



**UNIT 7:
SUGAR AND THE GREAT
GLOBAL CONVERGENCE**

UNIT GUIDING QUESTIONS

- *How does trade benefit societies unevenly?*
- *What role does trade play in political power and economic development?*
- *How do commodities represent a chain of relationships between resources, labor, manufacturers, and consumers?*



WHY STUDY COMMODITIES?

Virtually everything we consume on any given day:

- *soap*
- *gasoline*
- *clothing*
- *cereal*
- *books*
- *smartphones*

demonstrates our intimate connection to the global market, and the fact that we rarely stop and think about what makes this abundance of commodities possible shows how thoroughly integrated we are in a profit-based international market in which people produce what they do not consume, and consume what they do not produce.



WHY SUGAR??

Sugar is the key commodity that brings together the major continents that people have inhabited for the 1st time:

- Asia
- Europe
- Americas
- Africa

It is the GREAT GLOBAL CONVERGENCE!!

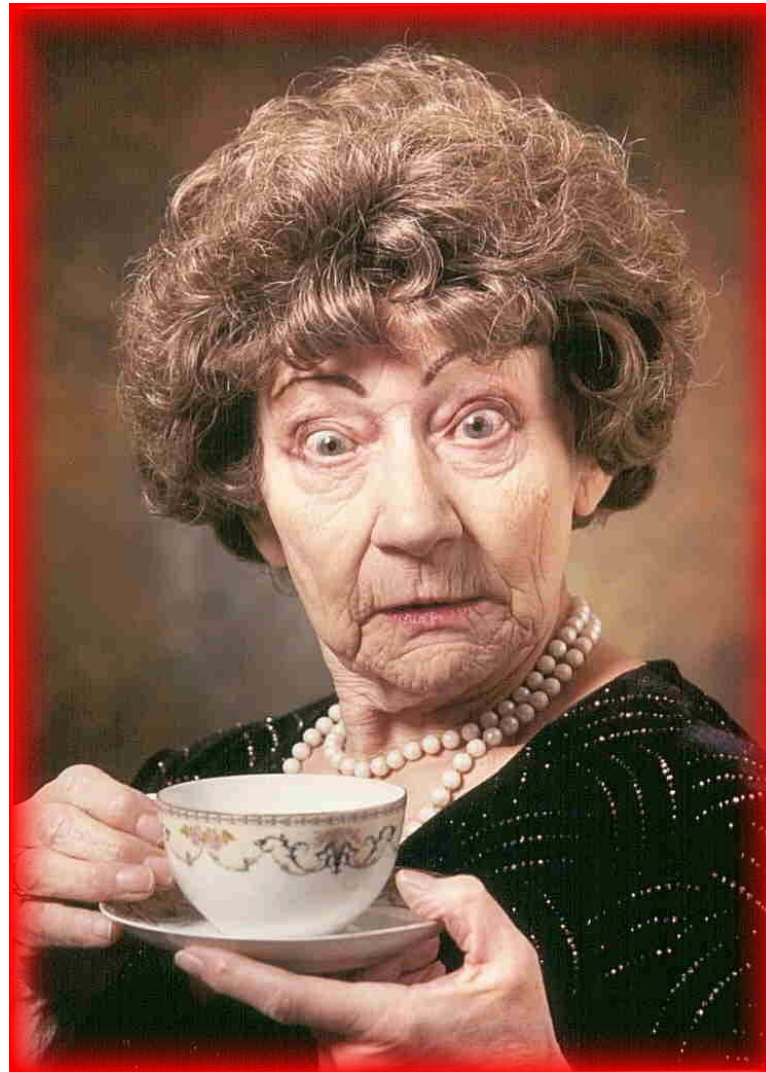


COMMODITY CHAIN

1. **Demand**
(Why do people value it?)
2. **Capital**
(What money and resources are needed? How much of an investment is required?)
3. **Labor**
(Who are the laborers in extracting, processing, and/or distributing the commodity? What conditions do they work under?)
4. **Production**
(What is the process from raw material to consumer good?)
5. **Distribution**
(How does the commodity get to consumers?)
6. **Consumption**
(Who buys and uses the finished good?)



