



BIOSAFETY THROUGH THE AGES
**From Banning Coffee to Imposing Moratoria on
Transgenic Foods**

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Coffee please...






The patron saint of coffee?

- Beatification of Marco d'Aviano
 - Capuchin monastic order
 - 1683 Battle of Vienna
 - Legend has it that...
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In the name of Allah...


- Mecca in 1511
 - Khair-Beg
 - Sultan of Cairo
 - Khair-Beg goes
- 



The debate

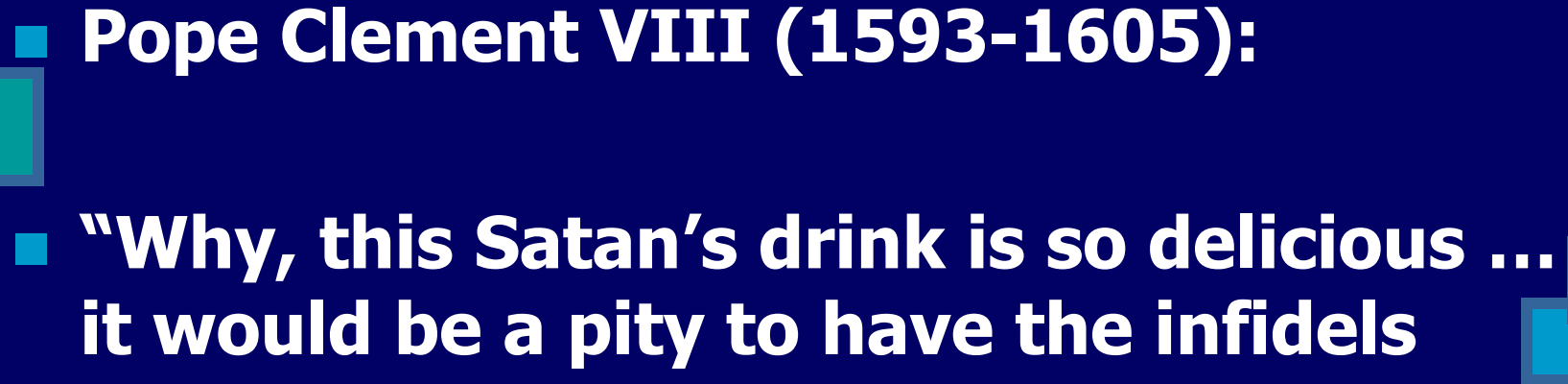


■ The wine analogy

- "absent-minded and confused"
 - "from mild virtue and tranquility to foolishness and ignorance"
 - "mind leaves him and know nothing at all"
 - "does not know man from woman"
 - "filling brain with vapors, affecting reasoning"
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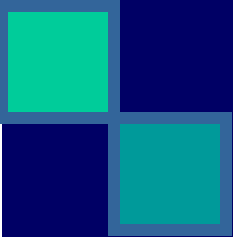



The devil's drink

- **Pope Clement VIII (1593-1605):**
 - **“Why, this Satan’s drink is so delicious ... it would be a pity to have the infidels have exclusive use of it. We shall fool Satan by baptizing it and making it a truly Christian beverage.”**
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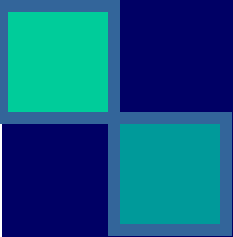



French wine...

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- **French doctors, 1679: “We note with horror that this beverage...has tended almost completely to disaccustom people from the enjoyment of wine.”**
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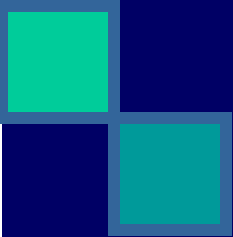


“Science” steps in...

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- **Coffee “dried up the cerebrospinal fluid and the convolutions...the upshot being general exhaustion, paralysis, and impotence.”**
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Women fight back



- **Womens petition (1674): “We find of late...*Decay* of that true *Old English Vigour*...Never did Men wear *greater Breeches*, or carry *less* in them of any *Mettle* whatsoever.”**

