

## **When and What was the Age of Exploration?**

The Age of Exploration began in the late 1400s and lasted until the end of the 18th century. During this time period, countries like Portugal, Spain, France, England, and Belgium sent men and their ships on missions to explore the world. They hoped to find riches like spices, silver, gold, silk, and corn to take home and trade with other nations. This new trade system was called “Mercantilism,” and also involved an increase in the global slave trade.

These countries also wanted to spread the Christian message in other lands. Their explorations spread to China, India, the Middle East, and west, to the Americas, which they called The New World.

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## **From Feudalism to Mercantilism: A Changing Landscape**

During the Middle Ages, which lasted about 1,000 years, society was divided into groups of nobles, knights, and villeins. The kings gave land to the nobles, who gave the king part of their wealth in return. The knights fought for the nobles, and the villeins, or serfs, worked on the nobles’ land. These classes were very rigid, and very few people had money in this system. The system was called “Feudalism,” and it was meant to control the agricultural market of the times.

At the end of the 13th century, however, society had begun to change. Feudalism was difficult to maintain, because there was not enough land for kings to promise to their nobles. Countries began to want gold, as they believed possessing a large amount of gold reflected a country’s wealth. They also believed that the world had a set amount of gold and wealth available, so they began racing to claim it. Countries also wanted to export more goods than they imported.

As a result, countries in Western Europe and the United Kingdom began to explore the world in search of goods that they could trade for gold, as well as gold itself.

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## **Prince Henry the Navigator & The Portuguese Explorers**

Did you know that despite his name, Prince Henry the Navigator was neither a sailor nor an explorer at all?

In fact, Henry was a Portuguese prince, and one of the original “founders” of the Age of Exploration. He was among the first leaders to send his ships south to Africa to explore the continent. In 1418, the exploration party landed on the Madeira Islands. They claimed this land and established a colony called Porto Santo.

Prince Henry also sent explorers past Cape Bajador, which is located on the west coast of Northern Africa across from the Canary Islands. In 1441, Prince Henry and his navigators, Nuno Tristao and Antao Gonclaves, captured many African people and brought them back to Portugal to trade as goods. This began Western Europe’s long tradition of capturing and selling people from West Africa as slaves.

Prince Henry also founded a school for navigation in Sagres, in southern Portugal. There, sailors and explorers studied cartography, or map-making, as well as shipbuilding and geography.

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### **India, China, and Trade with the East**

For centuries throughout the Middle Ages, the Holy Roman Empire and Western nations traded goods like spices, silk, and gold coins with empires in the Orient. The Orient included the Mongols in China and various kingdoms in India, as well as Asian civilizations that came into power centuries before. These goods were carried from the Orient to the West on the Silk Road, which extended through barren lands in Central Asia. Traders had to cross the steppes and deserts of this area to reach the West, and many died along the way. Still, merchants were willing to take the risk, because the Silk Road was an extremely important source of wealth for countries in the East. Until the middle of the 1400s, very few people even dreamed of looking for another way to trade with the Orient.

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### **The Fall of Constantinople in 1453**

Constantinople had long been the capital of the Christian Orthodox empire in the East known as Byzantium by the mid-1400s. The city was the main link between western Europe and trade with eastern empires in The Orient. Many people in the West took advantage of their easy access to the East, and they never believed that Byzantium would be conquered.

In Spring of 1453, the Ottoman Turks attacked Constantinople and took over the city. The Byzantine Empire fell to the Islamic Empire after heavy battle. The Ottomans cut off Western access to the Silk Road, which forced Portugal and Spain to search for routes to Asia by sea. By 1480, one of the men with this idea in mind was Christopher Columbus.

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### **Isabelle, Ferdinand, and the *Reconquista* in Spain: 1469-1492**

Long before the Age of Exploration, the Moors took over the Iberian Peninsula, or what is now known as Portugal and Spain. The Moors were an Islamic group that took over parts of southern Europe in the early 700s. For the following seven centuries, Christians and Muslims lived together under Moorish rule in the lands that the Moors conquered. Throughout this time, Christian kingdoms to the north fought the Moors. Many of these kingdoms won and took their land back. These efforts were called the Reconquest, or the *Reconquista* in Spanish.

