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When it comes to distilled beverages, the world is full of variety. From the smooth, neutral taste of vodka to the robust and earthy flavors of whiskey, the landscape of spirits offers a vast array of choices. Among these, grain spirits hold a distinct place, with their characteristic use of grains like barley, rye, corn, and wheat. But what sets grain spirits apart from other types of distilled beverages, such as rum, brandy, tequila, and fruit-based spirits? In this comprehensive guide, we'll dive into the key differences between grain spirits and other popular distilled drinks, looking at their ingredients, production processes, flavor profiles, and unique characteristics. Before we can effectively compare grain spirits to other distilled beverages, it's important to first understand what grain spirits are. Grain spirits are alcoholic beverages that are distilled from fermented cereal grains. These grains may include barley, corn, wheat, rye, and sometimes sorghum. Grain spirits are made through a process of fermentation, where starches in the grains are converted into sugars and then into alcohol by yeast. The fermented liquid, or wash, is then distilled to concentrate the alcohol and flavors. Common types of grain spirits include: Whiskey (including Scotch, Bourbon, and Rye) Vodka Gin Grain neutral spirits Each of these types of grain spirits has its own distinctive taste profile, largely influenced by the type of grain used and the distillation process. The major characteristic that binds them together is their reliance on grains as the primary raw ingredient. Grain spirits are unique in several ways, with the key differentiating factor being the grain base. Let's break down the most prominent characteristics that make grain spirits stand out: Grain spirits are primarily made from starches found in grains. The type of grain used directly influences the taste, texture, and quality of the spirit. For example, corn tends to create a sweeter, smoother spirit, which is why it is commonly used in bourbon. Rye provides a spicier, more robust flavor, which is why it's favored in rye whiskey. Grain spirits, especially those that are distilled multiple times, like vodka, can have a very neutral flavor profile, allowing for smoothness and versatility in cocktails. In contrast, whiskeys and gins, which are less filtered, have more complex and rich flavors due to the specific grains used, the fermentation process, and the aging process (in the case of whiskey). Grain spirits are incredibly versatile. For example, vodka can be distilled to be virtually tasteless, making it a favorite for mixed drinks, while gin incorporates various botanicals (such as juniper berries) into the distillation process, giving it a fresh, aromatic quality. On the other hand, whiskey is often aged in wooden barrels, imparting deeper, woody flavors that evolve over time. Rum, like grain spirits, is a distilled beverage, but it has a very different base ingredient. Rum is primarily made from sugarcane byproducts, such as molasses or sugarcane juice. The key differences between grain spirits and rum include: Grain Spirits: Made from starch-rich grains like barley, corn, rye, and wheat. Rum: Made from sugarcane-derived products (molasses or sugarcane juice). Grain Spirits: Fermented using grains, which are processed with enzymes to convert starches into sugars before fermentation. Rum: Fermented from sugarcane, which is already rich in sugars, so it doesn't require as much processing to convert starches to fermentable sugars. Grain Spirits: Typically have a neutral flavor (vodka), a rich malty flavor (whiskey), or complex botanical notes (gin). Rum: Has sweet, molasses-based flavors that can range from light and fruity (in white rums) to deep, caramelized, and rich (in aged or dark rums). Grain Spirits: Whiskey and other grain spirits can undergo aging in wooden barrels, which gives them distinct flavors like vanilla, caramel, and spice. Vodka and gin are typically not aged. Rum: Can also be aged, especially dark rums, which develop a rich, complex flavor from barrel aging. Grain Spirits: Commonly produced in Europe, North America, and Russia, with notable spirits like whiskey (USA, Scotland), vodka (Russia, Poland), and gin (UK). Rum: Predominantly produced in the Caribbean and Latin America, with historical ties to colonial sugar plantations. While both grain spirits and brandy are distilled beverages, the base ingredients and resulting flavors set them apart. Grain Spirits: Made from various grains like barley, corn, and rye. Brandy: Made from fermented fruit, typically grapes. Other fruits like apples, pears, and peaches are sometimes used. Grain Spirits: The grain mash is fermented before being distilled to create alcohol. Brandy: The fruit is fermented into wine before being distilled. Grain Spirits: Generally have a neutral or malty flavor, with spiced or smoky notes in whiskey and botanicals in gin. Brandy: Known for its fruity and floral flavors, brandy often has a smoother, sweeter taste compared to grain spirits. Grain Spirits: Whiskey and other aged grain spirits undergo barrel aging to develop deeper, wood-infused flavors. Brandy: Often aged in oak barrels, where it absorbs flavors and takes on notes of caramel, vanilla, and dried fruit. Grain Spirits: Typically range from 40-50% ABV for whiskeys and vodkas, while gin tends to have a slightly lower ABV. Brandy: Typically around 35-45% ABV, although some can be higher. Tequila, a distilled spirit made from agave, is quite different from grain-based spirits, and it boasts its own unique set of characteristics: Grain Spirits: Derived from various grains such as barley, corn, and rye. Tequila: Made from the blue agave plant, which is native to Mexico. Grain Spirits: Fermented from grains that are first converted into sugars through mashing and enzymatic processes. Tequila: The agave hearts (piñas) are baked, then crushed to extract their sugars, which are fermented. Grain Spirits: Vodka is known for its neutrality, gin for its botanicals, and whiskey for its malty and smoky notes. Tequila: Has a distinctive earthy and slightly sweet flavor with herbal and citrusy notes. The flavor profile depends heavily on the production process and aging. Grain Spirits: Many grain spirits, like whiskey, undergo aging in wooden barrels, while vodka and gin are generally not aged. Tequila: Can be aged as well, resulting in blanco (unaged), reposado (aged for a few months), or añejo (aged for over a year) tequila, each with a different flavor complexity. Grain Spirits: Primarily produced in regions like the United States, Canada, and Europe. Tequila: Exclusively produced in Mexico, with regulations governing its production. Grain spirits distinguish themselves from other distilled beverages through their use of grains as the base ingredient, as well as their broad variety of flavors and production processes. From the neutral and versatile nature of vodka to the rich complexity of whiskey, grain spirits offer a diverse range of drinking experiences. In contrast, other distilled beverages like rum, brandy, and tequila utilize different base ingredients, such as sugarcane, fruit, and agave, which create distinctive taste profiles. The beauty of distilled beverages lies in their diversity, and grain spirits are no exception. Whether you prefer the sweetness of bourbon, the spice of rye, or the smoothness of vodka, grain spirits provide endless possibilities for exploration and enjoyment. Tags: BrandyDistilled Beveragesgrain spiritsWhiskey vs Rum How can financial brands set themselves apart through visual storytelling? 