THE NEW WORLD AND ITS IMPACT
ON TURKIC LEXICON AND CULTURE
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In summer 1991 Kenesbay Musaev offered a course in Kazak language at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was one of the few Turkologists to travel to the United States in the Soviet period and probably the only Kazak scholar to travel from the USSR to the United States to teach Kazak language. With fond memories of his visit to our university, it is only appropriate that I offer a few thoughts on the New World and its impact upon Turkic languages and cultures to honor our ağa.

The Columbian Exchange

The history of contacts between the Eurasian continent and the Americas is the center of numerous scholarly debates. One continuing debate is the question of how and when human populations arrived in the Americas from various regions in Asia tens of thousands of years ago. The second debate centers on the brief history of Viking colonies in the New World a millenium ago. The third – which I will examine here – relates to the global impact of the voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492. There can be no doubt that it is only beginning in 1492 that there was a sustained impact of European culture on the New World. What is often overlooked, however, is that the impact of the New World on the Old World was also significant in its own right. Alfred W. Crosby, Jr. has termed this bidirectional flow of flora and fauna the “Columbian Exchange”.

1 Alfred W. Crosby, Jr., The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492 (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1972). My debt to this work for general information about the “Columbian Exchange” will be evident from the pages below. While the information cited in extenso from this work may be well known to botanists and social historians in North America and Europe, it is relatively unknown to Turkologists residing in the territories of the former USSR, who would have great difficulty gaining access to this work. See
One of the of the issues that I would like to examine here is how the spread of new flora and fauna from the New World to the Old World has been expressed in the lexicon of the various Turkic languages. This is important because many agricultural products that we take for granted today as staple foods in European, Asian, and African cuisines are, in fact, originally from the Americas. Potatoes are synonymous with the cuisine of Ireland and more recently Russia (karlofel'). Tomatoes are synonymous with Italian cuisine (pomodoro). Red bell peppers, synonymous with Hungarian cuisine (paprika), are ubiquitous from the Mediterranean to South and Southeast Asia. Even though they do not form the basis of traditional Turkic foodways, many of these ingredients have been readily integrated into most modern Turkic cuisines. Today, one cannot imagine eating in Istanbul, Kazan, Baku, Tashkent, Almaty, Ürümqi, or elsewhere in the Turkic world without enjoying tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and other agricultural products originally introduced from the New World.

In 1935 the noted Soviet botanist Vavilov wrote that out of the 640 important cultivated plants ... more than 500, i.e. 5/6th of the cultivated plants of the world belong to some part of the Old World. The New World has given rise to approximately 100 such plants (counting all the newly established species of potato as a single species).

This is not the place to review the methodologies by which scholars decide whether plants or animals are indigenous to one region or another. Suffice it to say that Vavilov has discussed in his many works concentrations of biological diversity as suggesting a center of origina-


tion for plant and animal life. Central Asia, for example, is not particularly rich in terms of field crops that are indigenous to that region. A very important indigenous plant is apples. Thus in Kazakhstan there is a tremendous variety of different kinds of wild apples in the ravines of the T'ien-Shan Mountains around Almaty, Lepsinsk (Taldykorgan), and Semirech'e (as well as in the Caucasus). Semirech'e is also a center of biological diversity for wild apricots. Other agricultural products that are indigenous to Central Asia as suggested by the biological diversity in their wild varieties include hemp, chicory, and wild carrots. Much of what else has been cultivated consists of plants originally introduced from eastern and southwestern Asia.3

With regard to distinguishing the pre-Columbian era from the post-Columbian era, historians rely on written evidence concerning the export of Old World plants and animals to the New World, as well as the import of New World plants and animals into the Old World. For example, written sources do not document potatoes, tomatoes, and corn (maize) in the New World before 1492. The archeological record for both the Old and New Worlds is particularly valuable in this regard as well. There is less certainty concerning the exchange of diseases: while it is clear that the unintentional European export of smallpox was devastating for the indigenous Native American population, documentation of the spread of syphilis from the Old World to the New World is more controversial, and rests in part (but not conclusively) on the lack of pre-Columbian skeletons in the Old World exhibiting signs of this disease's ravages to bone tissue.4

The various centers of diversity in the New World (Southern Mexico-Central America, Peru-Ecuador-Bolivia) have contributed countless agricultural products to the Old World, but it would be impossible in this limited space to review all the cultivated New World flora.5 From Mex-


ico and Central America the world has gained maize (corn), New World varieties of cotton that form the basis of modern cotton production around the world, various species of squash and pumpkins, various kinds of beans (common or kidney beans, runner beans, lima beans, tepary beans, jack beans), quinoa/Mexican tea, purple amaranth, chayote, agave, papaya, annual pimento peppers, perennial pepper, jicama, various cacti, tomatillo, cherry tomato, cacao, papaya, avocado, guava, black cherry, vanilla, pecan nuts, cashew nuts, castilloa rubber, sunflowers, Jerusalem artichokes, and many ornamental plants such as dahlias, cosmos, zinnias, and morning glories. From South America we have gained the potato, tobacco, a variety of wild strawberry, manioc, sweet potato, giant squash, peanuts, tomato, pineapple, passion fruit or purple granadilla, the rubber tree, the quinine tree, and the coca bush. Many of these items made their way to the Old World shortly after 1492, but many were introduced in the USSR and other countries only in the 20th century. In addition to New World agricultural products, there were also significant New World food animals such as the turkey and Muscovy duck.