In 1469, two Spanish kingdoms to the north, Castile and Aragon were united. Ferdinand II, a Castilian prince, married Isabella I of Castile, and together the new Catholic Monarchs sent armies south to defeat the Moors. In 1492, they beat the Moors in battle in the city of Granada. Catholic Spanish rule was re-established. This final stage of the *Reconquista* was very important regarding Spain's involvement with colonization.

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## **Christopher Columbus Lands on Hispaniola in 1492**

Once Ferdinand II and Isabella I had driven the Moors out of Spain, they were eager to compete with Portugal in the race to find new lands and wealth. Christopher Columbus, an Italian merchant, came to the king and queen with a proposal. He wanted Spain to finance his journey to Asia by sea. Columbus believed he could find a new route to India and China by crossing the Atlantic Ocean. The king and queen approved Columbus's plan. In 1492, he set sail from the tip of Spain with his three ships, the *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*.

However, Columbus never made it to India or China! Instead, he landed on two small islands in the Caribbean three months after beginning the voyage. These two land masses were later named Cuba and Hispaniola. A year later, he returned to Spain with gold, spices, and several captured natives. Columbus was celebrated as a hero in Ferdinand and Isabella's court.

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## **A World Divided: The 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas**

After Columbus returned home with news of the lands he had found, the Portuguese and Spanish had to make an agreement. Both countries wanted to be able to explore and claim territory when and where they landed there. But first, they had to decide where each country could go.

On June 7, 1494, King John II of Portugal met with King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in Tordesillas, Spain. The leaders decided to draw a line across the globe extending from Cape Verde, which is located off of the coast of Mauritania in West Africa. After signing this treaty, both countries began to colonize places that belonged to "their domain." For this reason, countries like Brazil, India, and Macau once belonged to Portugal. At the same time, Spain colonized lands to the north in the Americas, including Mexico, Peru, and Caribbean Islands.

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## **John Cabot, Henry VII, and Newfoundland**

While Portugal and Spain were taking over lands in the Americas, King Henry VII also wanted Britain to join the race. In 1497, he appointed a man named John Cabot to lead England's first expedition toward Asia. John Cabot was a Venician merchant with many years of experience out on the ocean. From 1488-1495, he led voyages from England to the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, and throughout the Mediterranean. Henry VII believed the explorer could find a route from England to India.

After nearly two months of sailing, Cabot and his crew of 20 men sighted land. However, just like Columbus, they had not arrived at India at all! The British ship had reached Newfoundland, in Canada. They claimed the land for Henry VII, explored the coast, and left for home. The area later became a great source for fishing and fur trapping. John Cabot set out on a second journey a year later, but his ships were lost at sea and he was never heard from again.

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## **1498: Vasco de Gama Sails to India**

In 1487, Portugal explorer Bartholomeu Dias discovered the Cape of Good Hope, or the southernmost tip of Africa. Ten years later, Portuguese King Manuel chose Vasco de Gama, a fearless but inexperienced navigator, to captain an intense expedition. The king wanted de Gama to round the Cape of Good Hope and reach India by sailing the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

In July 1497, Vasco de Gama set sail with four ships. They headed down the western coast of Africa and eventually did round the Cape of Good Hope. Luckily for him, de Gama met an Indian merchant on the eastern coast of Africa who was willing to help him reach India.

Together, they sailed across the Indian Ocean and reached Calicut. They stayed for three months, but De Gama and his team chose a bad time to leave. Monsoons, or heavy storms, wrecked their ships. The explorer returned to Portugal two years later with only about one third of his original crew.

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### **Colonizing the New World**

After Columbus landed in Hispaniola and returned to Spain with captured “Indians” and goods, both Portugal and Spain sent crews of explorers to sail west on the Atlantic Ocean. Columbus still insisted that he had discovered Asia, so new explorers also believed they were heading toward the Orient.

Finally, Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian navigator, declared that Columbus was wrong. After two voyages to the Americas, he wrote several letters that were published in Portugal and Spain. In his letters, Vespucci claimed that the land was not part of Asia at all, but a “New World.” In 1507, a cartographer named Martin Waldseemüller proposed that the Portuguese and French recognize these lands as the Americas, after Vespucci himself. The name stuck, and from that point forward, the New World was often called “*Las Americas*” as well.

