



Journey Into A History On Tea



A Surprising Tale Of Adventure & Intrigue

2737BC



THE LEGEND BEGINS - Tea is discovered by the mythical **Chinese** Emperor Shen Nung when nearby leaves from the **Camellia sinensis** plant landed in his pot of hot water....and the rest is history as they say!

804AD



MEDITATING MONKS - Tea is introduced to **Japan** by Japanese monks who travelled to China to learn and study its culture. They were intrigued when they noticed the Chinese monks were able to stay alert during their meditations.

1606



THE DUTCH SET THE TREND - The first shipped distribution of tea from China to Holland was made by the **Dutch East India Company**.

Tea instantly becomes popular but only amongst wealthy and aristocrats due to its high price.

1638



A PRECIOUS COMMODITY - Tea established in **Russia** as they were given as gifts by the Chinese to Tsar Michael I.

By **1689**, tea was regularly imported in exchange for furs, via caravans of hundreds of camels travelling the year-long journey.

1660



TEA SMUGGLING & RACING ON THE 7 SEAS - Tea introduced to Britain by Portuguese princess Catherine of Braganza.

High taxes forces tea smuggling which led to tea being tainted with sheep dung & rat droppings! 'Clipper' ships to cut sailing time from China to Europe and **sea captains race each other to be the first to reach home port and win the most money.**

1773



A TEA REVOLUTION - Tea plays a crucial role in the **American Revolution** and the formation of **The Boston Tea Party**. High taxes on tea imports to the colonies led to 32 cases of the first shipments of taxed tea being thrown into the harbour.

1848



THE BOTANIST SPY - in an attempt to break the Chinese monopoly on tea, the powerful **British East India Company** sent a **Scottish botanist 'spy'** Robert Fortune on an undercover mission to steal tea plants from China and smuggle them back to **India**.

1903



THE NEWEST KID ON THE BLOCK - tea was bought to **Africa** due to British colonialism. A European settler named Caine planted the first tea seeds from India on a 2-acre farm in **Kenya**.

Since then, **Kenya has become Africa's largest producer of tea** and is the third largest producer in the world, after China and India.