

Age of Discovery and Expansion: Explorers and Conquistadors

Europeans Explore East

Key Terms and People

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| Prince Henry Portuguese supporter of exploration | Vasco da Gama explorer who gave Portugal a direct sea route to India | Christopher Columbus Italian explorer, sailing for Spain, who landed in the Americas |
| Dutch East India Company Dutch company that established and directed trade throughout Asia | Mestizo person with mixed Spanish and Native American blood | Hernando Cortes conquistador who defeated the Aztec Empire, conquering Mexico |
| Bartolomeu Dias Portuguese explorer who rounded the tip of Africa | Colony land controlled by another nation | Francisco Pizarro conquistador who defeated the Incan Empire, conquering Peru |
| Treaty of Tordesillas treaty between Spain and Portugal dividing newly discovered lands between them | Conquistadors Spanish explorers who conquered the Americas in the 16 th century | Atahualpa last Incan emperor, defeated and killed by the Spanish |
| | Encomienda system of mining and farming using natives as slave labor | |

FOR “GOD, GLORY, AND GOLD”

Why did Europeans begin to explore new lands?

For many centuries, Europeans did not have much contact with people from other lands. That changed in the 1400s. Europeans hoped to gain new sources of wealth. By exploring the seas, traders hoped to find new, faster routes to Asia—the source of spices and luxury goods. Another reason for exploration was spreading Christianity to new lands.

Bernal Diaz del Castillo, an early Spanish explorer, explained his motives: “to serve God and His Majesty, to give light to those who were in darkness and to grow rich as all men desire to do.”

Advances in technology made these voyages possible. A new kind of ship, the caravel, was stronger than earlier ships. It had

triangle-shaped sails that allowed it to sail against the wind. Ships could now travel far out into the ocean. The magnetic compass allowed sea captains to stay on course better.

PORTUGAL LEADS THE WAY; SPAIN ALSO MAKES CLAIMS

How did Portugal lead the way in exploration?

The son of Portugal’s king, [1], was committed to the idea of exploring. In 1419, he started a school of navigation. Sea captains, mapmakers, and navigators met and exchanged ideas there. Portugal made the best use of the new sailing technology, and the Portuguese monarchy also invested in overseas exploration.

Over the next few decades, Portuguese captains sailed farther and farther down the west coast of Africa. In 1488, [2] reached the southern tip of Africa. Ten years

later, [3] led a ship around Africa, to India and back. The Portuguese had found a sea route to Asia.

The Spanish, meanwhile, had plans of their own. Christopher Columbus convinced the king and queen that he could reach Asia by sailing west. In 1492, instead of landing in Asia, Columbus touched land in the islands of the Americas. Spain and Portugal argued over which nation had the rights to the land that Columbus had claimed. In 1494, they signed the [4]. It divided the world into two areas. Portugal won the right to control the eastern parts—including Africa, India, and other parts of Asia. Spain got the western parts—including most of the Americas.

TRADING EMPIRES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Who established trading empires in the Indian Ocean?

Portugal moved quickly to make the new Indian Ocean route pay off. Through military might, Portugal gained power over islands that were rich in desirable spices. They

6. What were the two main reasons for European exploration?

7. How did Spain and Portugal solve their differences over claims to new lands?

8. How did the Dutch and English become Indian Ocean trading powers?

were called the Spice Islands. Spices now cost Europeans one-fifth of what they had cost before, while still making Portugal very wealthy.

Other European nations joined in this trade. In the 1600s, the English and Dutch entered the East Indies. They quickly broke Portuguese power in the area. Then both nations set up an East India Company to control Asian trade. These companies were more than businesses. They were like governments. They had the power to make money, sign treaties, and raise their own armies. [5] was richer and more powerful than England's company.

By 1700, the Dutch ruled much of Indonesia. They had trading posts in many other Asian countries and commanded the southern tip of Africa. At the same time, both England and France finally gained footholds in India. Nevertheless, even though Europeans controlled the trade between Asia and Europe, they had little impact on most people living in these areas.

Spain Builds an American Empire

THE VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS

How did the voyage of Columbus change the Americas?

In 1492, [9], an Italian sailor, led a voyage for Spain. He sailed west hoping to reach Asia. Instead, he landed in the Americas. Columbus thought that he had reached the East Indies in Asia. He misnamed the natives he met there, calling them Indians. He claimed the land for Spain. From then on, Spain began to create [10]. Colonies are lands controlled by another nation.

In 1500, a Portuguese explorer claimed Brazil. In 1501, Amerigo Vespucci explored the eastern coast of South America. He said that these lands were a new world. Soon after, a mapmaker showed the lands as a separate continent. He named them America after Vespucci.

Other voyages gave Europeans more knowledge about the world. Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean. Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan sailed completely around the world.

SPANISH CONQUESTS IN MEXICO; SPANISH CONQUESTS IN PERU

How did Spain build an empire?

[11] was one of the Spanish [12], or conquerors. In the 16th century, they began to explore the lands of the Americas. They were seeking great riches. In 1519, Cortés came to Mexico and defeated the powerful Aztec Empire led by Montezuma II.

About 15 years later, [13] led another Spanish force. It conquered the mighty Inca Empire of South America, led by [14], the last of the Incan emperors. Once again, the Spanish found gold and silver. By the mid-1500s, Spain had formed an American empire that stretched from modern-day Mexico to Peru.

The Spanish lived among the people they conquered. Spanish men married native women. Their children and descendants were called [15]—people with mixed Spanish and Native American blood. The Spanish also formed large farms and mines that used natives as slave labor. This system was known as [16].

One large area of the Americas—Brazil—was the possession of Portugal. In the 1530s, colonists began to settle there. Colonists built huge farms called plantations to grow sugar, which was in demand in Europe.

SPAIN'S INFLUENCE EXPANDS

Where did Spain hope to gain more power?

Soon Spain began to want even more power in the Americas. It started to look at land that is now part of the United States. Explorers like Coronado led expeditions to the area. Catholic priests went along and converted some of the Native Americans.

OPPOSITION TO SPANISH RULE

Who opposed Spanish rule?

As Spanish priests worked to convert the natives, they began to make some protests

about their treatment. One thing they criticized was the encomienda system. A monk named Bartolomé de Las Casas and others successfully called for the end of the system.

Native Americans also resisted new or continued Spanish rule. One of the most serious rebellions occurred in New Mexico. A Pueblo leader named Popé led the effort. It involved about 17,000 warriors and drove the Spanish back into New Spain for 12 years.

17. Which voyages gave Europeans new knowledge of the world?

18. Give two examples of conquistadors and explain what they did.

19. What area did Coronado explore?

20. What challenges to their power did the Spanish face?