A detailed analysis of all New World flora and fauna introduced anywhere in the Turkic world beginning with the potato and tomato and ending with the Ottoman Turkish firānk inciri 'prickly pear' (Radloff, iv, 1942), a cactus variety popular as a natural fence for cattle and for

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its delicious fruit, and the infamous coca bush would certainly require a book-length treatment. If one were to include innovations from the New World from Uzbek amirkon mahsi 'patent leather' to the latest in computer hardware, the list would grow impossibly long. For the purposes of exploring this topic in greater detail, I will limit this preliminary examination to a selected list. The first 15-18 items are the crops that Crosby considers to be the most important New World contributions to Old World agriculture, the remainder are additional flora and fauna that I have added for illustrative purposes. I will present the English and Russian data followed by the evidence of Radloff, since for such lexical items this work is of historical importance revealing the extent to which flora and fauna had spread by the late 19th century. Finally I will offer a survey of the modern data for selected modern Turkic languages followed by some preliminary conclusions.

The Columbian Exchange and the Turkic Lexicon

1. Maize

Maize is considered the single most important food crop exported from the New World. It grows under a wide range of conditions as long

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9 Crosby, Columbian Exchange, p. 170 identifies the first 15 major food crops and identifies numbers 16-18 as important food crops.

10 I have cited the data in The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, ed. William Morris (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1975). In the case of certain words such as pineapple where the English form is not derived from a Native American language, I have also consulted Gerhard Wahrig, Deutsches Wörterbuch (Berlin: Bertelsman Lexikon-Verlag, 1977); and A magyar nyelv történeti-etimológiai szótára, i-iii (Budapest, 1967-1976).

11 In addition to bilingual dictionaries of Russian such as the Russian-English Dictionary, ed. A.I. Smirnitsky (New York, 1973) and the English-Russian Dictionary, ed. V.K. Müller (New York, 1973). I have also consulted the Slovár' russkogo yazika, i-iv (Moscow, 1957-1961); M. Fasmer, trans. O.N. Trubácev, Àitimologíèskiy slovar' russkogo yazika, i-iv (Moscow, 1986-1987); and Slovar' inostanñiè slov (Moscow, 1988).

12 I have relied upon standard Russian/English-Turkic dictionaries, though I have consulted the main reference dictionaries for individual languages where necessary. It would have been impossible for our purposes here to conduct an even more thorough study of Turkic lexical materials.
as it has several months of hot weather and does not require that fields rest fallow. It is cultivated as an important crop form humans and livestock across southern Europe from Portugal through northern Italy, the former Yugoslavia, the Danube valley, and into the Caucasus.\textsuperscript{13} It is also extremely important in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere. In the 1950s Nikita Khrushchev directed the expansion of maize production in the USSR. Today it is raised in the North Caucasus and parts of Ukraine, and more recently new varieties have been introduced in Tatarstan.

In the 1670s maize was known in southern France as \textit{bled d'Espagne} \textquoteleft Spanish wheat\textquoteright. According to Crosby, early European names for maize (some of which are still in use) include \textit{granturco}, \textit{blé de Turquie}, \textit{Türkischer Korn}, \textit{Turkije wheat}, and \textit{trigo de Turquia}. Various names used in the Indian subcontinent such as \textit{Mecca}, \textit{Makka}, etc. suggest that it first arrived there from the Middle East. African names indicate a New World and Middle Eastern origin. During the time of the Napoleonic invasions Egyptians were calling it \textquoteleft wheat of Turkey\textquoteright or \textquoteleft wheat of Syria\textquoteright.\textsuperscript{14} While Old English and Middle English \textit{corn} refers to any cereal grain (\textit{AHD}, 296), in American English this refers more commonly to maize \textquoteleft Indian corn\textquoteright, which derives from Spanish \textit{maíz}, a borrowing from Taino \textit{mahiz} (\textit{AHD}, 787). The Russian terms for maize are \textit{maís}, which clearly goes back to the Taino form, and \textit{kukuruza}, whose origin is uncertain and may originally be a Romanian word (Fasmer, \textit{ii}, 407; \textit{A magyar nyelv történeti-etimológiai szótára}, \textit{ii}, 660).

Radloff: Osm. \textit{qogoroz} (\textit{ii}, 509), Bosn. \textit{ququruz} (\textit{ii}, 897), Kas. \textit{ába boday} (\textit{iv}, 1714) \textquoteleft Mais\textquoteright; Osm. \textit{qalambık} \textquoteleft Mais, in Farbe und Form von Rosenkranzkugeln\textquoteright (\textit{ii}, 238); Sart. \textit{badrâk} \textquoteleft im Kessel geröstete Maiskörner\textquoteright (\textit{iv}, 1520); Sart. \textit{zağara} \textquoteleft das Mais und Hirschmehl und das aus ihm gebackene Brot\textquoteright (\textit{iv}, 860).