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Explore our latest gallery of Editors' Picks.Browse Editors' Favorites Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. , the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit. 117,922 active editors 6,999,452 articles in English The first UK Phantom on a test flight in 1968 From 1968 to 1992, the United Kingdom used the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II as one of its principal combat aircraft. The Phantom was procured to serve in both the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm and the Royal Air Force (RAF) in several different roles. Most Phantoms operated by the UK were built as a special batch containing a significant amount of British technology. Two variants were initially built: the F-4K was a carrier-based air-defence interceptor for the Fleet Air Arm, while the F-4M was initially used by the RAF for tactical strike and reconnaissance, before transitioning to an air defence role in the 1970s. In the mid-1980s, a third Phantom variant was obtained when fifteen former US Navy F-4J aircraft were purchased to augment the UK's air defences. Although the Fleet Air Arm ceased using the Phantom in 1978, the RAF retained it until 1992, when it was withdrawn as part of a series of post-Cold War defence cuts. (Full article...) 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Ongoing: Gaza war M23 campaign Russian invasion of Ukraine timeline Sudanese civil war timeline Recent deaths: Jim Irsay Yury Grigorovich Yuri Vladimirov Colton Ford Werenoi Benjamin Ritchie Nominate an article May 27 Manchu Prince Dorgon 1644 – Manchu regent Dorgon (depicted) defeated rebel leader Li Zicheng of the Shun dynasty at the Battle of Shanhai Pass, allowing the Manchus to enter and conquer the capital city of Beijing. 1799 – War of the Second Coalition: Austrian forces defeated the French Army of the Danube, capturing the strategically important Swiss town of Winterthur. 1954 – The security clearance of American nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, head of Project Y, was revoked. 1967 – Australians voted overwhelmingly to include Indigenous Australians in population counts for constitutional purposes and to allow the federal government to make special laws affecting them in states. 1997 – A destructive F5-rated tornado tracked through a subdivision of homes northwest of Jarrell, Texas, killing 27 people. Diego Ramírez de Arellano (d. 1624)Julia Ward Howe (b. 1819)Cilla Black (b. 1943)Gérard Jean-Juste (d. 2009) More anniversaries: May 26 May 27 May 28 Archive By email List of days of the year About Anemonoides blanda, the Balkan anemone, Grecian windflower, or winter windflower, is a species of flowering plant in the family Ranunculaceae. The species is native to southeast Europe and the Middle East. It grows up to 10 to 15 centimetres (4 to 6 inches) tall and is valued for its daisy-like flowers, which appear in early spring, a time when little else is in flower. The flowers are found in various colors and are radially symmetrical, containing seven or more sepals and petals. This purple A. blanda flower was photographed in Bamberg, Germany. Photograph credit: Reinhold Möller Recently featured: Bluespotted ribbontail ray Black Lives Matter art Germanicus Archive More featured pictures Community portal – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements. Village pump – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues. Site news – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement. Teahouse – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Help desk – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Reference desk – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics. Content portals – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia. 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Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below. 1,000,000+ articles العربية Deutsch Español فارسی Français Italiano Nederlands 日本語 Polski Português Русский Svenska Українська Tiếng Việt 中文 250,000+ articles Bahasa Indonesia Bahasa Melayu Bân-lâm-gú Български Català Čeština Dansk Eesti Ελληνικά Esperanto Euskara עברית Հայերեն Magyar Norsk bokmål Română Simple English Slovenčina Srpski Srpskohrvatski Suomi Türkçe O'zbekcha 50,000+ articles Asturianu Azərbaycanca [illegible] Bosanski کوردی Frysk Gaeilge Galego Hrvatski ქართული Kurdî Latviešu Lietuvių [illegible] Македонски [illegible] Norsk nynorsk [illegible] Shqip Slovenščina [illegible] اردو Retrieved from " 2 This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "1644" - news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (August 2016) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Calendar year Years Millennium 2nd millennium Centuries 16th century 17th century 18th century Decades 1620s 1630s 1640s 1650s 1660s Years 1641 1642 1643 1644 1645 1646 1647 vte July 1: The Battle of Colberger Heide is fought between Sweden and Denmark-Norway off of the German coast. July 2: Parliament wins control of northern England from King Charles in the Battle of Marston Moor. 1644 by topic Arts and science Architecture Art Literature Music Science Leaders State leaders Colonial governors Religious leaders Birth and death categories Births – Deaths Establishments and disestablishments categories Establishments – Disestablishments Works category Works vte 1644 in various calendarsGregorian calendar1644MDCXLIVAb urbe condita2397Armenian calendar1093ԹՎ ՌՂԳAssyrian calendar6394Balinese saka calendar1565–1566Bengali calendar1050–1051Berber calendar2594English Regnal year19 Cha. 1 – 20 Cha. 1Buddhist calendar2188Burmese calendar1006Byzantine calendar7152–7153Chinese calendar癸未年 (Water Goat)4341 or 4134 — to —甲申年 (Wood Monkey)4342 or 4135Coptic calendar1360–1361Discordian calendar2810Ethiopian calendar1636–1637Hebrew calendar5404–5405Hindu calendars - Vikram Samvat1700–1701 - Shaka Samvat1565–1566 - Kali Yuga4744–4745Holocene calendar11644Igbo calendar644–645Iranian calendar1022–1023Islamic calendar1053–1054Japanese calendarKan'ei 21 / Shōhō 1(正保元年)Javanese calendar1565–1566Julian calendarGregorian minus 10 daysKorean calendar3977Minguo calendar268 before ROC民前268年Nanakshahi calendar176Thai solar calendar2186–2187Tibetan calendar阴水羊年(female Water-Goat)1770 or 1389 or 617 — to —阳木猴年(male Wood-Monkey)1771 or 1390 or 618 1644 (MDCXLIV) was a leap year starting on Friday of the Gregorian calendar and a leap year starting on Monday of the Julian calendar, the 1644th year of the Common Era (CE) and Anno Domini (AD) designations, the 644th year of the 2nd millennium, the 44th year of the 17th century, and the 5th year of the 1640s decade. As of the start of 1644, the Gregorian calendar was 10 days ahead of the Julian calendar, which remained in localized use until 1923. Calendar year It is one of eight years (CE) to contain each Roman numeral once (1000(M)+500(D)+100(C)+(-10(X)+50(L))+(-1(I)+5(V)) = 1644). Kolumna Zygmunta erected. January 22 – The Royalist Oxford Parliament is first assembled by King Charles I of England.[1] January 26 – First English Civil War: Battle of Nantwich – The Parliamentarians defeat the Royalists, allowing them to end the 6-week siege of the Cheshire town.[2] January 30 Dutch explorer Abel Tasman departs from Batavia in the Dutch East Indies (modern-day Jakarta in Indonesia) on his second major expedition for the Dutch East India Company, to map the north coast of Australia. Tasman commands three ships, Limmen, Zeemeeuw and Braek, and returns to Batavia at the beginning of August with no major discoveries. Battle of Ochmatów: Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth forces under hetman Stanisław Koniecpolski secure a substantial victory over the horde of Crimean Tatars under Tugay Bey. February 5 – The first livestock branding law in America is passed in Connecticut.