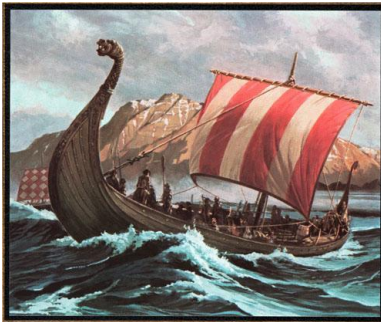




Europe & the Age of Discovery

1

European Explorers



- Norse (Vikings) came first
 - 10th & 11th centuries
 - Vikings from Iceland colonized Greenland & Newfoundland, but were chased out of North America by hostile natives
- Europeans lost interest in the New World until the 15th century



2

European Culture in 1450

- 1. Agricultural
 - 90% peasant.
 - Aspired to own a small farm (yeoman).



3

- 2. Authoritarian
 - Power from above
 - King, Noble, Priest, Father, etc.
 - Wives had no right to property & had to submit to husband's orders
 - Primogeniture – eldest son inherited father's land
 - What happens to younger sons?
 - Pro: social order & security



4

- 3. Catholic

- Roman Catholic Church was great unifier in Western Europe

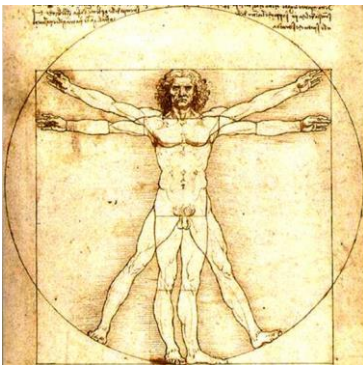
- Priests in every village
- Unifying language (Latin)



5

Basis for European Expansion

- 1. Renaissance (1450 to 1600 A.D.)
 - Secular learning, classical culture, & spirit of inquiry
 - Renaissance scholars knew the world was round
 - Advanced navigation & better ships



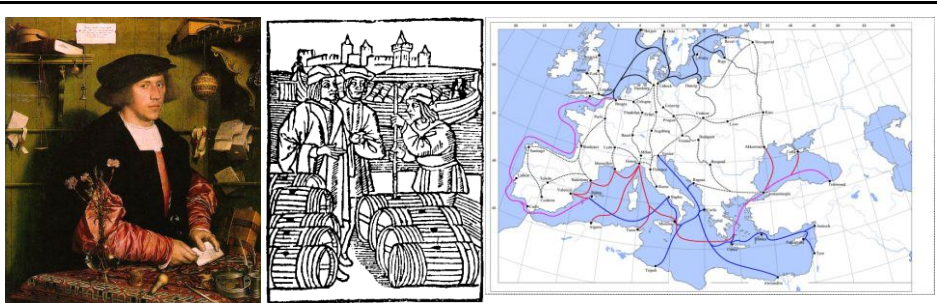
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- 2. Nationalism

- In Europe, the feudal system gave way to nation-states
- Civic Humanism
 - New merchant class celebrated service to the state instead of to a feudal lord
- Nations competed for dominance

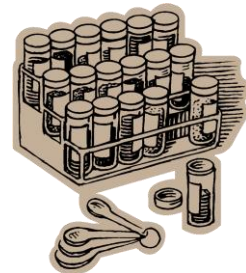


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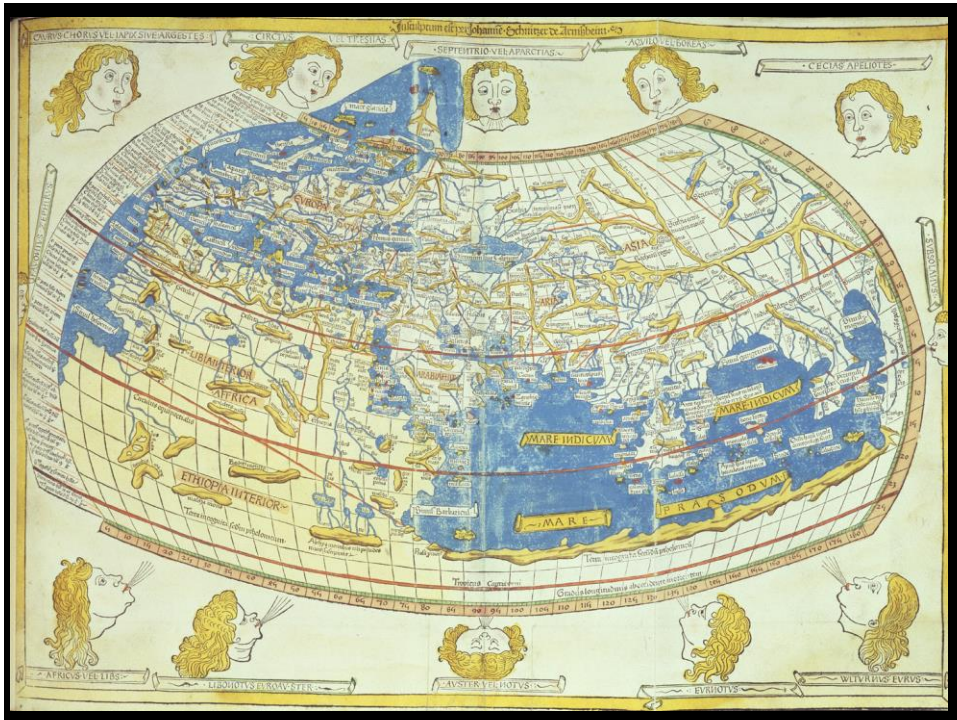


- 3. Trade & Corporations

- Europeans traded with Asia to obtain spices
 - Preservation & taste
- Trade by land was risky & expensive
 - Overland routes to Asia had to go through Muslim territory in the Middle East
 - What is another way to reach Asia?