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### **Hernán Cortés and the Aztecs in Mexico**

In 1504, Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés accompanied Diego Velázquez on a voyage to Hispaniola. Once there, they claimed the island and established the port city of Santo Domingo. In 1518, Cortés asked to be sent to the New World again, only this time, to Mexico. The Spanish had only recently discovered this land, and Cortés was determined to conquer it.

After trekking inland for three months, Cortés arrived at Tenochtitlán. Tenochtitlán was the capital city of the Aztecs, a complex Mesoamerican society that had been living on the land for several centuries. Their leader, Montezuma II, believed Cortés was a god. He was welcomed by the Aztecs at first, but the good relationship did not last. Cortés was driven out of the city in 1520, but he returned in 1521 with an army. With their horses, guns, and European diseases, the Spanish defeated the Aztecs and renamed Tenochtitlán “Mexico City.”

Cortés was very cruel to the indigenous people. Eventually, the Spanish king took away many of his powers and he returned to Spain, where he died in 1547. Cortés, along with other explorers who took over lands and destroyed indigenous peoples, were called *conquistadors*.

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### **Francisco Pizarro and the Incas in Peru**

Francisco Pizarro was another Spanish *conquistador* of the 16th century. In 1531, along with Diego de Almagro, Pizarro sailed to what is now known as Peru. There, they found a sophisticated society called the Incas, who had been living there since 1100 CE. The Incan tribe had just fought a brutal civil war, and their forces were weakened. With just 170 men, Pizarro and his crew managed to capture the Incan leader, Atahuapla. The Spanish expedition then conquered the Aztec cities of Cajamarca and Cuzco.

Atahuapla paid the Spanish a large amount of gold and silver for his freedom. Two years later, the Spanish killed him anyway. Francisco Pizarro married Atahuapla's sister and they had two children. The Spanish built settlements in Cajamarca and Cuzco.

After several years, Pizarro's men captured Almagro, Pizarro's old partner, and executed him. Their troops fought against one another until Pizarro was also killed, in 1541. Still, more Spanish explorers continued to sail toward Peru and Mexico to make a name and fortune for themselves.

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### **Pestilence & Disease in the Americas**

Conquistadors like Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro did defeat and wipe out the Aztecs and Incas. However, a lot of their success came by accident. They had certain advantages from the beginning, like technologically-advanced weapons, the Spanish language, and horses. Still, the Spanish colonizers had one "weapon" that they didn't even know about: pestilence, also known as *smallpox*.

In the centuries before they invaded the Americas, Europeans were agricultural people. This meant that they farmed and lived with livestock, like pigs, sheep, horses, and cows. Over time, they became immune to certain diseases that the livestock carried, like smallpox. The Aztecs and Incas, meanwhile, were not immune to pestilence at all. They had only ever farmed with llamas, and had no biological protection from the very contagious disease. When the Spanish arrived in Mexico in 1520, the spread of smallpox began. It had reached the Incas in Peru even before Pizarro landed.

Within 100 years, nearly 20 million people living in the Americas died because of smallpox and other European diseases. The epidemic greatly contributed to Spanish conquest on the American continents.

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### **Magellan Circumnavigates the World**

Did you know that the first man to reach Asia by the Atlantic was not Christopher Columbus at all, but Ferdinand Magellan? He was also the first man to circumnavigate the earth. That means that he sailed across the entire globe without turning around once, until he arrived back where he started his journey.

In 1519, the King Charles V of Spain paid for Ferdinand Magellan to take off with 270 men and five ships. Their goal was to reach Asia by sailing west. After several months of bad weather and not enough food, Magellan and his crew made it to the southernmost point of South America. Because of this feat, we now

call it the Strait of Magellan. The ships passed the strait and sailed into the Pacific Ocean, which Magellan named because it was “peaceful.”

After four more months, the men landed on the Mariana Islands. Next, they sailed to the Philippines. While there, Magellan got into an argument with the natives and was killed. Only one of the five original ships made it back to Spain nearly three years later, in 1522. 18 men survived to tell the tale of their journey around the world by sea.

