



Advantages & Disadvantages of Traditional Medicine

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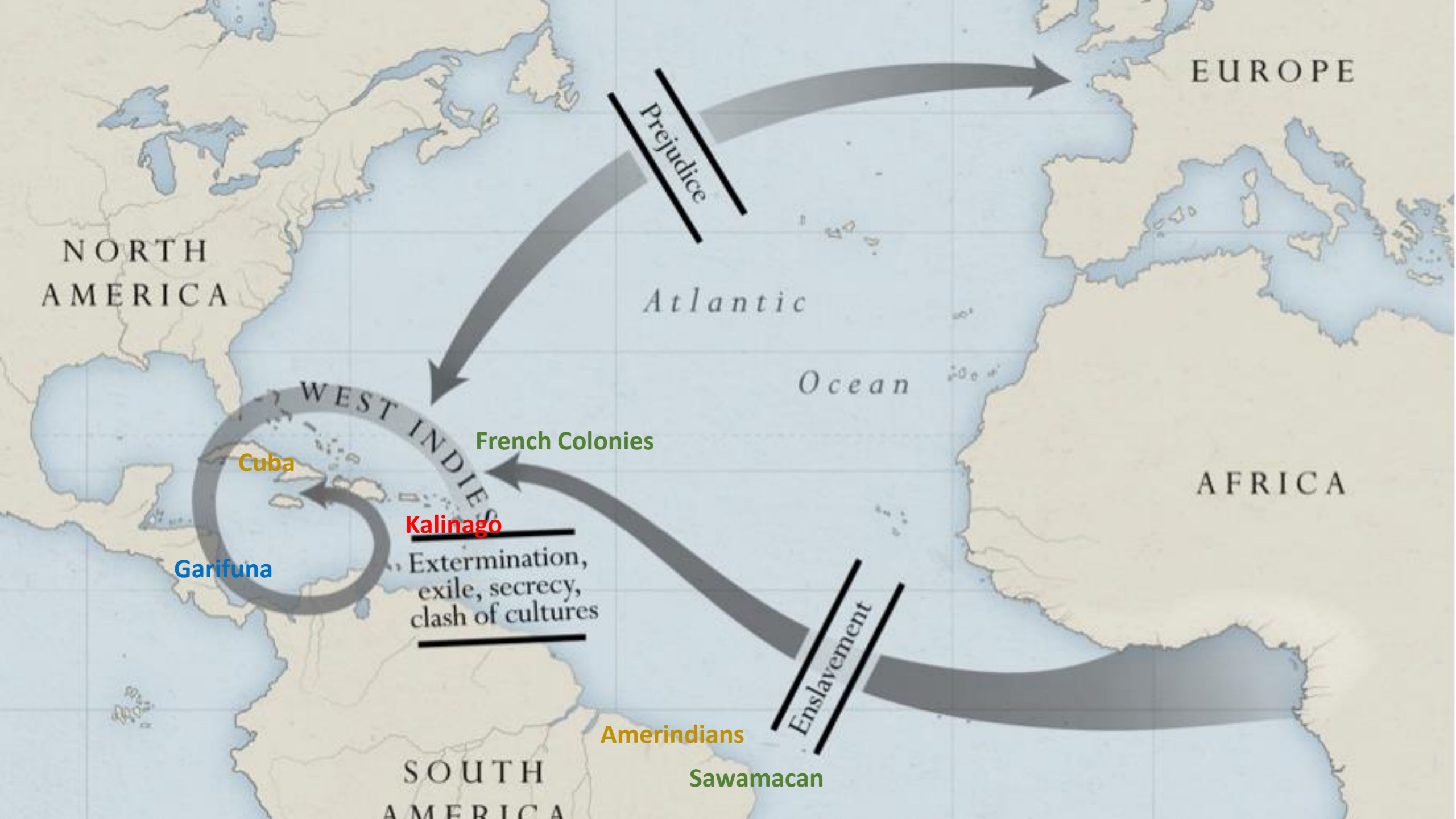
Overview

- Context – Caribbean medical complex
- Definition of traditional medicine
- Food as medicine
- Barriers and agnotologies
- Backyard – the virtual pharmacy
- Environmental decline, agriculture & conservation
- Reimagined future – Green gold!









