

# History of Turkish tea drinking habits.

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## Summary

Turkey situated at west ends of Asia and east ends of Europe, and only country in Europe tea grows. Turkish people start to drink coffee from 15<sup>th</sup> century, and Tea drinking habits started from 17<sup>th</sup> century. When we look back her history of Tea drinking , word “Cay” took important role, which took very long voyage from China, Mongolia ,Central Asian countries to Russia ,Georgia, Turkey through oldest road “Silk Road” and their drinking habits is quite similar in those countries. Tea plantation started in 1838, which they brought tea, seeds from Japan but due to technological, geographical conditions they could not be successful. During this period one of Japanese Tea master visited Turkey and served Japanese Tea to Sultan.And this gave influence to coffee drinking people to change to tea drinking. Today,Turkish became heavy tea drinker, and tea is one main export item to Middle East, and Russian countries.

Word “Cay” cannot neglect in the Turkish daily life.

Key Words :

Cay(Tea in Turkish)

Text:

## 1.Location of Turkey:

Turkey is situated west end of Asia, and east end of Europe, 38 civilization passed in this country, and played great roles in world history.

Recently Turkey is ranked one of most favorite country worth to visit among Japanese tourists.

It is not known Turkey is only country in Europe where tea producing,

Turkey is known coffee drinking country that appears in Arabian Night.

Turkey ranked 5<sup>th</sup> after Qatar, Iceland, United Kingdom, Iraq, in tea consumption per head, 2,410grams are consumed so this means bigger than Shizuoka.

Now I would like explaining how tea was introduced to Turkey, which is originated in China.

## 2. Three Tea Roads:

“All roads lead to Rome” this is word given to ancient road “Silk Road” which silk and porcelain exported from Japan and China to Rome, and glassware are introduced from west, which you can see in Nara Museum. (Shosoin).

This Silk Road contribute great role to introduce tea culture, and it was told three roads existed to carry tea to West.

1. North Route: China-Mongolia—Central Asian Countries-Caspian Sea-Caucasian Countries-Rome.

2. Center Route: China-Central Asian Countries-Iran-Rome.

3. Sea Route: Chinese Coast-India-Sri Lanka-Red Sea-Rome.

There are three routes, which brought tea to Turkey:

1. Arabian Merchant brought tea in 15<sup>th</sup> century.

2. Persian Caravan brought to Turkey on late half of 15<sup>th</sup> century.

3. Through Azerbaijan-Georgia Route which appears historical documentation so I would like to stick this route.

There might be great argument among historian which route tea was introduced to Turkey.

## 3. Linguistic Classification:

According to Prof. Yasuhiko MURAI, he classified how word tea is called:

1. Cha, Cay:

Word came from Cantonese, which borders on each other, this words are mainly used Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Tibet, Russia, India, Iran, Arabic Countries, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Poland. This word expanded from East to Central Asia then to Europe, route is parallel guided to Silk Road.

2. Te, The, Tea:

Mainly used in European Countries, Originally from Fujian ,word is used Holland, United Kingdom, France, Italy and other European countries.

We call this route Sea Silk Road.

Cay and Chay Route: They pronounce and write word tea as follows:

Cantonese:	Cha	Mandarin:	Cha	Uygul:	Cay
Mongolia:	Tsai	Tatar:	Cay	Turkmenistan:	Cay
Kyrgyz:	Cay	Kazakhstan:	Cay	Azerbaijan:	Cay
Russia:	Cay	Georgia:	Cay	Turkey:	Cay

#### **4. Tea Culture was introduced from Russia:**

1638 Russian aristocrat Starnikov presented a gift to Mongolian King Khan and Khan sent his return, the leaf which is wrapped with animal skin, and they informed this is a valuable gift, and mission returned from Mongolia and they tried to drink but they have a strange taste, Russian king loves this drink and this incident brought Trade Agreement with China on Tea.

Russians decided to cultivate tea by themselves in Georgia from 19<sup>th</sup> century, which produced tea in excellent taste, color, and flavor.

Later this tea was introduced to Turkey.

#### **5. Short history of Turkish Tea Industries:**

In Turkey coffee was main beverage till 1700, and in 1838 tea seed imported from Japan and planted but due to climatic and technical reasons that was not successful.

In 1917 tea trees are brought from Georgia and in 1924 they have succeeded plantation, in year 1938, finally 138 kilograms of tea was produced.

1947 first commercial tea factory installed and Turkey prohibited importation of coffee due to critical economic conditions, this switched their beverage from coffee to tea.

#### **6. History of Coffee in Turkey:**

First coffee shop opened in Istanbul on 1554, As coffee drinking habits often prohibited by Islam, but cannot stop their habit in Turkey, In 16<sup>th</sup> century there are 600 Coffee shops existed in Istanbul.

100 years later those coffee shops are opened in Europe .

#### **7. Why Turkish switched from Coffee to Tea:**

In 1917 Turkish farmers worked for Russian tea industries. and after Russian Revolution Turkish farmers lost their jobs, and obliged to return to Turkey.

But due to severe economical conditions they could not get any jobs so Turkish Government gave certain incentives to farmers to cultivate tea, 1940 government gave subsidiary to farmers, and in 1960 their production greatly expanded, and also produced green tea for export purpose to Central Asian Countries.

Recently Turkish tea exported to Russia. Egypt, Poland, USA, Holland, and UK.

#### **8. Turkish Tea Culture:**

When you visit Turkey, you recognize Asian customs, such as no ladies sitting in Tea House (Kırathane or Cayhane), this is place where only men sitting, so ladies are will take seat at cake house (Pastahane).

Whenever you visit Turkey, in any places you are asked “Would you like have tea or coffee?” In government office, special tea brewer serves tea, so difficult to reject offer, and obliged to drink at least 10-20 cups of tea in a day. In Grand Bazaar in Istanbul where nearly 4000 shops engaged in business and during negotiation tea takes important role on business negotiation. As I mentioned ladies are not allowed to sit in Tearoom, so they enjoy their tea in own house, In tea party they will discuss choosing a bridegroom by following conditions: Whether she can brew good tea, good cooker, cleanness of room, and conversations language. In the Black Seacoast, where tea cultivated , all work depends to housewives shoulder.

**9. Variety of Turkish Tea:**

Other than black tea Turkish often drinks following Herbai, and Flavored Tea.

Adi Cay or Ata Cay (Sage Tea )

Kekik Cay(Time Tea)

Ihramur Cay(Linden Tea)

Tarcin Cay(Cinamon Tea)

Kuru Nane Cay(Mint Tea)

Portakal Cay(Orange Tea)

**10. Torajiro YAMADA,First Japanese Tea Master Visited Turkey:**

1899 Torajiro YAMADA visited Turkey, to send back Turkish Naval officer who rescued in shipwreck in Wakayama, and during his stay in Turkey he served Japanese Tea to Sultan.

**11. Istanbul Tea houses are worth to visit:**

When you visit Turkey as travellor or business talk, you are often offered tea, beside that In Istanbul has good tea houses such as Pierre Lotti is best place to drink nice tea with her wonderful scenery.