[3] March 24 – Roger Williams is granted an official grant for his Rhode Island Colony from the Parliament of England, allowing the establishment of a general assembly. April 18 – Opchanacanough leads the Powhatan Indians in an unsuccessful uprising against the English at Jamestown. Although 300 of the English colonists are slain, the settlers pursue Opchanacanough, who is imprisoned in Jamestown for the rest of his life.[4] This is the last such Indian rebellion in the region. April 25 – A popular Chinese rebellion led by Li Zicheng sacks Beijing, prompting Chongzhen, the last emperor of the Ming dynasty, to commit suicide. May 6 – Johan Mauritius resigns as Governor of Brazil.[3] May 25 – Ming general Wu Sangui forms an alliance with the invading Manchus and opens the gates of the Great Wall of China at Shanhaiguan Pass, letting the Manchus through towards the capital Beijing. May 26 – Battle of Montijo: The Kingdom of Portugal is victorious over Habsburg Spain, in the first major action between the two nations during the Portuguese Restoration War. May 27 – Battle of Shanhai Pass: The Manchu Qing dynasty and Wu Sangui gain a decisive victory over Li Zicheng's Shun dynasty. June 3 – Li Zicheng proclaims himself emperor of China. June 6 – The invading Qing army, with the help of Ming general Wu Sangui, captures Beijing in China, marking the beginning of Manchu rule over China proper. June 11 – During the English Civil War, Prince Rupert and his men take Liverpool Castle.[5] Liverpool is later reclaimed by Sir John Moore. July 1 – Torstenson War: Battle of Colberger Heide – The Dano-Norwegian and Swedish fleets fight a naval battle off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein. The battle is indecisive but represents a minor success for the Dano-Norwegian fleet. July 2 – English Civil War: Battle of Marston Moor – The Parliamentarians crush the Royalists in Yorkshire, ending Charles I's hold on the north of England.[6] September 1 – English Civil War: Battle of Tippermuir – Montrose defeats Lord Elcho's Covenanters, reviving the Royalist cause in Scotland. September 2 – English Civil War: Second Battle of Lostwithiel (in Cornwall) – Charles I and the Royalists gain their last major victory.[7] September 15 – Pope Innocent X succeeds Pope Urban VIII, becoming the 236th pope.[8] October 1 – The Jews of Mogilev, Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, are attacked during Tashlikh. November 8 – The Shunzhi Emperor, the second emperor of the Qing dynasty, is enthroned in Beijing after the collapse of the Ming dynasty as the first Qing emperor to rule over China proper. November 23 Battle of Jüterbog (December 3 New Style): Sweden's forces defeat those of the Holy Roman Empire. Areopagitica, an appeal for freedom of speech written by John Milton, is published in London. November – The Castle of Elvas in Portugal resists a 9-day siege by the Spanish during the Portuguese Restoration War. December 8 (December 18 New Style) – As Christina comes of age, she is made ruling queen of Sweden. December – Bubonic plague breaks out in Edinburgh (Scotland). A Spanish officer is murdered in St. Dominic's Church, Macau during mass by colonists loyal to Portugal during the Portuguese Restoration War. Sigismund's Column is erected in Warsaw to commemorate King Sigismund III Vasa, who moved the capital of Poland from Kraków to Warsaw in 1596. Philosopher René Descartes publishes Principia Philosophiae (Principles of Philosophy) in Amsterdam. The opera Ormindo is first performed in Venice (music by Francesco Cavalli, and libretto by Giovanni Faustini). The West India Company[which?] displays greater interest in profit than in colonization.[vague] Thomas Britton Veit Hans Schnorr von Carolsfeld Otto Mencke Henry Winstanley Henrietta of England January 9 – Robert Gibbes, English-born landgrave in South Carolina (d. 1715) January 10 Louis François, duc de Boufflers, Marshal of France (d. 1711) Celestino Sfondrati, Italian Catholic cardinal (d. 1696) January 11 – Hayashi Hōkō, Japanese philosopher (d. 1732) January 14 – Thomas Britton, English concert promoter (d. 1714) January 18 – John Partridge, English astrologer (d. 1708) January 23 – Jonas Budde, Norwegian army officer (d. 1710) January 25 – Antoine Thomas, Jesuit missionary priest and astronomer (d. 1709)[9] January 26 – Thomas Boylston, American colonial doctor (d. 1695) February 2 Isaac Chayyim Cantarini, Italian rabbi (d. 1723) Johannes Hancke, German writer (d. 1713) February 7 – Nils Bielke, member of the High Council of Sweden (d. 1716) February 8 – Pierre de La Broue, American bishop (d. 1720) February 12 – Jakob Ammann, Swiss founder of the Amish sect (d. 1712) February 24 – Maria Elisabeth Lämmerhirt, German mother of Johann Sebastian Bach (d. 1694) March 1 – Simon Foucher, French polemicist (d. 1696) March 15 – Veit Hans Schnorr von Carolsfeld, German iron and cobalt magnate (d. 1715) March 21 – Sir Walter Bagot, 3rd Baronet, English politician (d. 1704) March 22 Otto Mencke, German philosopher and scientist (d. 1707) Sir James Rushout, 1st Baronet, English politician (d. 1698) March 25 – Heinrich von Cocceji, German jurist from Bremen (d. 1719) March 31 – Henry Winstanley, English engineer (d. 1703) April 6 – António Luís de Sousa, 2nd Marquis of Minas, Portuguese general, governor-general of Brazil (d. 1721) April 7 Nathaniel Johnson, American politician (d. 1713) François de Neufville, duc de Villeroy, French soldier (d. 1730) April 11 – Marie Jeanne Baptiste of Savoy-Nemours, Duchess of Savoy (d. 1724) April 17 – Abraham Storck, Dutch painter (d. 1708) April 21 – Conrad von Reventlow, Danish statesman, first Grand Chancellor of Denmark (d. 1708) May 2 – Robert Cotton, English politician (d. 1717) May 4 – Juan Caballero y Ocio, Spanish priest remarkable for lavish gifts to the Catholic Church and charity (d. 1707) May 5 – Sir Richard Newdigate, 2nd Baronet, English landowner (d. 1710) May 26 – Michael Ettmüller, German physician (d. 1683) June 2 – William Salmon, English medical writer (d. 1713) June 7 – Johann Christoph Volkamer, German botanist (d. 1720) June 16 – Henrietta Anne Stuart, Princess of Scotland, England and Ireland and Duchess of Orléans (d. 1670)[10] June 17 – Johann Wolfgang Franck, German baroque composer (d. 1710) July 2 – Abraham a Sancta Clara, German Augustinian friar (d. 1709) July 4 – Josceline Percy, 11th Earl of Northumberland, English noble (d. 1670) July 7 – Joan Geelvinck, Dutch politician (d. 1707) July 10 – Miguel Bayot, Spanish Catholic prelate, Bishop of Cebu (from 1697) (d. 1700) July 22 – Peter Drelincourt, Irish chaplain (d. 1722) August 6 Christian Ernst, Margrave of Brandenburg-Bayreuth (1655–1712) (d. 1712) Louise de La Vallière, French mistress of Louis XIV of France (d. 1710)[11] August 12 – Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber, Bohemian composer and violinist (d. 1704) August 28 (bapt.) – Gilles Schey, Dutch admiral (d. 1703) August 29 – Anne Bourdon, nun in New France (d. 1711) August 30 – Thomas Tufton, 6th Earl of Thanet, English politician (d. 1729) September 3 – Richard Newport, 2nd Earl of Bradford, English politician (d. 1723) September 6 – Juan Bautista Cabanilles, Spanish composer (d. 1712) September 11 – Jacob Rotius, Dutch painter (d. 1681) September 22 – Jacques Échard, French Dominican, historian of the Order (d. 1724) September 25 – Ole Rømer, Danish astronomer (d. 1710) October 1 – Jean Rousseau, French viol player (d. 1699) October 2 – François-Timoléon de Choisy, French abbé, author and cross-dresser (d. 1724) October 3 – Adriaen Frans Boudewijns, landscape painter (d. 1719) October 12 – Christopher Sandius, Dutch Arian writer (d. 1680) October 13 – Sipihr Shikoh, Mughal Emperor (d. 1708) October 14 – William Penn, English Quaker and founder of Pennsylvania (d. 1718) October 26 – Mathias Steuchius, Swedish archbishop (d. 1730) November 23 (bapt.) – Cornelia van der Gon, Dutch art collector (d. 1701) December 8 – Maria d'Este, Italian noble (d. 1684) December 9 – Robert Kirk, Scottish folklorist, Bible translator, Gaelic scholar (d. 1692) December 23 – Tomás de Torrejón y Velasco, Spanish composer, musician and organist (d. 1728) December 25 – Walter Scott, Earl of Tarras, Scottish nobleman (d. 1693) December 29 – Philips van Almonde, Dutch Lieutenant Admiral (d. 1711) Matsuo Bashō, Japanese poet (d. 1694) Pietro Erardi, Maltese chaplain and painter (d. 1727)[12] Antonio Stradivari, Italian violin maker (d. 1737)[13] Pope Urban VIII Johannes Wtenbogaert January 20 – Stefano Amadei, Italian painter (b. 1580) January 30 – William Chillingworth, controversial English churchman (b. 1602) January 31 – Georg II of Fleckenstein-Dagstuhl, German nobleman (b. 1588) February 28 – Guru Har Gobind, the Sixth Sikh Guru (b. 1595) March 15 – Countess Louise Juliana of Nassau, Regent of Bohemia (b. 1576) March 24 – Cecilia Renata of Austria, Queen of Poland (b. 1611) March 29 – Lord John Stewart, Scottish aristocrat, Royalist commander in the English Civil War (b. 1621) April 2 – Diego Salcedo, Spanish bishop (b. 1575) April 10 – Reverend William Brewster, English Pilgrim leader (b. 1567) April 25 – Chongzhen, last Ming Emperor of China (suicide) (b. 1611) April 28 – Zsófia Bosnyák, Hungarian noblewoman (b. 1609) May 26 – Alfonso III d'Este, Duke of Modena, Italian noble (b. 1591) June 17 Anne de Montafié, Countess of Clermont-en-Beauvaisis, French countess (b. 1577) John of St. Thomas, Portuguese philosopher (b. 1589) July 4 – Brian Twyne, English archivist (b. 1581) July 7 – Hedwig of Hesse-Kassel, countess consort of Schaumburg (b. 1569) July 16 – Giovanni Biliverti, Italian painter (b. 1585) July 25 – Amar Singh Rathore, Rajput nobleman affiliated with the royal house of Marwar (b. 1613) July 29 – Pope Urban VIII (b. 1568)[14] August 25 – Johann Heinrich Alting, German Lutheran theologian (b. 1583) September 4 – Johannes Wtenbogaert, Dutch leader of the Remonstrants (b. 1557) September 7 Guido Bentivoglio, Italian statesman and historian (b. 1579)[15] Ralph Corbie, Irish Jesuit (b. 1598) September 8 John Coke, English politician (b. 1563)[16] Francis Quarles, English poet (b. 1592)[17] October 6 – Elisabeth of France, queen of Philip IV of Spain (b. 1602) October 19 – Johann Friedrich, Count Palatine of Sulzbach-Hilpoltstein (b. 1587) October 30 – Jorge de Cárdenas y Manrique de Lara, Spanish noble (b. 1584) November 6 – Thomas Roe, English diplomat (b. c. 1581) November 10 – Luis Vélez de Guevara, Spanish writer (b. 1579) November 20 – Nathaniel Foote, American colonist (b. 1592) November 24 – Deodat del Monte, Flemish painter, architect (b. 1582) December 20 – Albert IV, Duke of Saxe-Eisenach (from 1640) (b. 1599) December 23 – Sir Alexander Carew, 2nd Baronet, English politician (b. 1609) December 28 – John Bankes, Attorney General and Chief Justice to King Charles I of England (b. 1589) December 30 – Jan Baptist van Helmont, Flemish chemist (b. 1577) ^ Braddick, Michael J. 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Defeating the parliamentarians at Stockport, he forced his way into Lancashire, stormed Bolton on 28 May, and captured Liverpool on 11 June", quoting Ormerod, Civil War Tracts of Lancashire, p. 187) ^ Levene, Mark (1999). The massacre in history. New York: Berghahn Books. p. 93. ISBN 9781571819345. ^ Jeremy Black (1996). The Cambridge Illustrated Atlas of Warfare: Renaissance to Revolution, 1492-1792. Cambridge University Press. p. 80. ^ Levillain, Philippe (2002). The papacy : an encyclopedia. New York: Routledge. p. 801. ISBN 9780415922289. ^ Walle, Willy (2003). The history of the relations between the Low Countries and China in the Qing era (1644-1911. Leuven, Belgium: Leuven University Press Ferdinand Verbiest Foundation. p. 90. ISBN 9789058673152. ^ Lowther, Kenneth (1979). Dartmoor, Exeter... London: Ward Lock. p. 35. ISBN 9780706357929. ^ Dumas, Alexandre (1998). The Vicomte de Bragelonne. Oxford New York: Oxford University Press. p. 674. 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Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "16th century" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (September 2022) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Millennia 2nd millennium Centuries 15th century 16th century 17th century Timelines 15th century 16th century 17th century State leaders 15th century 16th century 17th century Decades 1500s 1510s 1520s 1530s 1540s 1550s 1560s 1570s 1580s 1590s Categories: Births – Deaths Establishments – Disestablishments vte The world map by the Italian Amerigo Vespucci (from whose name the word America is derived) and Belgian Gerardus Mercator shows (besides the classical continents Europe, Africa, and Asia) the Americas as America sive India Nova', New Guinea, and other islands of Southeast Asia, as well as a hypothetical Arctic continent and a yet undetermined Terra Australis.[1]The 16th century began with the Julian year 1501 (represented by the Roman numerals MDI) and ended with either the Julian or the Gregorian year 1600 (MDC), depending on the reckoning used (the Gregorian calendar introduced a lapse of 10 days in October 1582).[1] The Renaissance in Italy and Europe saw the emergence of important artists, authors and scientists, and led to the foundation of important subjects which include accounting and political science. Copernicus proposed the heliocentric universe, which was met with strong resistance, and Tycho Brahe refuted the theory of celestial spheres through observational measurement of the 1572 appearance of a Milky Way supernova. These events directly challenged the long-held notion of an immutable universe supported by Ptolemy and Aristotle, and led to major revolutions in astronomy and science. Galileo Galilei became a champion of the new sciences, invented the first thermometer and made substantial contributions in the fields of physics and astronomy, becoming a major figure in the Scientific Revolution in Europe. Spain and Portugal colonized large parts of Central and South America, followed by France and England in Northern America and the Lesser Antilles. The Portuguese became the masters of trade between Brazil, the coasts of Africa, and their possessions in the Indies, whereas the Spanish came to dominate the Greater Antilles, Mexico, Peru, and opened trade across the Pacific Ocean, linking the Americas with the Indies. English and French privateers began to practice persistent theft of Spanish and Portuguese treasures. This era of colonialism established mercantilism as the leading school of economic thought, where the economic system was viewed as a zero-sum game in which any gain by one party required a loss by another. The mercantilist doctrine encouraged the many intra-European wars of the period and arguably fueled European expansion and imperialism throughout the world until the 19th century or early 20th century. The Reformation in central and northern Europe gave a major blow to the authority of the papacy and the Catholic Church. In England, the British-Italian Alberico Gentili wrote the first book on public international law and divided secularism from canon law and Catholic theology. European politics became dominated by religious conflicts, with the groundwork for the epochal Thirty Years' War being laid towards the end of the century. In the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire continued to expand, with the sultan taking the title of caliph, while dealing with a resurgent Persia. Iran and Iraq were caught by a major popularity of the Shia sect of Islam under the rule of the Safavid dynasty of warrior-mystics, providing grounds for a Persia independent of the majority-Sunni Muslim world.