

COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE INDEX

With apologies to Harper's Magazine

Estimated percentage of native population killed by disease by 1650: 80-95

Number of “New World” crops in list of world’s top ten most consumed crops: 4

Number of leading “Old World” crops that are produced widely in Americas: 4

Estimated impact of potato on “Old World” population growth: +12 percent

Estimated impact of potato on “Old World” urbanization: +47 percent

Year when the tomato is first mentioned in European texts: 1544

Year when tomato first appears as ingredient in Italian cookbooks: 1692

Year when Virginia Company began regulating tobacco at Jamestown: 1619

Year when US Surgeon General issued anti-tobacco health report: 1964

Number of “New World” countries that produce coca leaves (cocaine): 3

Estimated increase to English “welfare” from sugar by 1850: 8 percent

Estimated numbers of Africans kidnapped and taken to Americas: 12 million

ANSWER KEY

All statistics above come from Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian, “The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas,” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 24 (Spring 2010), 163-188