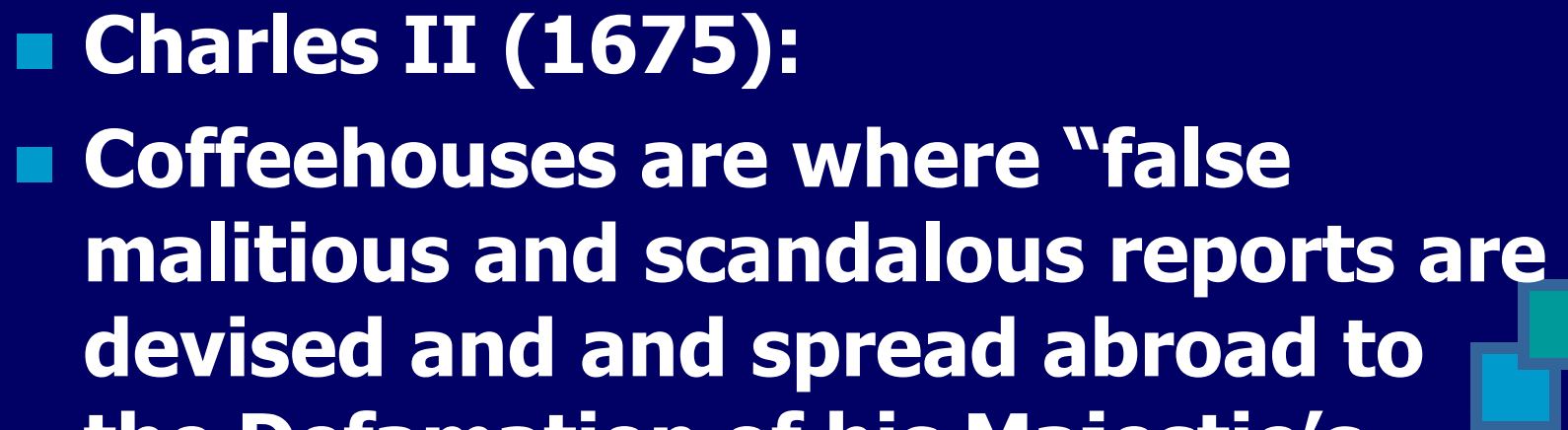


The condition

- Due to “the Excessive use of that Newfangled, Abominable, Heathenish Liqour called *Coffee*, which...has so *Eunucht* our Husbands, and *Crippled* our more kind gallants.... They come from it with nothing *moist* but their snotty Noses, nothing *stiffe* but their Joints, nor *Standing* but their Ears.”
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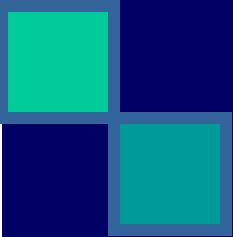



Banning coffee houses

- **Charles II (1675):**
 - **Coffeeshouses are where “false malicious and scandalous reports are devised and and spread abroad to the Defamation of his Majestie’s Government, and to the Disturbance of the Peace and Quiet of the Realm.”**
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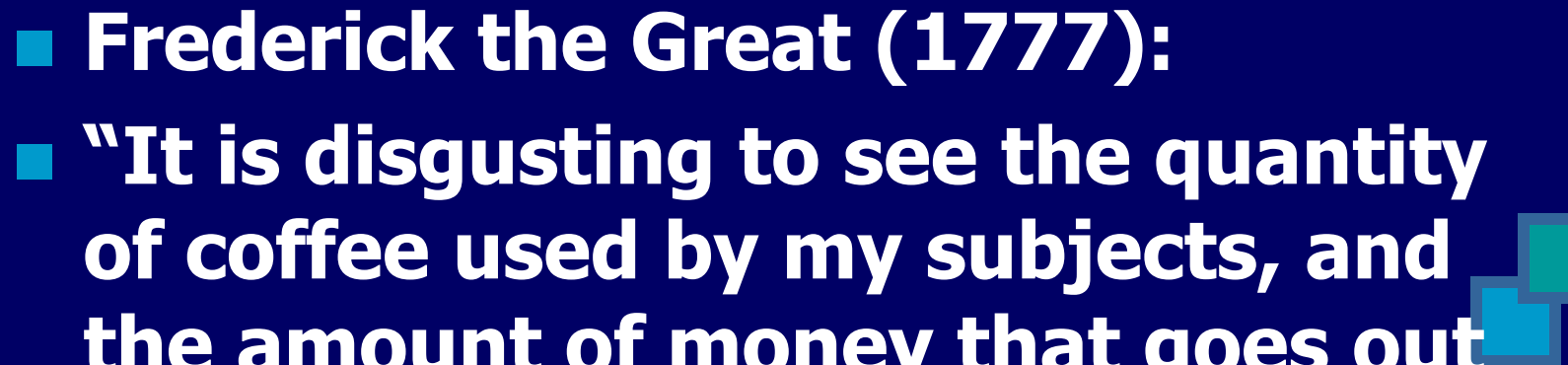


Bach: *Coffee Cantata*

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- “Dear father, do not be so strict! If I cannot have my little demi-tasse of coffee three times a day, I’m just like a dried up piece of roast goat! Ah! How sweet coffee tastes! Lovelier than a thousand kisses, sweeter far than muscatel wine! I must have my coffee, and if anyone wishes to please me, let him present me with— coffee!”
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Germans and beer...

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- **Frederick the Great (1777):**
 - **“It is disgusting to see the quantity of coffee used by my subjects, and the amount of money that goes out of the country. My people must drink beer. His Majesty was brought up on beer, and so were his ancestors.”**



Lessons from history

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- **Compatibility with tradition**
 - **The novelty factor**
 - **Threats to social and political order**
 - **“Slippery slope”**
 - **Economic competition**
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Careful...



Go...





The risk of nations

In the US products are safe until proven risky.

In France products are risky until proven safe.

In the UK products are risky even when proven safe.

In India products are safe even when proven risky.

In Canada products are neither safe nor risky.

In Japan products are either safe or risky.

In Brazil products are both safe and risky.

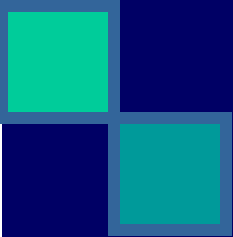


The biosafety regime

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- Policy divergence
 - Environmental risks
 - Human health
 - Socio-economic issues
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Policy research implications

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- Distribution of capabilities
 - Technological deglobalization
 - Risk as a socio-economic issue
 - New technology alliances
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