\textsuperscript{14} Crosby, \textit{Columbian Exchange}, pp. 179, 188-189.
Modern Turkic languages: Altay kukuıza, mais; Azeri garğdalar; Bashkir kukuız, mais; Chuvash kukkanı, kukuıza, mais; Karachay-Balkar när tü, cügeri; Karakalpак mükke; Kazak cügeri, mais; Kazan Tatar kukuız, mais, küğba bodayır, Kumik ğabicay, ğabicday; Kyrgyz meke cügorü, cügorü; Noğay när tü, açi biyday; Turkish misır, misır bugdayır; Türkmen megkeöven; Tuıan kukuıza, mais; Uygur kömmä qonaq; Uzbek makkaco'xorı; Yakas kukuıza, mais; Yakut kukuıza, mais.

An additional cultural note: maize porridge, known in northern Italy beginning soon after the time of Columbus, is well known internationally from northern Italian cuisine by the name polenta, though this food is also well known among the Moldovans as mamaliga. Among the Karachays this food is known as qaq (which in Kazan Tatar means ‘dried pressed fruit’).

2. Beans of many varieties (*Phaseolus vulgaris* and others)

From the over one thousand species of beans, some (such as the soybean) are of Old World origin, but the New World species spread rapidly in Europe and throughout the world because they are especially rich in protein, oils, and carbohydrates. Important New World beans include the lima, sieva, Rangoon, Madagascar, butter, Burma, pole, curry, kidney, French, navy, haricot, snap, string, common, and frijole beans. Because the tremendous variety of Old and New World species are often lumped together in descriptions and because they are usually a garden crop rather than a field crop, it is difficult to treat New World species separately.

The English word *bean* has an Indo-European etymology, as does Russian *bob ‘kidney bean’, fasol’ ‘haricot, French bean’, konskie bobì ‘horse bean’.

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15 The etymology of this word is also unclear when viewed from the perspective of the other Slavic forms (Vasmer, ii, 407), but one could imagine a Turkic etymology based upon *mama* ‘food’ (infant’s language) + -ık. On the other hand, Redhouse considers this word as well as kokoroız (below) to be borrowings from Romanian into Turkish.

Radloff: Misch. ügi: (i, 1808), Tar. noqut (iii, 693), Tob. lubīya (iii, 761), Kas. cazu:li borçaq (iv, 53), Bar. qara burtsak (iv, 1370), Osm. Krm. baqla (iv, 1443), Kas. borçaq (iv, 1711), Dsch. bükrlülçük (iv, 1880), Osm. fasulya (iv, 1917), Tar. maṣ (iv, 2058) ‘Bohne’; Osm.Krm. çahudî baqlasî ‘ägyptische Bohne’ (iv, 1444); Osm.Krm. aci baqla ‘bittere Bohne’ (iv, 1443); Osm. tazâ fasulya ‘grüne Bohne’ (iv, 1917); Osm. at kastänâsi (i, 445), Kas. török borçaq (iv, 1711), Osm. bünrlülca (iv, 1886) ‘türkische Bohne’; Osm. quru fasulya ‘weisse Bohne’ (iv, 1917); Osm.Krm. Hind baqlasî ‘Bohne, mit der man Tabak parfümiert’ (iv, 1444); Osm. yar fasulyasi Strauchbohne’ (iv, 1917); Osm. aïsça qa-dım fasulyasi ‘eine Art grosser Bohnen’ (iv, 1917).

Modern Turkic languages: Altay mırçaq, fasol’; Azeri paxla; Bashkir borsaq, qara borsaq, fasol’, noqot borsag; Chuvasch nimes pârsî; Karachay-Balkar qudoru; Kazak iri buršaq, ürme buršaq ‘haricot’; Kazan Tatar bakça borçaq, noqut, noqot borçaq, fasol’; Kumyk burçaq; Kyrgyz bob, buurçak, fasol’; Nógay noqút; Turkish fasulye; bakla ‘broad bean’, börülce ‘black eyed bean’, acı bakla, ufak bakla ‘horse bean’, çalt fasulyesi ‘kidney bean’, adi fasulye ‘haricot bean’; Türkmen köstük, noýba kösügi, noýba; Tuvań bob, çoçak-taraa; Uyğur dadur poçaq, dadur, caŋtu, lobi; Uzbek lovtiya, no’xat; Xakas bob; Yakut bob (no data for Karakalpak).

3. Peanuts

Peanuts are widely used in African, South Asian, and Southeast Asian cuisines. They are also popular internationally as a snack food. The English word is from pea + nut. The Russian forms are araxis, zemlyanoy orex. The word araxis is from Greek (Slovar russkovo yazika, i, 38).

