

Multicultural Communication through Cuisine: Curry's Journey from India to Britain and Japan

Before the pandemic, I enjoyed traveling in both my home country and abroad. Whenever I visited a new destination, I prioritized trying out local food created with novel recipes. Through these experiences, I was able to learn more about a region's various cultures. This was why, while deciding on my NHD topic, I chose the theme of food. I realized that through food, countries and cultures can communicate to the rest of the world. While brainstorming under the theme of communication and food, I decided to focus on curry. I noticed that there were different curry recipes in almost every country that I researched.

I conducted research by first searching for books, articles, videos, photos, and other sources dealing with gastrodiplomacy. After I understood the concept broadly, I took a more in-depth look into the history of curry. I began experimenting with WebCentral and tried to familiarize myself with the website-making tool before working on the finished project. Through the research process, I came to the realization that cooking, in general, takes a lot of careful and gradual preparation. Teaching a region's cooking techniques or combining them with those of other regions requires the cooks of both areas to spend a considerable amount of time and effort communicating. Usually, the results end up benefiting both sides. In this way, multicultural cuisines have played a significant role in linking people of diverse cultural backgrounds in the private realm of domestic life and the public realm of social life.

Furthermore, it benefits countries on a national level because they are able to portray themselves in a positive light internationally, and other countries can get to know them through their respective culinary diplomatic efforts. Curry's history is a prime example of this. We can see this type of international communication in the history of curry, how it was first created and

eventually spread across the world. Curry, and the creation of new curry recipes, played an important, although a limited, role in facilitating cooperative coexistence between different peoples, even amid the backdrop of brutal and oppressive colonialism. In colonial India, curry helped the European colonizers adjust to the unfamiliar foreign life and deepened the culinary knowledge of native housewives and cooks. In Britain and Japan, curry also allowed many housewives to serve their families affordable yet nutritious dishes. Curry has demonstrated the power of cooperative intercultural or multicultural communication.

We can learn a great deal from the history of curry. We can see that cooperative interactions and communication between nations, even on the small scale of culinary diplomacy, can lead to greater understanding and appreciation between cultures throughout the world.