[2] In the Indian subcontinent, following the defeat of the Delhi Sultanate and Vijayanagara Empire, new powers emerged, the Sur Empire founded by Sher Shah Suri, Deccan sultanates, Rajput states, and the Mughal Empire[3] by Emperor Babur, a direct descendant of Timur and Genghis Khan.[4] His successors Humayun and Akbar, enlarged the empire to include most of South Asia. Japan suffered a severe civil war at this time, known as the Sengoku period, and emerged from it as a unified nation under Toyotomi Hideyoshi. China was ruled by the Ming dynasty, which was becoming increasingly isolationist, coming into conflict with Japan over the control of Korea as well as Japanese pirates. In Africa, Christianity had begun to spread in Central Africa and Southern Africa. Until the Scramble for Africa in the late 19th century, most of Africa was left uncolonized. For timelines of earlier events, see 15th century and Timeline of the Middle Ages. Mona Lisa, by Leonardo da Vinci, c. 1503–1506, one of the world's best-known paintings 1501: Michelangelo returns to his native Florence to begin work on the statue David. 1501: Safavid dynasty reunifies Iran and rules over it until 1736. Safavids adopt a Shia branch of Islam.[5] 1501: First Battle of Cannanore between the Third Portuguese Armada and Kingdom of Cochin under João da Nova and Zamorin of Kozhikode's navy marks the beginning of Portuguese conflicts in the Indian Ocean. 1502: First reported African slaves in the New World 1502: The Crimean Khanate sacks Sarai in the Golden Horde, ending its existence. 1503: Spain defeats France at the Battle of Cerignola. Considered to be the first battle in history won by gunpowder small arms. 1503: Leonardo da Vinci begins painting the Mona Lisa and completes it three years later. 1503: Nostradamus is born on either December 14 or December 21. 1504: A period of drought, with famine in all of Spain. 1504: Death of Isabella I of Castile; Joanna of Castile becomes the Queen. 1504: Foundation of the Sultanate of Sennar by Amara Dunqas, in what is modern Sudan 1505: Zhengde Emperor ascends the throne of Ming dynasty. 1505: Martin Luther enters St. Augustine's Monastery at Erfurt, Germany, on 17 July and begins his journey to instigating the Reformation. 1505: Sultan Trenggono builds the first Muslim kingdom in Java, called Demak, in Indonesia. Many other small kingdoms were established in other islands to fight against Portuguese. Each kingdom introduced local language as a way of communication and unity. 1506: Leonardo da Vinci completes the Mona Lisa. 1506: King Afonso I of Kongo wins the battle of Mbanza Kongo, resulting in Catholicism becoming Kongo's state religion.Battle of Cerignola: El Gran Capitan finds the corpse of Louis d'Armagnac, Duke of Nemours 1506: At least two thousand converted Jews are massacred in a Lisbon riot, Portugal. 1506: Christopher Columbus dies in Valladolid, Spain. 1506: Poland is invaded by Tatars from the Crimean Khanate. 1507: The first recorded epidemic of smallpox in the New World on the island of Hispaniola. It devastates the native Taíno population.[6] 1507: Afonso de Albuquerque conquered Hormuz and Muscat, among other bases in the Persian Gulf, taking control of the region at the entrance of the Gulf. 1508: The Christian-Islamic power struggle in Europe and West Asia spills over into the Indian Ocean as Battle of Chaul during the Portuguese-Mamluk War 1508–1512: Michelangelo paints the Sistine Chapel ceiling. 1509: The defeat of joint fleet of the Sultan of Gujarat, the Mamlûk Burji Sultanate of Egypt, and the Zamorin of Calicut with support of the Republic of Venice and the Ottoman Empire in Battle of Diu marks the beginning of Portuguese dominance of the

Hospitallers, a Crusading Order, defeat the Ottoman Empire at the siege of Malta (1565). 1565: Miguel López de Legazpi establishes in Cebu the first Spanish settlement in the Philippines starting a period of Spanish colonization that would last over three hundred years. 1565: Spanish navigator Andres de Urdaneta discovers the maritime route from Asia to the Americas across the Pacific Ocean, also known as the tornaviaje. 1565: Royal Exchange is founded by Thomas Gresham. 1566: Suleiman the Magnificent, ruler of the Ottoman Empire, dies on September 7, during the battle of Szigetvar.Siege of Valenciennes during the Dutch War of Independence in 1567 1566–1648: Eighty Years' War between Spain and the Netherlands. 1566: Da le Balle Contrade d'Oriente, composed by Cipriano de Rore. 1567: After 45 years' reign, Jiajing Emperor died in the Forbidden City, Longqing Emperor ascended the throne of Ming dynasty. 1567: Mary, Queen of Scots, is imprisoned by Elizabeth I. 1568: The Transylvanian Diet, under the patronage of the prince John Sigismund Zápolya, the former king of Hungary, inspired by the teachings of Ferenc Dávid, the founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, promulgates the Edict of Torda, the first law of freedom of religion and of conscience in the World. 1568–1571: Morisco Revolt in Spain. 1568–1600: The Azuchi-Momoyama period in Japan. 1568: Hadiwijaya sent his adopted son and son in-law Sutawijaya, who would later become the first ruler of the Mataram dynasty of Indonesia, to kill Arya Penangsang. 1569: Rising of the North in England. 1569: Mercator 1569 world map published by Gerardus Mercator. 1569: The Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth is created with the Union of Lublin which lasts until 1795. 1569: Peace treaty signed by Sultan Hairun of Ternate and Governor Lopez De Mesquita of Portugal. The Battle of Lepanto 1570: Ivan the Terrible, tsar of Russia, orders the massacre of inhabitants of Novgorod. 1570: Pope Pius V issues Regnans in Excelsis, a papal bull excommunicating all who obeyed Elizabeth I and calling on all Catholics to rebel against her. 1570: Sultan Hairun of Ternate (in present-day Indonesia) is killed by the Portuguese.[12] Babullah becomes the next Sultan. 1570: 20,000 inhabitants of Nicosia in Cyprus were massacred and every church, public building, and palace was looted. Cyprus fell to the Ottoman Turks the following year. 1571: Pope Pius V completes the Holy League as a united front against the Ottoman Turks, responding to the fall of Cyprus to the Ottomans. 1571: The Spanish-led Holy League navy destroys the Ottoman Empire navy at the Battle of Lepanto. 1571: Crimean Tatars attack and sack Moscow, burning everything but the Kremlin. 1571: American Indians kill Spanish missionaries in what would later be Jamestown, Virginia. 1571: Spanish conquistador Miguel López de Legazpi establishes Manila, Philippines as the capital of the Spanish East Indies. 1572: Brielle is taken from Habsburg Spain by Protestant Watergeuzen in the Capture of Brielle, in the Eighty Years' War. 1572: Spanish conquistadores apprehend the last Inca leader Tupak Amaru at Vilcabamba, Peru, and execute him in Cuzco. 1572: Jeanne d'Albret dies aged 43 and is succeeded by Henry of Navarre. 1572: Catherine de' Medici instigates the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre which takes the lives of Protestant leader Gaspard de Coligny and thousands of Huguenots. The violence spreads from Paris to other cities and the countryside. 1572: First edition of the epic The Lusiads of Luís Vaz de Camões, three years after the author returned from the East.[14] 1572: The 9 years old Taizi, Zhu Yijun ascended the throne of Ming dynasty, known as Wanli Emperor. 1573: After heavy losses on both sides the siege of Haarlem ends in a Spanish victory.St. Bartholomew's Day massacre of French Protestants 1574: in the Eighty Years' War the capital of Zeeland, Middelburg declares for the Protestants. 1574: After a siege of 4 months the siege of Leiden ends in a comprehensive Dutch rebel victory. 1575: Oda Nobunaga finally captures Nagashima fortress. 1575: Following a five-year war, the Ternateans under Sultan Babullah defeated the Portuguese. 