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### **France, the Netherlands, and England Join the Race**

John Cabot led a British expedition to North America in 1497, but his crew never settled there. In reality, England, France, and the Netherlands did not begin to look toward the New World until several decades after Portugal and Spain. They needed time to recover after the Hundred Years’ War, which ended in 1453, and the Black Plague of the 14th century.

England sent several failed voyages to North America throughout the late 1500s. Under Queen Elizabeth I, who ruled from 1558-1603, Martin Frobisher, John Davis, and Humphrey Gilbert all led expeditions to the Americas. They did not establish any colonies, however.

King Francis I sent navigators to explore North America in the early 1500s as well. He sponsored the first French expedition in 1524, and then two more a decade later. But soon, religious wars erupted in France and most exploration efforts paused for several years.

Because of political tension with Spain, the Netherlands also joined the Age of Exploration late. After the Spanish Armada was defeated in 1588, the Dutch formed the Dutch East India Company in 1602. They sent explorers to colonize Albany, New York and various places in West Africa throughout the 17th century.

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### **Sir Frances Drake**

Did you know that Sir Frances Drake was one of England’s most famous pirates? He started his career by illegally transporting people from West Africa and selling them as slaves to Spanish plantation owners in the Caribbean. He became famous for these ventures and his violent but successful battles with Spanish ships. In 1577, Queen Elizabeth I sent him on a mission to circumnavigate the world. He sailed toward the Strait of Magellan, across the Pacific, to the Philippines, across the Indian Ocean, and up the West Coast of Africa. In September 1580, he sailed into England on the Thames River with ships full of treasure from around the world. He was knighted and widely celebrated for his accomplishments.

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### **Sir Walter Raleigh**

In 1585, another British explorer led ships of settlers to the East Coast in North America. His name was Sir Walter Raleigh. He established a colony called Roanoke in current-day North Carolina. The first

colony failed due to lack of supplies. The second time they tried to colonize Roanoke was in 1587. When Raleigh sailed back to America to check on the colony three years later, all 100 settlers had vanished! All he found was the word "Croatan" carved in a tree. Roanoke was named the "Lost Colony," and its disappearance remains a mystery to this day.

Sir Walter Raleigh then led expeditions to find "El Dorado," a legendary land of gold in Venezuela. After returning to England, he was imprisoned in the Tower of London for 12 years for plotting against the king! Finally, after being freed, he tried to find El Dorado one last time. He failed, and was executed by the King James I in 1618.

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### **1607: The Colonization of Jamestown**

In 1606, British merchants established the Virginia Company. The company promised its investors great wealth of gold and silver from the Americas. The Virginia Company sent three ships to the east coast of North America. Christopher Newport and his crew, which included 105 colonists, chose the Chesapeake Bay Area as the location of their future colony. In May 1607, they began building a settlement.

The colonists would not have survived without the help of the Powhatan Indians. They were a powerful tribe who traded food for British metal tools and supplies. The Native Americans' goods and farming skills allowed the colonists to survive the first few harsh winters. Still, the relationship was not always good. There were several violent conflicts between the two groups. In 1614, the marriage of Pocahontas, Chief Powhatan's daughter, to Englishman John Rolfe helped establish peace.

Eventually, the colony's experiments with tobacco farming allowed them to become financially independent. They traded the tobacco with England and became wealthy enough to prosper.

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### **James Cook and the Southern Pacific**

James Cook was an explorer and expert seaman who led several expeditions in the mid-1700s. By this point, England had already established the 13 colonies in North America. Cook, however, set his sights on the South Pacific. In August 1768, he led his crew to Tahiti, New Zealand and the east coast of Australia. Many of his sailors died of malaria while there.

On his second journey, from 1772-1775, he sailed the farthest south any navigator had ever gone! He nearly reached the northern coast of Antarctica! He also led his two ships to Easter Island.

Cook's final voyage was an attempt to find a northwest passage to Asia from Alaska. Although he did not succeed, he did land on the Hawaiian Islands. Although his crew and the natives got along at first, eventually their relationship soured. Cook was killed on the island, and the other sailors went back to England.