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: Azeri araxis, erfindiğî; Bashkir araxis, er sätâlîege, qyay sätâlîege; Chuvasch araxis, šer mâyãre; Karakalpak caŋqag ‘gretskiy orex’; Kazak araxis, cer caŋqag, qyay caŋqag; Kazan Tatar araxis, ciklævege, Kitaý ciklævege; baby (dialect?, my mother,

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17 Crosby, Columbian Exchange, pp. 193, 195, 200
who was Mişar Tatar, would use this word); Kyrgyz *araxis, cer ğanqak;* Turkish *Amerikan fıstığı, yer fıstığı; Türkmen araxis; Uzbek yer yonqoq;* Yakut *araxis* (no data for Altay, Karachay-Balkar, Kumik, Nogay, Tuvan, Uyğur, Xakas).

4. Potato

From the perspective of northern Europe and Asia, one of the most important crops to emerge from the New World is the potato. Europeans at first viewed this tuber with skepticism and considered it variously as an aphrodisiac, a cause of leprosy, or simply insipid. The first mass cultivation of potatoes in Europe began in Ireland in the late 16th century. The increase in the Irish population as a result of the introduction of the potato is instructive for understanding the impact of New World agricultural products in the Old World (at least until the catastrophe of the potato blight). A family could live well off 1.5 acres (0.6 hectares), with each individual consuming about 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) of potatoes per day with some milk products.

The cultivation of potatoes later spread across England, France, German, and Hungary over the course of the late 18th-early 19th centuries. As a result of the famine and epidemic of 1765, Catherine the Great launched a campaign to encourage potato cultivation, but potatoes did not become a major crop until after the crop failures of 1838 and 1839. German colonists in the steppe were influential in the spread of the potato. Over the last four decades of the 19th century potato production increased over 400 percent, and Russia became one of the world’s top producers of potatoes by 1900.18 It is difficult to imagine that potatoes were not a staple in the Imperial Russian diet until the second half of the 19th century—beginning of the 20th century.

The English word derives from Spanish *patata,* which is a borrowing from *Taino* *batata* (*AHD,* 1025). Russian *kartofel*’ is a borrowing from

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German *Kartoffel*. It is believed that the German derives from Italian *tartufa, tartufolo* ‘truffle’ (Wahrig, 2045; Fasmer, ii, 204).


Modern Turkic languages: Altay *kartoško*, Azeri *kartoʃ*, Bashkir *kartuf*, Chuvash *şerulmi*; Karachay-Balkar *k. gardoʃ*, B. *kartoʃ*, Karakalpak *kartoʃka*; Kazak *kartoʃ*, Kazan Tatar *bärəğge, cıɾ almaʃı* (dialect); Kumik *kartoʃ, kartoʃka, Kyrgyz kartoʃel’, kartoʃkö*, Noğay *kartoʃel’, yeralma*; Turkish *patates*; Türkmen *kartoʃka*; Tuvan *kartoʃel’, kartoʃka*, Uyğur *yanjiyu*; Uzbek *kartoʃka*; Xakas *yablax*; Yakut *xornoppyu*.

5. **Sweet potato**

“Potato” in the early modern sources often referred to both regular and sweet potatoes, so it is difficult to distinguish the early history of potatoes from that of sweet potatoes. Their high productivity (four times that of rice) and its resistance to drought and tolerance of poor soils has made it an important crop in warmer climates such as those of Africa, China, India, and Indonesia. The Russian forms are *diəskoreya* (?), *batat*. Compare the German forms *Süsskartoffel, batate*.

Radloff: no data.


6. **Manioc (also called cassava and tapioca)**

The root of this shrub is an extremely important food in tropical regions of Africa, southern India, and Southeast Asia. The English word *manioc* derives from the French word, which is of Tupian origin, akin to Tupi *manioca* (*AHD*, 794). The English word *cassava* derives from Spa-
nish cazabe ‘cassava bread’, which is a borrowing from Taino caçábi (AHD, 209). The English word tapioca is derived from the Spanish and Portuguese words, which are borrowings from Tupi tipioca ‘residue’ (AHD, 1316). The Russian forms are manioka, tapioka.

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: Azeri maniok, manioka; Kazak manioka; Turkish manyok, tapyoka; Türkmen manioka (no data for Altay, Bashkir, Chuvash, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kazan Tatar, Kumik, Kyrgyz, Noğay, Tuvan, Uygur, Uzbek, Xakas, Yakut).

7. Squashes & pumpkin

I hesitate to make sweeping generalizations about the role of squashes and pumpkins, because certain authors present all squash and pumpkins as being from the New World, while other authorities indicate that many varieties were present in the Old World as well. The English words squash and pumpkin both have an Indo-European etymology. Russian kabak, kabaçok ‘squash’ is from Turkic qabaq (Fasmer, ii, 148), while tikva ‘squash, pumpkin’ has an Indo-European etymology (Fasmer, iv, 130-131).