1576: Tahmasp I, Safavid shah, dies. 1576: The Battle of Haldighati is fought between the ruler of Mewar, Maharana Pratap and the Mughal Empire's forces under Emperor Akbar led by Raja Man Singh. 1576: Sack of Antwerp by badly paid Spanish soldiers. 1577–1580: Francis Drake circles the world. 1577: Ki Ageng Pemanahan built his palace in Pasargede or Kotagede. 1578: King Sebastian of Portugal is killed at the Battle of Alcazarquivir. 1578: The Portuguese establish a fort on Tidore but the main centre for Portuguese activities in Maluku becomes Ambon.[12] 1578: Sonam Gyatso is conferred the title of Dalai Lama by Tumed Mongol ruler, Altan Khan. Recognised as the reincarnation of two previous Lamas, Sonam Gyatso becomes the third Dalai Lama in the lineage.[15] 1578: Governor-General Francisco de Sande officially declared war against Brunei in 1578, starting the Castilian War of 1578. 1579: The Union of Utrecht unifies the northern Netherlands, a foundation for the later Dutch Republic. 1579: The Union of Arras unifies the southern Netherlands, a foundation for the later states of the Spanish Netherlands, the Austrian Netherlands and Belgium.The Irish Gaelic chieftain's feast, from The Image of Ireland 1579: The British navigator Sir Francis Drake passes through Maluku and transit in Ternate on his circumnavigation of the world. The Portuguese establish a fort on Tidore but the main centre for Portuguese activities in Maluku becomes Ambon.[16] The fall of Spanish Armada 1580: Drake's royal reception after his attacks on Spanish possessions influences Philip II of Spain to build up the Spanish Armada. English ships in Spanish harbours are impounded. 1580: Spain unifies with Portugal under Philip II. The struggle for the throne of Portugal ends the Portuguese Empire. The Spanish and Portuguese crowns are united for 60 years, i.e. until 1640. 1580–1587: Nagasaki comes under control of the Jesuits. 1581: Dutch Act of Abjuration, declaring abjuring allegiance to Philip II of Spain. 1581: Bayinnaung dies at the age of 65. 1582: Oda Nobunaga commits seppuku during the Honnō-ji Incident coup by his general, Akechi Mitsuhide. 1582: Pope Gregory XIII issues the Gregorian calendar. The last day of the Julian calendar was Thursday, 4 October 1582 and this was followed by the first day of the Gregorian calendar, Friday, 15 October 1582 1582: Yermak Timofeyevich conquers the Siberia Khanate on behalf of the Stroganovs. 1583: Denmark builds the world's first theme park, Bakken. 1583: Death of Sultan Babullah of Ternate. 1584–1585: After the siege of Antwerp, many of its merchants flee to Amsterdam. According to Luc-Normand Tellier, "At its peak, between 1510 and 1557, Antwerp concentrated about 40% of the world trade...It is estimated that the port of Antwerp was earning the Spanish crown seven times more revenues than the Americas."[17] 1584: Ki Ageng Pemanahan died. Sultan Pajang raised Sutawijaya, son of Ki Ageng Pemanahan as the new ruler in Mataram, titled "Loring Ngabehi Market" (because of his home in the north of the market). 1585: Akbar annexes Kashmir and adds it to the Kabul SubahPortuguese fusta in India from a book by Jan Huygen van Linschoten 1585: Colony at Roanoke founded in North America. 1585–1604: The Anglo-Spanish War is fought on both sides of the Atlantic. 1587: Mary, Queen of Scots is executed by Elizabeth I. 1587: The reign of Abbas I marks the zenith of the Safavid dynasty. 1587: Troops that would invade Pajang Mataram Sultanate storm ravaged the eruption of Mount Merapi. Sutawijaya and his men survived. 1588: Mataram into the kingdom with Sutawijaya as Sultan, titled "Senapati Ingalaga Sayidin Panatagama" means the warlord and cleric Manager Religious Life. 1588: England repulses the Spanish Armada. 1589: Spain repulses the English Armada. 1589: Catherine de' Medici dies at aged 69. Abu'l-Fazl ibn Mubarak presenting Akbarnama to Mughal Azam Akbar, Mughal miniature 1590: Siege of Odawara: the Go-Hojo clan surrender to Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and Japan is unified. 1591: Gazi Giray leads a huge Tatar expedition against Moscow. 1591: In Mali, Moroccan forces of the Sultan Ahmad al-Mansur led by Judar Pasha defeat the Songhai Empire at the Battle of Tondibi. 1592–1593: John Stow reports 10,675 plague deaths in London, a city of approximately 200,000 people. 1592–1598: Korea, with the help of Ming dynasty China, repels two Japanese invasions. 1593–1606: The Long War between the Habsburg monarchy and the Ottoman Turks. 1594: St. Paul's College, Macau, founded by Alessandro Valignano. 1595: First Dutch expedition to Indonesia sets sail for the East Indies with two hundred and forty-nine men and sixty-four cannons led by Cornelis de Houtman.[18] 1596: Birth of René Descartes. 1596: June, de Houtman's expedition reaches Banten the main pepper port of West Java where they clash with both the Portuguese and Indonesians. It then sails east along the north coast of Java losing twelve crew to a Javanese attack at Sidayu and killing a local ruler in Madura.[18] 1597: Romeo and Juliet is published. 1597: Cornelis de Houtman's expedition returns to the Netherlands with enough spices to make a considerable profit.[18] 1598: The Edict of Nantes ends the French Wars of Religion. 1598: Abbas I moves Safavids capital from Qazvin to Isfahan in 1598. 1598–1613: Russia descends into anarchy during the Time of Troubles. 1598: The Portuguese require an armada of 90 ships to put down a Solorese uprising.[12] (to 1599) 1598: More Dutch fleets leave for Indonesia and most are profitable.[18]Edo period screen depicting the Battle of Sekigahara 1598: The province of Santa Fe de Nuevo México is established in Northern New Spain. The region would later become a territory of Mexico, the New Mexico Territory in the United States, and the US State of New Mexico. 1598: Death of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, known as the unifier of Japan. 1599: The Mali Empire is defeated at the Battle of Jenné. 1599: The van Neck expedition returns to Europe. The expedition makes a 400 per cent profit.[18] (to 1600) 1599: March, Leaving Europe the previous year, a fleet of eight ships under Jacob van Neck was the first Dutch fleet to reach the 'Spice Islands' of Maluku.[18] 1600: Giordano Bruno is burned at the stake for heresy in Rome.Siege of Filakovo castle during the Long Turkish War 1600: Battle of Sekigahara in Japan. End of the Warring States period and beginning of the Edo period. 1600: The Portuguese win a major naval battle in the bay of Ambon.[19] Later in the year, the Dutch join forces with the local Hituese in an anti-Portuguese alliance, in return for which the Dutch would have the sole right to purchase spices from Hitu.[19] 1600: Elizabeth I grants a charter to the British East India Company beginning the English advance in Asia. 1600: Michael the Brave unifies the three principalities: Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania after the Battle of Şelimbăr from 1599. For later events, see Timeline of the 17th century. Polybius' The Histories translated into Italian, English, German and French.[20] Mississippian culture disappears. Medallion rug, variant Star Ushak style, Anatolia (modern Turkey), is made. It is now kept at the Saint Louis Art Museum. Hernan Cortes (1485–1547) Henry VIII, (1491–1547) King of England and Ireland Don Fernando Álvarez de Toledo (1507–1582) Suleiman the Magnificent, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire (1520–1566) Ivan IV the Terrible (1530–1584) Oda Nobunaga (1534–1582) Sir Francis Drake (c. 1540 – 1596) Alberico Gentili, (1552–1608) the Father of international law Philip II of Spain, King of Spain (1556–1598) Akbar the Great, Mughal emperor (1556–1605) Related article: List of 16th century inventions. The Columbian Exchange introduces many plants, animals and diseases to the Old and New Worlds. Introduction of the spinning wheel revolutionizes textile production in Europe. The letter J is introduced into the English alphabet. 