PROFILE OF A DRUG USER

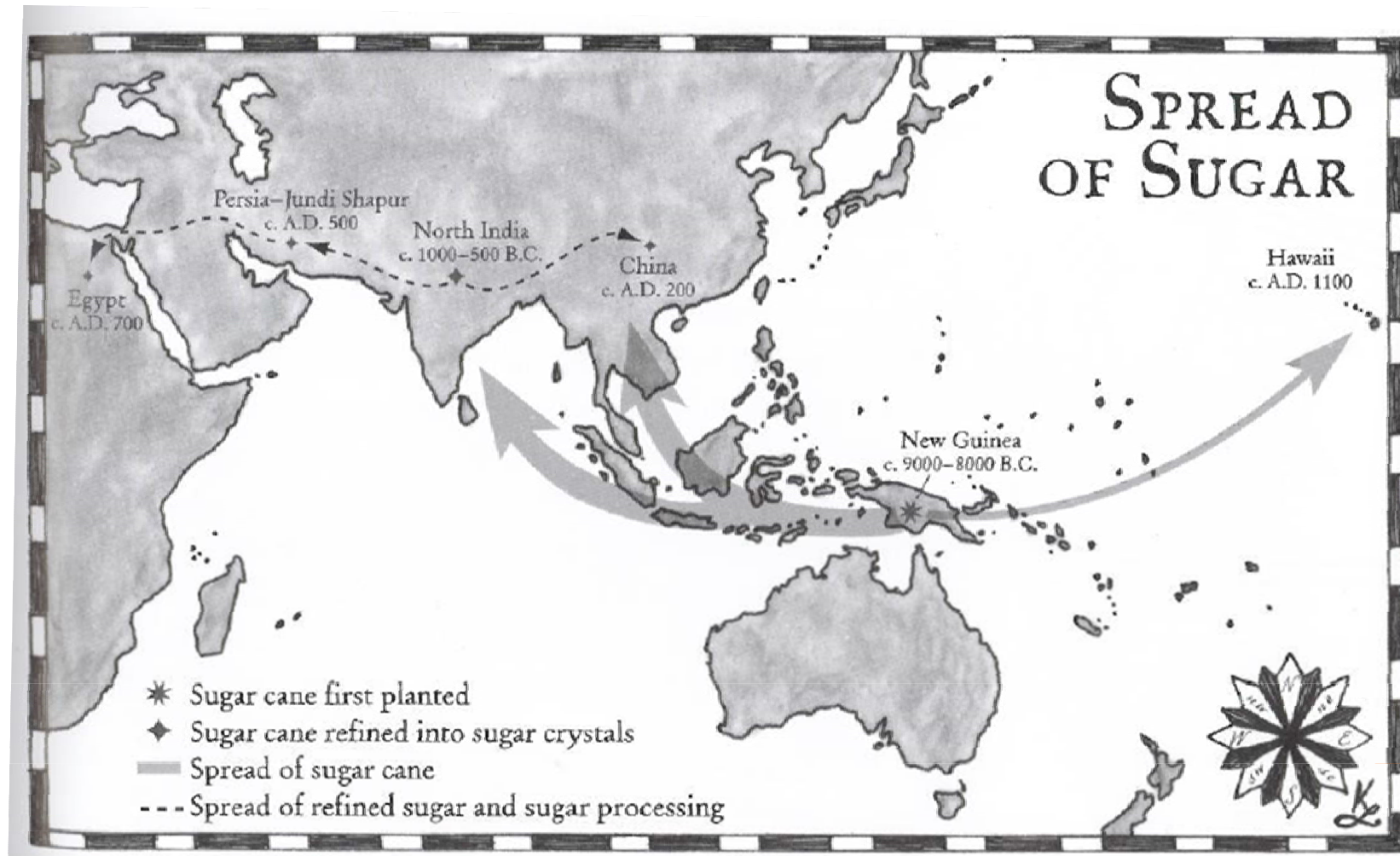


SUGAR'S ORIGINS & PATH

- First domesticated in Papua New Guinea
~10,000 years ago
- Appeared in India
- Greek explorers mention sugar cane in Pakistan
325 BCE
- Muslims spread sugar cultivation into eastern
Mediterranean, North Africa, and Spain
- Most Europeans unfamiliar with the substance
until Crusaders introduced it to the wealthy