Modern Turkic languages: Altay kabaçok, tikva; Azeri yunan qabaği; Bashkir qabaq; Chuvash kabaçok, tārāxla kavān; Karachay-Balkar kabaçok, K. qab, B. xiyar; Karakalpak as qabaq; Kazak kädi, asqabaq; Kazan Tatar keçkenä kabak, taşkabak, kabak; Kumik taşqabaq, qabaq; Kyrgyz kabadça, aškabak; Noğay kabaçok, kabak;
8. Papaya

The English word derives from the Spanish, which is a borrowing from the Cariban (AHD, 949).

One English-Russian dictionary defines papaya as ‘dinnoe derevo, plod dinnogo dereva’, but surprisingly the only source in which I have seen papayya listed as a Russian word is the Bol’soy Russko-Turkmen-"sky Slovar’, i–ii (Moscow, 1986-1987), ii, 13.

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: Turkish papaya ağac, Türkmen gavun agacı (no data for Altay, Azeri, Bashkir, Chuvash, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kazak, Kazan Tatar, Kumik, Kyrgyz, Noğay, Turkish, Türkmen, Tuvan, Uygur, Uzbek, Yakut).

9. Guava

The English word derives from the Spanish guava, guayaba, which is of South American Indian origin (AHD, 584). I have found no Russian form.

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: (no data for Altay, Azeri, Bashkir, Chuvash, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kazak, Kazan Tatar, Kumik, Kyrgyz, Noğay, Turkish, Türkmen, Tuvan, Uygur, Uzbek, Yakut).

10. Avocado

The English word derives from the Spanish aguacate, which is a borrowing from Nahuatl ahuacatl ‘testicle’ because of the shape of the fruit (AHD, 91). I have found no Russian form.

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: (no data for Altay, Azeri, Bashkir, Chuvash, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kazak, Kazan Tatar, Kumik, Kyrgyz, Noğay, Turkish, Türkmen, Tuvan, Uygur, Uzbek, Yakut).

11. Pineapple

The English word is from pine + apple from the resemblance of its shape to a pine cone (AHD, 995). The well-known international form
ananas is derived from Portuguese ananas, which is a borrowing from
the Tupi (Wahrig, 368). This is the same form used in Russian.

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: Altay ananas; Azeri ananas; Bashkir
ananas; Chuvash ananas; Karachay-Balkar ananas; Kazan Tatar ana-
nas; Kumžk ananas; Kyrgyz ananas; Noğay ananas; Turkish ananas;
Türkmen ananas; Tuva ananas; Uyğur ananas; Uzbek ananas; Xakas
ananas (no data for Karakalpak, Kazak, Yakut).

12. Tomato

The English word is a variant of earlier tomate, which is derived
from the Spanish, which is a borrowing from Nahuatl tomatl (AHD,
1352). The Russian forms are pomidor, tomat. The latter is obviously
ultimately derived from the Nahuatl, but pomidor is clearly linked with
Italian pomo d’oro ‘golden apple’ (Fasmer, iii, 323).

Radloff: Osm. firänk pätčcan (iv, 1179), Osm. firänk badincanı
1942 ‘Tomat’.

Modern Turkic languages: Altay pomidor, tomat; Azeri pomidor,
tomat; Bashkir pomidor, tomat; Chuvash-pomidor, tomat; Karachay-
Balkar padrçañ, pomidor, tomat; Karakalpak pomidor; Kazak pomidor,
tomat; Kazan Tatar pomidor, tomat; Kumik pomidor, qızıl badircan,
tomat; Kyrgyz pomidor, tomat; Noğay pomidor, badircan, tomat; Turkish
domates; Türkmen pomidor, tomat; Tuva pomidor, tomat; Uyğur
pəmidur, tomat; Uzbek pomidor, tomat; Xakas pomidor, tomat; Yakut
pomidor, tomat.

13. Chile pepper

The English word pepper is of Indo-European origin, as are the well-
known Hungarian paprika and Russian perets, strûckoviþ perets.

Radloff: Osm. isi ot (i, 1388), Kmd. purç, Tel. pırçın (iv, 1313), Tel.
puruç, Bar. puruts (iv, 1367), Tel. Kmd. Alt. purç (iv, 1370), Kas. boroç
(iv, 1710), Krm. Osm. bübär (iv, 1789), Tob. buruts, Kir. burush (iv,
1825), Dsch. burç (iv, 1832), Osm. bübär (iv, 1903), Leb. mürç (iv,
2143), Tar. muç (iv, 2200) ‘Pfeffer’; Osm. nază bübär, yasıl bübär (iv,
1903), ‘grüner Pfeffer’; Tob. qızıl buruts (iv, 1825), Osm. qırımız bübär
(iv, 1903), ‘roter Pfeffer’; Krm. Osm. qırımız bübär (iv, 1789), ‘spani-
scher Pfeffer’; Osm. Arna’ut bübäri (i, 303), Bar. qızıl puruts (iv, 1367),
Kas. qızıl boróč (iv, 1710) ‘türkischer Pfeffer’.