1500: First portable watch is created by Peter Henlein of Germany.The Iberian Union in 1598, under Philip II, King of Spain and Portugal 1513: Juan Ponce de León sights Florida and Vasco Núñez de Balboa sights the eastern edge of the Pacific Ocean. 1519–1522: Ferdinand Magellan and Juan Sebastián Elcano lead the first circumnavigation of the world. 1519–1540: In America, Hernando de Soto expeditions map the Gulf of Mexico coastline and bays. 1525: Modern square root symbol (√) 1540: Francisco Vásquez de Coronado sights the Grand Canyon. 1541–42: Francisco de Orellana sails the length of the Amazon River. 1542–43: Firearms are introduced into Japan by the Portuguese. 1543: Copernicus publishes his theory that the Earth and the other planets revolve around the Sun 1545: Theory of complex numbers is first developed by Gerolamo Cardano of Italy. 1558: Camera obscura is first used in Europe by Giambattista della Porta of Italy. 1559–1562: Spanish settlements in Alabama/Florida and Georgia confirm dangers of hurricanes and local native warring tribes. 1565: Spanish settlers outside New Spain (Mexico) colonize Florida's coastline at St. Augustine. 1565: Invention of the graphite pencil (in a wooden holder) by Conrad Gesner. Modernized in 1812. 1568: Gerardus Mercator creates the first Mercator projection map. 1572: Supernova SN 1572 is observed by Tycho Brahe in the Milky Way. 1582: Gregorian calendar is introduced in Europe by Pope Gregory XIII and adopted by Catholic countries. c. 1583: Galileo Galilei of Pisa, Italy identifies the constant swing of a pendulum, leading to development of reliable timekeepers. 1585: earliest known reference to the 'sailing carriage' in China. 1589: William Lee invents the stocking frame. 1591: First flush toilet is introduced by Sir John Harrington of England, the design published under the title 'The Metamorphosis of Ajax'. 1593: Galileo Galilei invents a thermometer. 1596: William Barents discovers Spitsbergen. 1597: Opera in Florence by Jacopo Peri. Entertainment in the 16th century ^ a b Modern reference works on the period tend to follow the introduction of the Gregorian calendar for the sake of clarity; thus NASA's lunar eclipse catalogue states "The Gregorian calendar is used for all dates from 1582 Oct 15 onwards. Before that date, the Julian calendar is used." For dates after 15 October 1582, care must be taken to avoid confusion of the two styles. ^ de Vries, Jan (14 September 2009). "The limits of globalization in the early modern world". The Economic History Review. 63 (3): 710–733. CiteSeerX 10.1.1.186.2862. doi:10.1111/j.1468-0289.2009.00497.x. JSTOR 40929823. S2CID 219969360. SSRN 1635517. ^ Singh, Sarina; Lindsay Brown; Paul Clammer; Rodney Cocks; John Mock (2008). Pakistan & the Karakoram Highway. Vol. 7, illustrated. Lonely Planet. p. 137. ISBN 978-1-74104-542-0. Retrieved 23 August 2010. ^ Babur (2006). Babur Nama. Penguin Books. p. vii. 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An Encyclopedia of World History (5th ed. 1973); highly detailed outline of events online free Media related to 16th century at Wikimedia Commons Timelines of 16th century events, science, culture and persons Retrieved from " 4 The following pages link to 16th century External tools (link count transclusion count sorted list) · See help page for transcluding these entries Showing 50 items. View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500)Bagpipes (links | edit) List of decades, centuries, and millennia (links | edit) Fashion (links | edit) Giovanni Boccaccio (links | edit) History of Mali (links | edit) History of Mauritius (links | edit) Post office (links | edit) Snare drum (links | edit) Republican Party (United States) (links | edit) 20th century (links | edit) 15th century (links | edit) 17th century (links | edit) 18th century (links | edit) 1624 (links | edit) 1626 (links | edit) 1642 (links | edit) 1661 (links | edit) 1608 (links | edit) 1492 (links | edit) 14th century (links | edit) 1st century (links | edit) 13th century (links | edit) 4th century (links | edit) 12th century (links | edit) 11th century (links | edit) 1564 (links | edit) 1648 (links | edit) 1572 (links | edit) 1623 (links | edit) 1662 (links | edit) 1490s (links | edit) 1640s (links | edit) 1597 (links | edit) 1690 (links | edit) 1688 (links | edit) 7th century (links | edit) 10th century (links | edit) 9th century (links | edit) 8th century (links | edit) 6th century (links | edit) 5th century (links | edit) 3rd century (links | edit) 2nd century (links | edit) 1573 (links | edit) 1570s (links | edit) 1574 (links | edit) 1436 (links | edit) 1476 (links | edit) 1542 (links | edit) 1540s (links | edit) View (previous 50 | next 50) (20 | 50 | 100 | 250 | 500) Retrieved from " WhatLinksHere/16th_century" Grain spirits, often referred to as distilled spirits or hard liquors, are alcoholic beverages made primarily from grains. These spirits are the product of fermentation and distillation processes that transform the sugars in the grains into alcohol. Popular examples of grain spirits include vodka, gin, whiskey, and rum. While grain spirits are enjoyed worldwide in various forms, each type has a unique production technique and flavor profile that distinguishes it from the others. In this article, we will explore what grain spirits are, the different types available, the production processes behind them, and the growing appeal of grain spirits across cultures. Whether you are a seasoned enthusiast or a curious newcomer, this guide will provide insight into why you should consider trying different grain spirits. Grain spirits are distilled alcohols made from fermented grains. These grains can include barley, corn, rye, wheat, and even oats. The process of making grain spirits involves the fermentation of starches found in grains, which are then converted into alcohol through the addition of yeast. After fermentation, the liquid undergoes distillation, a process that involves heating the liquid to separate the alcohol from the other components. The result is a high-proof alcohol that forms the base for various spirits like vodka, gin, whiskey, and rum. The defining characteristic of grain spirits is that they are produced primarily from grain-based ingredients. While other spirits, such as fruit-based brandy or agave-based tequila, exist, grain spirits are often considered the most widely consumed category of distilled alcohol worldwide. Grain spirits come in various forms, each with its own unique flavor profile and production technique. The most well-known types include vodka, gin, whiskey, and rum. Let's take a deeper dive into each type and how they are made. Vodka is perhaps the most famous and widely consumed grain spirit globally. Known for its neutral taste and smooth texture, vodka is traditionally made from grains like wheat, rye, and corn, although it can also be produced from potatoes, grapes, or even soybeans. The defining characteristic of vodka is its minimal flavor profile, making it an ideal base for cocktails or enjoyed on its own. The production of vodka involves a multi-step process that includes mashing the grains, fermenting the mixture, distilling it at a high proof, and then filtering it several times to remove impurities. The result is a clean, clear, and relatively flavorless spirit that can be enjoyed in various ways. The high proof of vodka can also be diluted to create a lower alcohol content, further enhancing its versatility. Gin is another popular grain spirit, distinct from vodka due to its infusion with botanicals—most notably juniper berries. Gin is traditionally made from a neutral grain spirit, similar to vodka, and then flavored with various