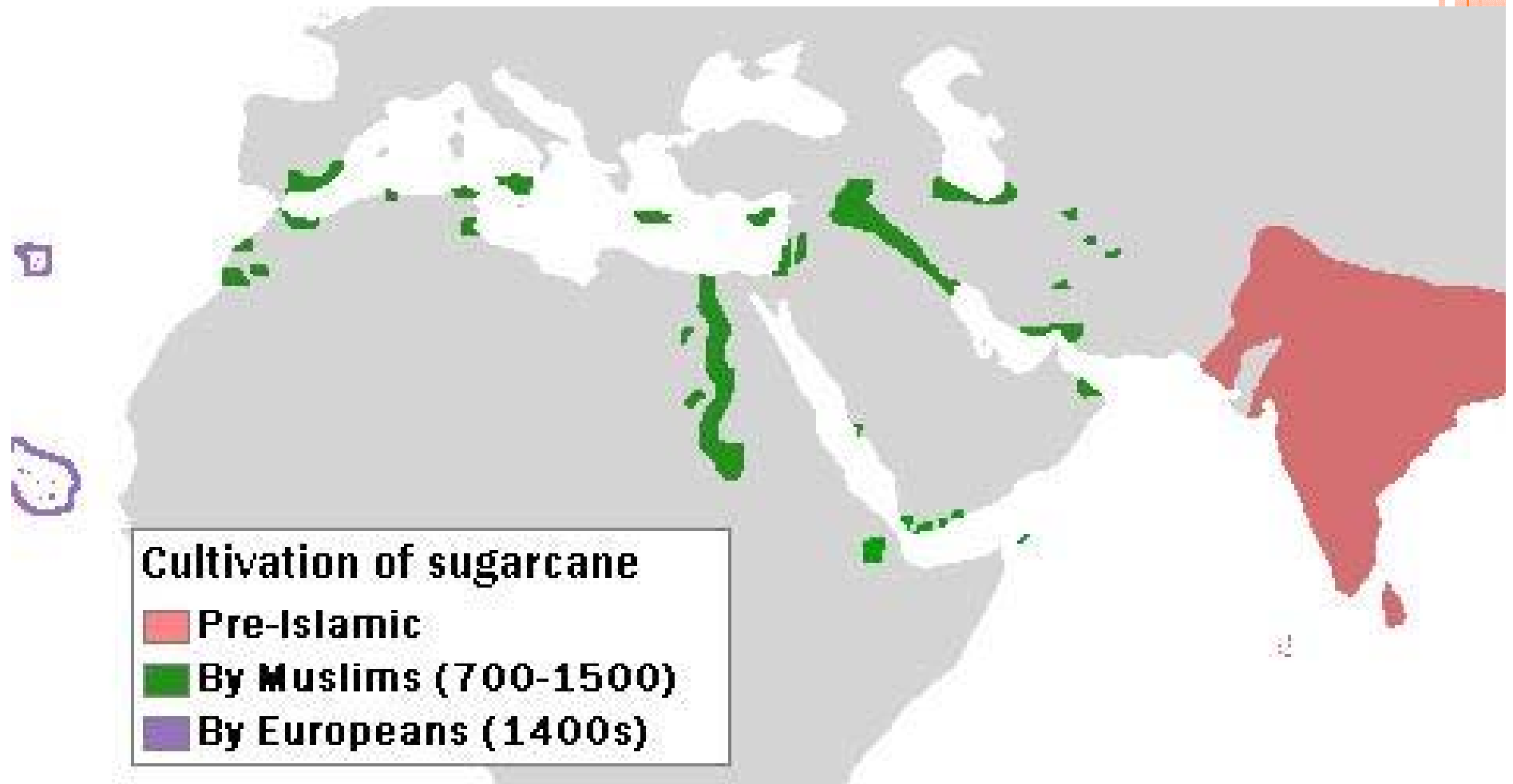


ORIGINS OF SUGAR



SUGAR IN EUROPE





EARLY EUROPEAN SUGAR PLANTATIONS



CULTIVATION OF SUGAR CANE

- Grows best in hot, moist climates
- Once cut, stalks ferment rapidly
- Regrowth from root bases, not by seeds
- Must be crushed and repeatedly boiled to extract juice



THE PROBLEM WITH SUGAR CANE

- Sugar production is...
 - Time sensitive!
 - Systematic
 - Labor intensive
 - Efficient
 - Location Sensitive!
 - Produces a need for...



THE PLANTATION



FARMS VS. PLANTATIONS

Farm

- Cows, pigs, chicken
- Fields of Grain
- Orchards of fruit
- Diversity!
- Self-sustaining

Plantation

- One Purpose
- All steps of production
- Not self-sustaining
- Machine-like





SUGAR PACKET (DBQ)

- What were the forces that drove the sugar trade?
- How did the necessary conditions for the production of sugar shape the development of the sugar trade?
- How did the sugar industry impact the various societies it touched?