Modern Turkic languages: Altay murç; Azeri bibär; Bashkir horóś; Chuvash párāś; xutašlá párāś ‘pepper with seeds’, xerle párāś ‘red pepper’, pilak párāś ‘sweet pepper’; Karachay-Balkar K. şibici, B. çibici, qızıl şibici ‘red pepper’; Karakalpak burış; Kazak burış, qızıl burış ‘red pepper’; Kazan Tatar horç; Kumik burç, issot, cibicey, qızıl burç ‘red pepper’; Kyrgyz kızıl murç, kalempir ‘red pepper’ or ‘pepper with seeds’; Nógay buriş, şibciy; Türkish biber, kırmızı biber ‘red pepper’, yeşil biber ‘green pepper’; Türkmen burç, qızıl burç ‘red pepper’, bolgar burç ‘Bulgarian pepper’; Tuvan perets, kızıl perets ‘red pepper’; Uyğur qalāmpur, laza ‘red pepper’; Uzbek qalāmpir, garmdori, aççiq qalāmpir, qızıl qalāmpir ‘red pepper’ or ‘pepper with seeds’, suvqalāmpir ‘perets vodyanoy’, bulğor qalāmpiri, bulğor garmdorisi ‘Bulgarian pepper’; Xakas perets; Yakut biĕres.

14. Cocoa
The English word cococa is a variant of cacao (owing to confusion with the coconut), which derives from the Spanish, which is a borrowing from Nahuatl cacahuatl ‘cacao beans’ (AHD, 185, 257) The Russian form is kakao.

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: Altay kakao; Azeri kakao; Bashkir kakao; Chuvash kakao; Karachay-Balkar kakao, qaxaúa; Karakalpak kakao; Kazak kakao; Kazan Tatar kakao, şokolad aqaçr; Kumik kakao; Kyrgyz kakao; Nógay kakao; Türkish kakao; Türkmen kakao; Tuvan kakao; Uyğur kakao; Uzbek kakao; Xakas kakao; Yakut kakao.

15. Tobacco
The English word is a variant of earlier tabac(e)o, which derives from Spanish tabaco, which is probably from Arabic t.ābaq ‘euphoria-causing herb’ (AHD, 1350). The Russian form is tabak.

Radloff: Schor. Leb. taq̲̱̱ (iii, 793), Alt. t̲̱̱̱̱̱ (iii, 809), Schor. taq̲̱̱̱ (iii, 952), Tar. tamaq̲̱̱̱ (iii, 994), Sag. Koib. Ktsch. tamaq̲̱̱ (iii, 1003), Kas. tāmāki (iii, 1130), Sag. tāmâki (iii, 1136), Osm. Krm. tüütüm (iv, 468, 1137) ‘Tabak’; tümbâki (iii, 1604) ‘persischer Tabak’.

Modern Turkic languages: Altay taŋki, tæzmây; Azeri tüütüm; Bashkir
tämäke; Chuvash tabak; Karachay-Balkar tütün; Karakalpak temekä; Kazak temekä; Kazan Tatar tämäke; Kumik tamakük; Kyrgyz temekä; Noğay tütün, tameke; Turkish tütün, tömbeki; Türkmen temmäki; Tuvan taakpr; Uyğur tamaka; Uzbek tamaki; Xakas tamkr; Yakut tabak.

16. Rubber

The English word derives from the verb *rub*, which has an Indo-European etymology. English *caoutchouc* is derived from the French, which is from obsolete Spanish *cauchue*, which is a borrowing from the Quechua (*AHD*, 199). The Russian forms are *kauçuk*, *rezina*. Vasmer considers *kauçuk* a borrowing from German *Kautschuk* or French *caoutchouc* (*Fasmer*, ii, 211), and *rezina* to be a borrowing from French *résine* (*Fasmer*, iii, 462).

Radloff: Osm. Krm. Kom. *saqz* (iv, 250) 'Gummi'. (It is not likely that these or other entries under 'Gummi' are related to New World rubber trees.)


17. Cotton (certain varieties)

The English word goes back to Middle English *cotoun*, which derives from Old French, which is a borrowing from Arabic (Spanish dialectal) *gatōn*, variant of Arabic *guň* (*AHD*, 302). (I have always assumed that all these forms must go back to the name *Khotan*.) The Russian form is *xlopop*, which is of uncertain origin (*Fasmer*, iv, 245).


Modern Turkic languages: Altay *köhön*, *xlopop*; Azeri *pambig*; Bashkir *mamik*; *ozön süsle mamig* ‘long-fiber cotton’; Chuvash *śërmamäk*; Karachay-Balkar *mamug*; Karakalpak *paxta*; Kazak *maqta*; Kazan
Tatar mamik; ozm süşle mamik ‘long-fiber cotton’; Kumik mamuq; Kyrgyz paxta, kebez; Noğay mamik; Turkish pamuk; Türkmen pagta, pamuk; Tuvan xoşet; Uyghur paxta; Uzbek paxta; Xakas xlopop; Yakut xlopop.

The following forms in Radloff do not offer the possibility to distinguish New World varieties from Old World varieties. I have not come across any suggestion that this could have an older origin to the east connected with Khotan, which to me seems a good hypothesis.

18. Vanilla

The English word is derived from the Spanish vainilla ‘little sheath’ because of its elongated fruit, which goes back to vaina ‘sheath’, from Latin vāgīna (AHD, 1416). The Russian form is vanil’.