herbs and spices during the distillation process. The botanicals used in gin can vary widely, including ingredients like coriander, angelica root, citrus peel, and even exotic herbs and flowers. The production of gin starts with a base spirit made from grains, which is then distilled with the botanicals. The type and quality of botanicals used can significantly affect the final flavor profile, leading to a range of different gin styles, from London Dry Gin to Old Tom Gin to contemporary craft gin. The combination of grain-based alcohol and botanicals gives gin its unique, aromatic, and sometimes floral character. Whiskey (or whisky, depending on the region) is a spirit with a rich history and distinct flavor profile that sets it apart from other grain spirits. Made from grains such as barley, corn, rye, and wheat, whiskey undergoes a complex production process that includes fermentation, distillation, and aging. The aging process in oak barrels is a key component of whiskey's development, as it imparts unique flavors and characteristics to the spirit. There are several types of whiskey, each defined by the grains used and the production methods involved. For example, Scotch whisky is primarily made from malted barley and aged in oak barrels for a minimum of three years, while bourbon is made from at least 51% corn and is aged in new charred oak barrels. Rye whiskey, which features a spicier flavor profile, is made with a higher percentage of rye in the grain mash. The aging process, along with the type of barrel used, greatly influences the flavor profile of the whiskey, contributing notes of vanilla, caramel, oak, and smoke. While rum is typically made from sugarcane or molasses, it is occasionally made from grain as well, especially in regions where sugarcane production is not as prominent. Grain-based rums are usually lighter in flavor than their molasses-based counterparts and can have a clean, sweet taste. Grain rums may be found in certain craft distilleries, though they are less common than traditional sugarcane-based rums. The production of rum involves fermenting the sugars in the base ingredients, followed by distillation. Rum is typically aged in wooden barrels, which imparts additional flavors and colors to the spirit. While rum can be enjoyed neat or on the rocks, it is also a popular ingredient in cocktails, such as the mojito or piña colada. Each type of grain spirit is made through a similar foundational process, but the methods can differ significantly, giving each spirit its unique characteristics. Understanding these production techniques can shed light on how the spirit's flavor, texture, and complexity develop. The first step in the production of grain spirits is fermentation. During fermentation, the starches in the grains are converted into fermentable sugars. Yeast is then added to the mixture, which ferments the sugars into alcohol. The fermentation process is critical to the final flavor profile of the spirit, as different types of yeast and grain combinations can affect the taste. After fermentation, the liquid is distilled to separate the alcohol from the water, proteins, and other impurities. Distillation is a key step in producing the high-proof alcohol that forms the base of grain spirits. The process involves heating the liquid to the point where the alcohol vaporizes and then collecting and condensing the vapor. The distillation process is typically repeated to increase the purity and alcohol content of the final product. Aging is a crucial step for certain grain spirits, particularly whiskey. The aging process takes place in wooden barrels, typically oak, which imparts distinctive flavors and characteristics to the spirit. The climate, type of wood used, and length of aging all play a role in determining the flavor profile of the aged spirit. For example, a whiskey aged for several years in a charred oak barrel may develop rich notes of vanilla, caramel, and spice. Gin, unlike other grain spirits, undergoes a special infusion process where botanicals are added to the distilled alcohol. These botanicals, including juniper berries, coriander, and other spices, are often placed in a basket within the still so that the vapor passes through them during distillation. This process allows the botanicals to infuse their aromas and flavors into the spirit, giving gin its characteristic taste. Grain spirits have become ingrained in various cultures worldwide, and each culture has its unique approach to making and enjoying these spirits. The versatility of grain spirits allows them to be adapted to different tastes and preferences, leading to their widespread popularity. Vodka is particularly beloved in Eastern Europe and Russia, where it has been an integral part of cultural traditions for centuries. In these regions, vodka is enjoyed in social settings, often accompanied by toasts and celebrations. Its neutral flavor makes it a versatile drink, suitable for a wide range of cocktails and mixers. Additionally, vodka's ability to be flavored with different infusions has made it popular in countries around the world, from the U.S. to China. Gin has a long history in both the United Kingdom and the United States, where it has evolved into an essential ingredient in cocktails such as the gin and tonic, the martini, and the Negroni. In the UK, gin has become a symbol of sophistication, with craft distilleries producing a wide range of gins infused with unique botanicals. In the U.S., gin has enjoyed a resurgence in recent years, with craft distillers experimenting with new styles and flavors. Whiskey is enjoyed worldwide, with particularly strong traditions in countries like Scotland, Ireland, the United States, and Canada. Each region has its own style of whiskey, from Scotch whisky to bourbon to Canadian rye whiskey. The diversity of whiskey types and the rich history of whiskey production make it a fascinating spirit to explore. Whether sipped neat, on the rocks, or mixed into a cocktail, whiskey offers an impressive range of flavors to suit different tastes. Rum, especially molasses-based rum, has deep ties to the Caribbean, where it is produced in large quantities. In these regions, rum is a source of cultural pride and is often enjoyed neat, mixed with tropical juices, or used in classic cocktails such as the daiquiri and the mojito. Rum has also gained international popularity, with many countries producing their own unique expressions. There are several compelling reasons why you should consider trying different types of grain spirits: Versatility: Grain spirits, especially vodka, gin, and whiskey, are incredibly versatile. They can be enjoyed neat, on the rocks, or in a wide range of cocktails, making them suitable for various occasions. Rich Flavors: Grain spirits offer a broad spectrum of flavors, from the neutral taste of vodka to the herbal complexity of gin and the rich, smoky notes of whiskey. There's a spirit to suit every palate. Cultural Significance: Many grain spirits hold deep cultural and historical significance, and trying them allows you to connect with the traditions of different regions. Craft Distilling: As the craft distilling movement continues to grow, more exciting, innovative, and experimental grain spirits are being created, giving consumers even more reasons to explore the world of distilled alcohol. Grain spirits have a rich and diverse history, with various types offering unique production methods and flavor profiles. From the neutral smoothness of vodka to the complex botanicals in gin and the barrel-aged depth of whiskey, each type of grain spirit presents an opportunity to explore the art of distillation. Whether you're a casual enthusiast or a seasoned connoisseur, there's a grain spirit out there for everyone. Tags: alcohol production techniquesgingrain spiritsrumvodkawhiskey