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### **The Chinese Junk Rig and the Caravel**

On each new journey, European navigators had to sail thousands of miles to reach land. They might have been brave, but these sailors never would have made it without ancient Chinese technology! During the Han Dynasty, which dates back to 206 BCE, the Chinese developed the “junk ship.” These ships were lightweight and had multiple sails, which allowed them to go great distances quickly with many men and materials on board. By the mid-1300s, junk sails made expeditions to India, the Middle East, and Africa. They carried Chinese spices and ivory and allowed the Ming Dynasty to expand their power.

In the late 1400s, the Portuguese imitated the Chinese and built their own lightweight sailing ship, called the Caravel. They designed and built the ships in Lagos, at Prince Henry the Navigator’s school for navigation. Without these ships, the Age of Exploration might never have happened!

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### **Technology in the Age of Discovery: The Magnetic Compass & The Map**

Can you imagine finding your way to every new location with nothing more than a compass and map? That’s what the explorers did!

The first magnetic compass was developed as early as 206 BCE, during the time of the Han Dynasty in China. After Venician merchants like Marco Polo travelled East, they brought the technology to Italy. In the late 13th century in Venice, a hand-held compass was engineered. This made navigation and exploration much easier. In fact, none of the explorers you’ve read about could have reached their destinations without this tool!

One of the most important fields of study during the Age of Exploration was cartography. Cartography is the making and study of maps. Explorations made by European, Chinese, and Arabic merchants since the early 1100s helped navigators understand world geography. Ancient texts from the Romans and Greeks were also extremely important.

A German cartographer named Martin Waldseemüller made the first map of the entire world in 1507. Remember him? He also suggested that they call the New World “The Americas,” after Amerigo Vespucci!

### **Religion in the Age of Discovery**

During the Age of Exploration, there was no such thing as a separate church and state. That meant that many expeditions sponsored by the King were also sent in the name of God. Spanish explorers in particular tried to convert indigenous peoples in the Americas from pagan religions to Roman Catholicism. Some took their Christian mission seriously, and just wanted to spread their faith. Others were very cruel, and used Christianity as a way to gain more power.

On the east coast, settlers in Virginia and North Carolina were largely connected to the Church of England. At the time, Henry the VIII was the leader of the Church. Many people did not agree with his leadership, however, and they fled England. These people were Protestants, or puritans. They sailed to Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620, and became known as the Pilgrims.



Before they were wiped out, both the Aztecs and Incas had complex religious systems. They were polytheistic, but both civilizations worshiped the Sun God above all else. The Aztecs built large pyramids for worship, while Incas built intricate temples in the mountains. Their worshipping rituals involved sacrifices as well.

### **Children in the Age of Exploration**

Most expeditions to the New World, Africa, and Asia were very difficult and long. Only the toughest and luckiest sailors survived the voyages. Many of them went long months without enough food or clean water. Some clashed with natives or other merchants when they arrived at their destination. For these reasons, not many children went on the expeditions themselves.

However, many children did go with their parents to North America. Once England started settling the East Coast, young girls and boys joined their families in the New World. In fact, the first child was born on North American soil in 1587, in Roanoke. She was named Virginia, after Queen Elizabeth!

In the colonies, children helped their parents farm, clean, and take care of livestock. They learned to read and write on clay tablets, and played games with wooden toys or items brought from England.

### **The Effects of Colonialism and Exploration**

The Age of Discovery was a period of great technological advancements and increased knowledge about the world. Cultures came into contact with each other, people intermixed, and religions were spread. Perhaps you think of “globalization” as a somewhat new idea, but actually, it really began with the explorers!

European exploration and colonization also came at a great cost for many. In West Africa, human beings were captured and sold into labor. They were not paid, and slave owners often mistreated them. Slavery as a practice did not come to an end in the Americas until 1865.

The Spanish conquistadors and English settlers also caused many native populations to go extinct. The Aztecs, Incas, and many Native American tribes in North America could not survive the diseases carried by the Europeans. They were not used to fighting armies with guns or horses, either. After just a century, many of these civilizations were pushed out of their land or wiped out altogether.

