



A Social History of Coffee

History nugget

Native to Ethiopia, coffee was first cultivated as a food in Arabia more than 2000 years ago. The drink we know today may have emerged in Sufi monasteries in Yemen during the 15th century. It wasn't always widely accepted. For example, some within the Catholic Church first associated coffee with the Islamic infidels because it came to Venice via traders from the Middle East. Pope Clement VIII later decreed it a Christian drink after trying it and discovering it was "so delicious that it would be a pity to let the infidels have exclusive use of it." In the Islamic world, it was banned by a religious court in Mecca in 1511 and, a century later, the Ottoman Sultan, Murad IV, attempted to prohibit alcohol, tobacco and coffee as dangerous intoxicants. The prohibitions of coffee were always quickly overturned.

By the middle of the 17th century, a leisured class of Renaissance men had brought the Turkish social



Drug literacy

Big ideas

- People have been using drugs for thousands of years and in almost every human culture
- Drugs can be tremendously helpful and also very harmful
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