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: Azeri vanil; Bashkir vanil’; Chuvash vanil’; Kazak vanil’; Kazan Tatar vanil’; Kyrgyz vanil’; Turkish vanil’; Türkmen vanil’; Uzbek vanil’; Xakas vanil’; Yakut vanil’ (no data for Altay, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kumik, Noğay, Tuven, Uyghur).

19. Passion fruit (purple granadilla)

The English word passion fruit (the fruit of the passion flower) is so named because of the imagined resemblance of its parts to the instruments of the play representing the Passion of Christ (AHD, 958). The word granadilla is derived from the Spanish diminutive of granada ‘pomegranate’, which has an Indo-European etymology (AHD, 572). The form maracuña, the name by which this fruit is now popular in Europe, is apparently the native South American form. The Russian form is strastotsvet (based on strast ‘suffering’), passiflora ‘passion flower’.

Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: Azeri həvəsəçək ‘passion flower’; Turkish çarkıfelek çiçeği ‘passion flower’ (no data for Altay, Bashkir, Chuvash, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kazak, Kazan Tatar, Kumik, Kyrgyz, Noğay, Türkmen, Tuven, Uyghur, Uzbek, Xakas, Yakut).

20. Cashew

The English word is derived from Portuguese caju, acajú, which is a borrowing from Tupi acajú (AHD, 209). One English-Russian dictionary defines it as ‘vid dereva, rastushchego v Yujnoy Amerike’. I have no other Russian data.
Radloff: no data.

Modern Turkic languages: Turkish Amerikan baladur ağacı cevizi (no data for Altay, Azeri, Bashkir, Chuvash, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kazak, Kazan Tatar, Kumuk, Kyrgyz, Noğay, Türkmen, Tuvan, Uyğur, Uzbek, Xakas, Yakut).

21. Turkey

The English word *turkey* (the North American bird *Meleagris gallopavo* or the related *Agriocharis ocellata* of Mexico and Central America) is short for *turkey* cock ‘male turkey’, which was originally applied to the guinea fowl (with which the American bird was later mistakenly identified), first imported by the Portuguese from Africa by way of Turkey (*AHD*, 1383). The Russian forms are: indyuk, indeyskiy petux ‘turkey cock’; indyuška, indeyka ‘turkey hen’, continuing the belief that it is an “Indian” bird as in the French *dindon* (Fasmer, ii, 132).

Radloff: Kir. tüö tawu (iii, 1528) ‘Pute’; Osm. hind tavuğu, mısır tavuğu (iii, 986), Osm. baba kindi (iv, 1564), Osm. Bosn. baba (iv, 1637) ‘Truthahn’.

Modern Turkic languages: Altay erkek yamankuş, indyuk; tiji yamakuš, indyuška; Azeri loş, hindxoruz; hinduška, hindtoyuğu; Bashkir ata kürkä; inä kürkä; Chuvash kärkka ašni; kärkka am; Karachay-Balkar qırın tawuq, goguş; Karakalpak tuye tawuq; Kazak kürke tawuq (gorazi); kürke tawuq (mekienti); also tuye tawuq; Kazan Tatar kürkä; öni kürkä; Kumuk erkek gürgür, tisi gürgür; Kyrgyz kürp (erkek kürp); ur-gaası kürp; Noğay ataman, ata kökis; ana kökis; Turkish erkek hindi; dişi hindi; Türkmen xind tovugnu xorazi; xind tovug; Tuvan indyuk, azrul ular; Uyğur kürkä goraz, kul-kul toxi xoraz; kürkä toxi; Uzbek kurka (xo'rozi); kurka (tovuği); Xakas irgek indeyka; tizi indeyka; Yakut indyuk, öjöy börtük.

22. Muscovy

A waterfowl (*Cairina moschata*) found wild from Mexico to Brazil, but domesticated around the world for its succulent flesh. It is greenish-black with heavy red wattles. Also called *Muscovy duck*, *musk duck*. *Muscovy duck* is a folk etymology from *musk duck* by mistaken association with Muscovy (*AHD*, 864). The Russian form is muskusnaya utka.
musk duck
Radloff: no data.
Modern Turkic languages: Turkish misk ördeği (no data for Altay, Azəri, Bashkir, Chuvash, Karachay-Balkar, Karakalpak, Kazak, Kazan Tatar, Kumyk, Kyrgyz, Öğay, Türkmen, Tuvan, Uygar, Uzbek, Xakas, Yakut).

23. Sunflower
The English word is derived from sun + flower. The Russian form is podsolnechnik.
Radloff: Osm.Krm. çarq-us-säms (iii, 1865), Osm. g'ün cicäyi (iii, 2145), Kas. ayağar (iv, 702), Trkm. günü-baqr (iv, 1436), Kas. ai bawr (iv, 1566) ‘Sonnenblume’.
Altay kün-kuzuk; Azeri günəbaxan; Bashkir könbağış; Chuvash xevəsəvranış; Karachay-Balkar çöbleu; Karakalpak ayğabağar; Kazak künbağış, künbağar, aygabaq, semişke; Kazan Tatar könbagış, aybagar; Kumyk gülaylan, semişka; Kyrgyz kün karama, kün bagiş; Noğay künaylan; Turkish gün içeqi, ay içeqi; Türkmen günəbakar; Tuvan tərmal tooruk; Uygar aptappendäz, çikildäk; Uzbek kungabaqar; Xakas sal xuxux ‘podsolnux’; Yakut podsolnechnik.

