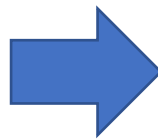


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FROM THE COFFEE HOUSES TO THE INTERNET.

WHAT ARE THE COFFEE HOUSES?

Coffee was introduced in Turkey in the second half of the seventeenth century and had rapidly become a popular drink. Between 1670 and 1685 coffee houses multiplied in London. The first coffee house in Italy appeared in Venice and the first English one was set in Oxford. The first coffee house in London, Cornhill, was opened in 1652.



In the coffee houses, people spent their time discussing the issues of the day while enjoying coffee, tea, rum, and beer and smoking cigarettes. Each political or literary party had its meeting place of this sort and London life grew more animated. Coffee houses were associated with news and gossip and provided entertainment, so they served as the centre of social interaction even if women were banned from them. Each coffee house cared for customers with a particular type of interest and was specialized in a particular topic or political viewpoint. However they weren't only meeting places, but also good places to conduct business. Merchants, when they wanted to ensure their ships and cargoes, met at Lloyd's. The favourite coffee house for writers was Will's, near Covent Garden, while clergymen went to Truby's and scholars to the Grecian.

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Men of fashion went to White's and Brook's, which later became a well-known gentlemen's club. Cafés also served to spread the news at the time when communication systems were rudimentary, to say the least, and person to person

contact was the only effective way of getting the news. Coffee houses contributed to the development of culture through journals and newspapers and were also known as "Penny University", because at the price of only one penny, everyone could go in and listen to writers, artists or politicians.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLUBS

The coffee houses encouraged the appearance of journals that were bought by these clubs for their members to read. They contained essays on fashion, literature, politics, people and all sorts of other subjects and were the first form of the newspaper ever published. One of these was the Spectator, founded in 1712 by Josef Addison and Richard Steele.

COFFEE HOUSES NOW



Today when you want to know the latest news on politics, science and business you log on the Internet. Three centuries ago, you went to a coffee house. Europe's interconnected web of coffee houses formed the Internet of the Enlightenment. Let's say you want to know the latest business news, or keep up with the political gossip, find out what others think of a new book, discuss the latest scientific and technological developments. **You simply log to the Internet.**

Four centuries ago, the answer was different: **you went to a coffee house.** Today, coffee houses serve the same purposes they always have had: people go to their local café to get news, to work, read and talk with friends. We just engage in these activities **online.** England's coffee houses, however, have left another legacy. As they became centres of commerce, some coffee houses became very prominent and specialized.

Theologians and scholars, stockbrokers and sea-faring merchants went to different coffee houses. Some notable coffee houses from the 1600s include:



← **Edward Lloyd's coffee house on Tower Street in London**, which was a gathering place for mariners and insurers and became Lloyd's of London, an insurance company that's still in business today.



← **Jonathan's coffee house in London**, which was the first site of the London Stock Exchange.



← **The Tontine Coffee House in New York**, which was the first site of the New York Stock Exchange.

While in the past, you needed to go from a coffee house to another to change the topics and interests, today on the internet this change is pretty immediate. Fake news today are way more widespread, but at the same time more recognizable. The language is simpler and less colloquial than in the past.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TAVERNS AND COFFEE HOUSES

Taverns:

People (wisely) used to drink little beers or weak ale, because water was rarely potable. Taverns became known as crowdy places for drinking and gambling.

Coffee houses:

Became so popular because they promoted sobriety.

They used boiling water for coffee (and tea) in order to kill bacteria and avoid intoxication. Business men conducted their daily affairs there. The entrance cost for the coffee shop was a single penny. Soon, coffee shops were known as "penny universities".

THE CONDITION OF WOMEN

- Women weren't allowed in coffee shops, unless they owned or worked in them.
- Even a respectable lady might stop at a tavern if she needed to, for they were required by law to serve food and provide a bed.
- Some women took exception to this custom and published a petition, "The Women's Petition Against Coffee"

COFFEE HOUSES IN EUROPE

In the 17th century, coffee appeared for the first time in Europe outside the Ottoman Empire. The first coffee house is said to have appeared in Venice in 1640. In the 19th and 20th centuries in Europe, coffee houses were very often meeting points for writers and artists.

Countries where coffee houses were diffused the most:

- England
- Italy
- France
- Austria
- Wallachia
- Hungary
- Switzerland
- Ireland

COFFEE HOUSES TODAY

European countries, such as Austria, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, and others' term café means a restaurant primarily serving coffee, as well as pastries such as cakes, tarts, pies, or buns. Many cafés also serve light meals such as sandwiches. Some cafés also serve alcoholic drinks, particularly in Southern Europe. In the Netherlands and Belgium, a *café* is the equivalent of a bar, and also sells alcoholic drink. In the Netherlands a *koffiehuis* serves coffee, while a coffee shop sells "soft" drinks and is generally not allowed to sell alcoholic drinks. In France, most cafés serve as lunch restaurants in the day, and bars in the evening. They generally do not have pastries except in the mornings, when a *croissant* or *pain au chocolat* can be purchased with breakfast coffee. In Italy, they typically serve a variety of espresso coffee, cakes and alcoholic drinks. Bars in city centers usually have different prices for consumption at the bar and consumption at a table.