Still relevant - Plants as cures

- The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew more conservatively estimated in 2016 that **17,810 plant species** have a **medicinal use**, out of some **30,000 plants** for which a **use of any kind** is documented.
 - The Caribbean one of the 36 **HOT SPOTS** for biological diversity in the world
 - 11% of native forests remaining and under threat
 - High endemism
 - Medicinal plants
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FLORE MÉDICALE
DES
ANTILLES.



GOYAVIER PYRIFORME.



QUASSIE SIMAROUBA.

Native Plant based cures

- Fusion of African and Amerindian Knowledge in plant-based cures
 - British Physician – Hans Sloane working in Jamaica from 1687 – 1689 describes the use of Indian arrowroot *Maranta arundinaceae* in plantation hospitals.
 - Antidote for poison-arrow wounds
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Guaiacum officinale

- Described by Columbus as a cure for syphilis
 - Exported from the West Indies to Europe for use in medicine
 - 1952 chemical Guaifenesin approved for use in medicines
 - IUCN Red list endangered
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RESISTANCE



Agnotology & transfer of Knowledge

- 1767 law prohibited Amerindians from providing slaves with knowledge of plants
- Reports of slave cures were authored by Europeans
- Negroes banned from practicing medicine
- Obeah, Vodou
- Keepers of the Secret



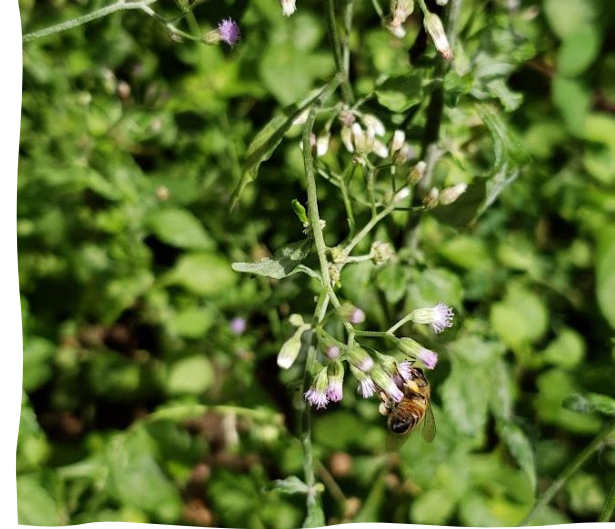
The Professional Exclusion

- Jean-Baptiste Phillipe wrote in 1820s
“Every hungry adventurer, without
credentials from any college, carries
on his trade of gain and death, to the
disgrace of medicine and humanity” “
Let the white candidate be who he
will, his colour alone will pave the
way for his admission by the Board.
Certificates from colleges or
universities are not essential. His
immaculate colour will prove
indubitably his acquaintance with all
the arts and mysteries of medicine”
Free Mulatto Intro by Selwyn Cudjoe



A virtual pharmacy in every Caribbean backyard FREE?

- Aloe
- Basil
- Chadon Beni
- Dasheen
- Eddoe
- Guava
- .
- .
- .
- .
- Zepina





Development of Self-reliant drug manufacturing industry

- Compile a Caribbean formulary
- Revise Patent Laws
- Cooperation with developing countries on market, information, trade and technology
- Local pharmacopoeia
- Plants already subjected to chemical analysis – literature from the Old and New Worlds
- Information on toxicity and isolation of active principles from species occurring in the Caribbean

Herbal Farms & Gardens

- Proprietary Planting Scheme based on phytochemistry and pharmacological properties
- Monocrop, diversity
- Farming techniques
- Nurseries, conservation, seed banks





Institutional and Legal Framework

- Nagoya Protocol Convention of Biological Diversity
- Madrid Protocol – Intellectual Property
- Geographical Indicators
- Standards, WHO
- Research & Development
- Professional Networks
- Benefit Sharing mechanism

**Keepers of the
Secret**

**The next
generation**