24. Quinine
The English word quinine is from quin + -ine, with quin ‘cinchona, cinchona bark’, which derives from Spanish quina ‘cinchona bark’, short for quinaquina, a borrowing perhaps from Quechua (AHD, 1071, 1072). The Russian form is xinin.
Radloff: no data.
Modern Turkic languages: Altay xinin; Azeri kınä; Bashkir xinin; Chuvash xinin; Karachay-Balkar xinin, bezek darman; Kazak xinin; Kazan Tatar xinin; Kumyk xinin, xini; Kyrgyz xinin; Noğay xinin; Turkish xinin; Türkmen xinin; Tuvan xinin; Uzbek xinin, xin; Xakas xinin (no data for Karakalpak, Uygar, Yakut).

25. Syphilis
This disease is named after Syphilis, the title character of a Latin poem (1530) by Girolamo Fracastoro, Veronese physician and poet and the supposed first victim of the disease (AHD, 1306). The Russian form is sifilis.

Modern Turkic languages: Altay sifilis; Azeri sifilis (cf. Radloff: atásák); Bashkir sülä; Chuvash sifilis; Karachay-Balkar sifilis, orus auruu; Kazak merez; Kazan Tatar sifilis, ciòzam; Kyrgyz sifilis, koton cara, kulguna; Turkish firengi illeti, sifilis; Türkmen merezêl; Tuvan pâş; Uyğur sifilis, yâl yara; Uzbek sifilis, zaxm; Yakut sippilis (no data for Karakalpak, Kumik, Noğay, Xakas).

Conclusions

The adaptation of existing terms for Old World flora and fauna to New World imports (often with a modifier) can be seen for example with Turkic words for maize (wheat, millet), bean (pea), peanut (nut), potato (apple), tomato (eggplant), pepper (black pepper), turkey (rooster, chicken), and muscovy (duck). In some cases continuity in names simply does not allow us to distinguish between New World and Old World varieties, as in the case of squash and pumpkin. Indeed, continuity in the use of traditional names for cotton masks the fact that the cultivation of New World varieties of cotton has almost completely supplanted the cultivation of earlier Old World varieties. In contrast, the sunflower is given an original descriptive name in most Turkic languages.

Maize is an excellent example of New World agricultural products being called by different names based upon the region from which they are first introduced (or at least in the belief in such an origin). The Turkish form misûr ‘Egypt’ as well as the Kazan Tatar, Kyrgyz, Türkmen, and Uzbek forms all reflect a belief that this grain was introduced from somewhere in the Middle East. Other examples of this practice include some of the names for tomato, pepper, and turkey. This can also be seen in the well-known practice of blaming neighboring peoples for the origin of syphilis: just as the Italians blamed the French, the French
blamed Naples, the British blamed the French, Bordeaux, and the Spaniards, the Poles blamed the Germans, and the Russians blamed the Poles,21 various Turkic peoples blamed their neighbors as well.

The names for potato, such an important New World food, reflect its rapid introduction throughout Russia. It is therefore surprising that Russian kartofel’ is one of the many words cited here that does not even appear in the Slovar’ inostrannix slov. The Chuvash, Kazan Tatar (dialect), and Nogay forms are semantically identical with French pomme de terre, whether as a result of French influence via Russian speakers or by coincidence. Note also the Siberian forms based on the Russian word for apple. The origin of Kazan Tatar bûrâgge requires further study. It could be connected with the common modifier fûrângi, etc. meaning ‘Western European’, although this term is more common in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. On the other hand, the Kazan Tatar dialect known as Bûrâgge söyläše is connected with the town of Paran’ga and the Paranginskiy rayon in Mari El. It is not clear what connection there might be between this name, Mari parenge ‘potato’ (Mariysko-russkiy slovar’, Moscow, 1956, 409), and the Kazan Tatar word for potato.

Finally, Western European languages (directly or through Russian) and even Chinese have given the Turkic languages many new names for Old World agricultural products. Many of these names derive ultimately from Native American languages, as has been seen above. Others, like the word tobacco, apparently do not. In the 20th century there was a wholesale borrowing of the Russian names for tomato, cocoa, pineapple, vanilla, quinine, rubber, and many other products into the Turkic languages of the Russian Empire and later the USSR. With increasing globalization in the 21st century, there can be little doubt that New World agricultural products such as the cashew, avocado, papaya, guava, and maracuja (passion fruit) – and their names of Native American origin – will one day become more familiar in the lexicon of the various Turkic languages.

21 Crosby, Columbian Exchange, pp. 124-125, 150.

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