

The Columbian Exchange

THE EARLY MODERN WORLD (1450 – 1750)





- The Columbian Exchange is the transfer of peoples, animals, plants, and diseases between the Old World (the known world before Columbus' voyage) and the New World.

To the Old World

- Maize, potatoes, manioc (cassava or yucca) revolutionized agriculture and diets in parts of Asia, Europe, and Africa.
- When grown they provided more calories per acre than did this is credited for the population growth that came about after 1700. most of the old world crops –
- Beans, squash, tomatoes, peanuts, and chocolate also gained acceptance in the old world.

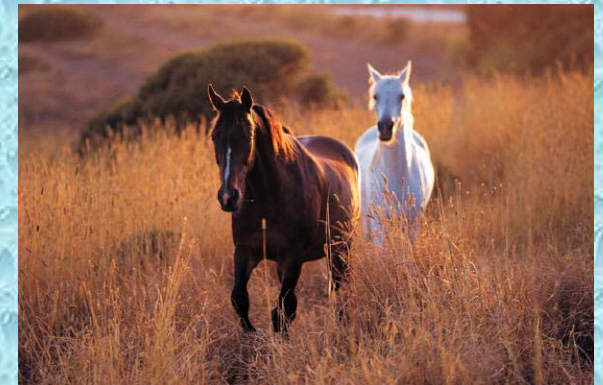
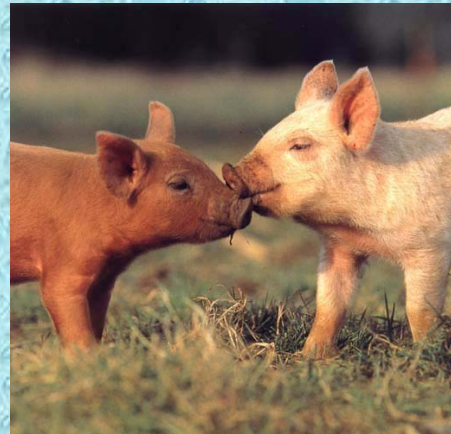


To the New World

- Just a short time after contact European staples like wheat, olives, and grapes were being grown in the Americas.
- African and Asian crops like rice, bananas, sugarcane, and breadfruit were introduced.



- Animals such as cattle, pigs, horses, sheep, rats, and rabbits also found their way into the New World – and with few natural predators multiplied quickly.



- Wild cattle on the plains of South America (Argentina) and the American southwest provided indigenous groups with an abundant supply of meat and hides.
- The horse provided groups like the Apache and the Sioux to more efficiently hunt buffalo.
- Even in the areas where Europeans had settled, Amerindians learned to become cowboys and shepherders.



- The transfer of disease had a dramatic negative impact on the Americas.
- Smallpox, measles, and influenza killed off somewhere between 75 – 90% of Amerindians.



- By the mid 17th century (1600s) malaria and yellow fever also had a presence in tropical regions. However, this is also struck Europeans.



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Quick Video



The Columbian Exchange: Crash Course World History #23

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQPA5oNpfM4>