### **Pirates in the Age of Exploration**

In today's world, when we think of pirates, we think of grizzly men with eye-patches, peg-legs, and talking parrots on their shoulder. During the Age of Exploration, many men considered pirates were in fact wealthy merchants! The term “pirate” was used to refer to anyone who illegally bought and sold slaves, spices, and foreign goods. Sir Francis Drake and Sir Martin Frobisher were both pirates, and both were later knighted.

Of course, “pirate” also referred to sailors who attacked and plundered “enemy ships” while at sea. The Golden Age of Piracy took place from 1650-1720. It is called the “Golden Age” because this is when most bands of maritime pirates and buccaneers attacked other ships. Mythical pirates like Blackbeard and Calico Jack were rumored to have lived and “swash-buckled” during this time!

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Age of Exploration - began early 15th century and lasted till 17th, also called the Age of Discovery  
 Was a period of growth for EUROPEANS - amassed wealth trading spices, goods, precious metals

- Also learned more about the world
- Massacres - indigenous people suffered greatly during this time period
- 300 year period of slavery

Adoption of **colonialism and mercantilism** + contact between the Old World (europe, africa, asia) and the New World (australia, the americas), spread of diseases and thus mass extinction of populations, spread of Christian Missionary activity

### background

Ottoman Empire took control in 1453 - blocked access to the East for Europeans, as well as the Red Sea and much of north africa

Prince Henry the Navigator and Portuguese Explorers - discovered Madeira Islands (1419) and Azores (1427)

- Kept pushing south, reached Cape of Good Hope in 1490

1498: Vasco da Gama sails to India

- Portuguese toward africa

Spanish towards the Americas (because wanted to go to the Far East)

- Spain had become more powerful after defeating the Moorish Empire

After First Crusade and decline of the Fatimid Caliphate → Italian maritime states begin to establish trade authority in Mediterranean

1066 - Norman conquest of England → free trade on the North Sea

Hanseatic League in Germany established commercialism laws in Flensburg area in Germany, encouraged Italians to want to travel there

### Development of the magnetic compass

The compass was an addition to the ancient method of navigation based on sightings of the sun and stars. The compass was invented by Chinese. It had been used for navigation in China by the 11th century and was adopted by the Arab traders in the Indian Ocean. The compass spread to Europe by the late 12th or early 13th century.<sup>[10]</sup> Use of the compass for navigation in the Indian Ocean was first mentioned in 1232.<sup>[9]</sup><sup>351-2</sup> The Europeans used a "dry" compass, with a needle on a pivot. The compass card was also a European invention.<sup>[9]</sup>

Junk rig - Chinese/Malay designed ship that allowed for quicker sailing

1280-1330: Italians begin adapting them

Beginning in 13th century, Western merchants began sailing toward the Levant, the Middle East, India, and China (Mongol Empire by this point) to trade → established trade relationships with these entities

Hernan Cortes, Francisco Pizarro → Peru, Mexico, decimated Incans, Aztecs respectively

1405-1421: Ming Emperor Yongle sponsored expeditions from China to various places all over the world in a 120 meter long boat led by Zheng He → after that, China entered state of isolationism

1415: Ceuta conquered by Portuguese including Prince Henry - recognized profitability of the Trans-Saharan trade routes

1419, 1427: Prince Henry the Navigator and Portuguese Explorers - discovered Madeira Islands (1419) and Azores (1427)

Expedition leader **João Gonçalves Zarco**

1453: Fall of Constantinople

1455: Pope Nicholas V issues *mare clausum* and says all lands discovered beyond Cape Bojador to King Alfonso V of Portugal

1478: War of Castilian Succession - Portuguese Naval victory in war with Castilians over Guinea

1488: Bartholomeu Dias rounds Cape of Storms

1490: Portuguese reach Cape of Good Hope

(clearly, Portuguese focus was on West Africa and the African coast → India)

(majority of 15th century Castile was preoccupied with internal wars with the Moors/ Nasrid caliphate)

1492: After Isabelle and Ferdinand are married in 1469, they wage war on the Muslim caliphate (Nasrids) in southern Spain. Granada and La Alhambra finally fall (unification of Aragon y Castile)