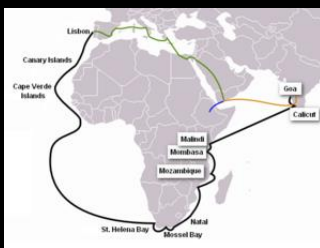


8





9

Portugal



- Portuguese were pioneers
 - Explored the coast of Africa
 - Vasco da Gama was the first to sail from Europe to India



10

Christopher Columbus

- Believed sailing west to Asia was faster
 - Supported by Spain (Ferdinand & Isabella)
 - They had recently completed the Reconquista, or reconquest of Spain from the Muslims
- In 1492 he left with the *Nina*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria*

11

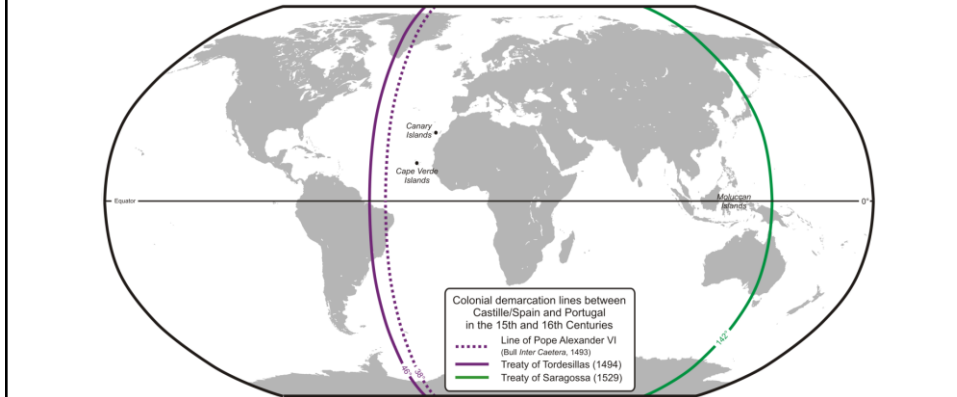



- Columbus's men sighted land on 12 October 1492 (in the modern day Bahamas)
 - Columbus called the inhabitants Indians (thought he had reached Asia, or the Indies)
- Spain saw an opportunity to convert heathens and gain wealth

12

Treaty of Tordesillas

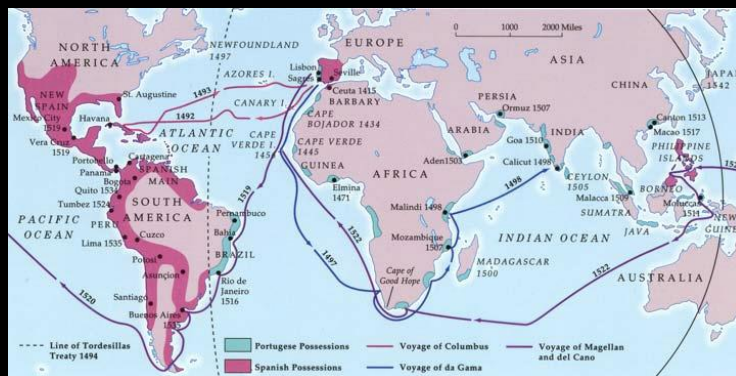
- Portugal and Spain divided the new territories in half
 - What did England, France, or Holland think of this?



13

Later explorers

- Amerigo Vespucci – reported that the New World must be an entirely new continent, not Asia
 - European mapmakers named the new continents after him
- Ferdinand Magellan
 - First explorer to sail around the world
 - Although he died en route, a few men survived the voyage



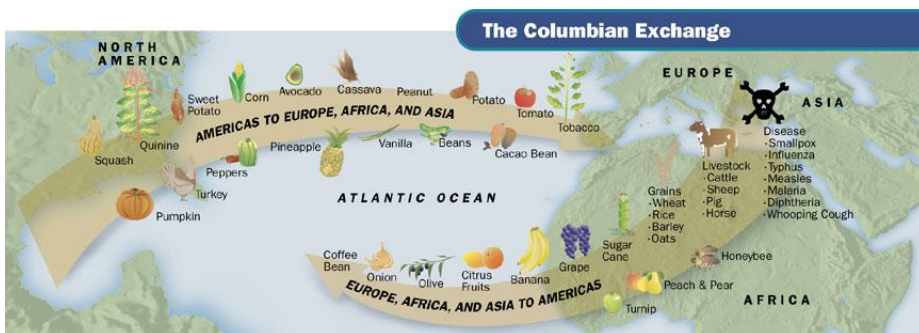
14



15

Columbian Exchange

- Worldwide biological exchange
- Started when the New & Old World interacted




16



- From New World
 - Corn, squash, beans, tomatoes, potatoes, chocolate, turkeys
 - countless other plants and animals
 - Potato caused a population explosion in Europe

17

- From Old World
 - Wheat, rice, grapes, coffee, horses, pigs, sheep
 - Horses adopted by Native Americans on Great Plains (easier to hunt buffalo)



18

- Most important aspect was disease
 - Amerindians had no immunity to European diseases; millions died



19

- In the 16th century, Spain created the most powerful empire in the world by conquering & colonizing the western hemisphere
 - Colonization was difficult and deadly; most in the first waves died of malnutrition or disease.

20