources coffee beans from various regions worldwide, including Latin America, Africa, and Asia Pacific. The specific countries and areas where the coffee beans come from can vary depending on the time of year and the availability of certain coffee varieties. The Coffee Supply Chain above represents this process.



From Bean to Brew: The Coffee Supply Chain

Coffee production has undergone significant technological advancements to improve efficiency, quality, and sustainability in recent years. Some of the technologies involved in the coffee production network include precision agriculture consists in using sensors, drones, and other technologies to gather data about soil conditions, weather patterns, and other factors that can impact coffee production. Mechanical harvesting involves using machines to harvest coffee cherries, which can improve efficiency and reduce labor costs. Devices and systems used in commodity-exporting countries are generally produced in first-world countries.

Several new processing technologies can help improve the quality and consistency of coffee. For example, using heat and pressure to remove the outer layers of the coffee cherry can help reduce the risk of mold and other contaminants, with new roasting machines that can precisely control temperature, humidity, and other factors to create consistent and high-quality roasts. Several sustainability technologies are also being developed to help reduce the

environmental impact of coffee production. For example, some companies are developing biodegradable coffee bags and cups, while others are working to reduce water usage in coffee processing. In short, simple coffee involves production technologies and raw materials from different countries.

Without a pervasive global network, people's access to essential items and services would be severely limited. Local networks and resources may be able to meet some needs. Still, people would not have access to the wide variety of goods, services, and resources currently available through global networks. This would likely result in a more limited and less diverse world, with less access to information, resources, and personal growth and development opportunities.

A world without a global network would vastly differ from our current world. Without the global network, people would have limited access to information, resources, and opportunities. People would only have access to goods and services produced or available within their local area. This would lead to a more limited and less diverse range of products and services. Society would have limited access to communication technology, which would make it difficult to connect with others who are not in their immediate geographic area. This would make it harder to conduct business, stay in touch with loved ones who live far away, access information from other parts of the world, and even change our everyday coffee.

References:

<https://www.starbucks.com/responsibility/sourcing/>

Image source:

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/from-bean-to-brew-the-coffee-supply-chain/>