- Leaving to a century of "forced conversions" of Muslims
- The *reconquista* finally finished

1492: Italian Christopher Columbus, under Spanish authority (Crown of Castile), sails to San Salvador in the Bahamas, thinking he's going to the West Indies, then sailed to Hispaniola (now Haiti/Dominican Republic)

Set sail with Santa María (Gallega), Pinta, y Santa Clara (Niña)

12 October - land sighted, sailed to Cuba and Haiti as well, where he was received by cacique Guacanagari (Taíno), then kidnapped 20-25 natives and brought them to Seville

Established colonies, then began to explore the interior of these countries

Pedro Alvares Cabral (Portuguese) also made it to Brazil → conflicts over newly claimed lands

1494: Treaty of Tordesillas - divided world "in half"

1497: John Cabot, Italian, under English authority (Henry VII), sailed to Newfoundland

Lavrador (Portuguese) → Labrador

1498: Vasco da Gama sails to India

1502-1504: Amerigo Vespucci finally acknowledges that they aren't in the West Indies but a New World

1507: Americas named by Cartographers

1511: Alfonso de Albuquerque sends Duarte Fernandes to the Spice Islands in Siam (Thailand)

1512: Reach the Spice Islands

1519-1522: first circumnavigation of the globe (Magellen, Juan Sebastián Elcano)

1519-1532: Spanish *conquistadores*

1524: Giovanni da Verrazano sails up Hudson River

1545: Pestilence strikes in Mexico

1580s-1640s: Russians explore Siberia and Alaska

1609: Henry Hudson makes first map of Manhattan

1606: British (James Cook) discover Australia

1607: First colony established at Jamestown

1608: Samuel du Champlain founds Quebec

1624: Holland establishes trading post in New York

1642: Brits discover New Zealand

Ferdinand Magellen attempts to circumnavigate the globe

The Northwest Passage (search for trade route to Asia)

Captain James Cook voyages and maps out areas to west like Alaska

End of "age of exploration" due in large part to the establishment of trading posts and settlements around the world

1770: James Cook claims Australia

Spanish and Portuguese did establish nautical maps, which included ocean currents and distances to places via sea

- Inclusion of corn, sweet potatoes, and nuts after travelling to South America

**Caravel** - a ship designed by the Portuguese (supported by Henry the Navigator) that could sail into the wind, was lighter, faster

**Portuguese India Armadas** → sailed around world, opened up trade routes between East Asia and Europe

### Treaty of Tordesillas

Shortly after Columbus's return from what would later be called the "West Indies", a division of influence became necessary to avoid conflict between the Spanish and Portuguese.<sup>[22]</sup> On 4 May 1493, two months after Columbus's arrival, the [Catholic Monarchs](#) received a [bull](#) (*Inter caetera*) from [Pope Alexander VI](#) stating that all lands west and south of a pole-to-pole line 100 leagues west and south of the [Azores](#) or the Cape Verde Islands should belong to

Castile and, later, all mainlands and islands then belonging to India. It did not mention Portugal, which could not claim newly discovered lands east of the line.

King [John II of Portugal](#) was not pleased with the arrangement, feeling that it gave him far too little land—preventing him from reaching India, his main goal. He then negotiated directly with King [Ferdinand](#) and Queen [Isabella](#) of Spain to move the line west, and allowing him to claim newly discovered lands east of it. <sup>[73]</sup>

An agreement was reached in 1494, with the [Treaty of Tordesillas](#) that divided the world between the two powers. In this treaty the Portuguese received everything outside Europe east of a line that ran 370 [leagues](#) west of the [Cape Verde](#) islands (already Portuguese), and the islands discovered by [Christopher Columbus](#) on his first voyage (claimed for Castile), named in the treaty as [Cipangu](#) and [Antilia](#) ([Cuba](#) and [Hispaniola](#)). This gave them control over Africa, Asia and eastern South America (Brazil). The Spanish (Castile) received everything west of this line. At the time of negotiation, the treaty split the known world of Atlantic islands roughly in half, with the dividing line about halfway between Portuguese Cape Verde and the Spanish discoveries in the Caribbean.