

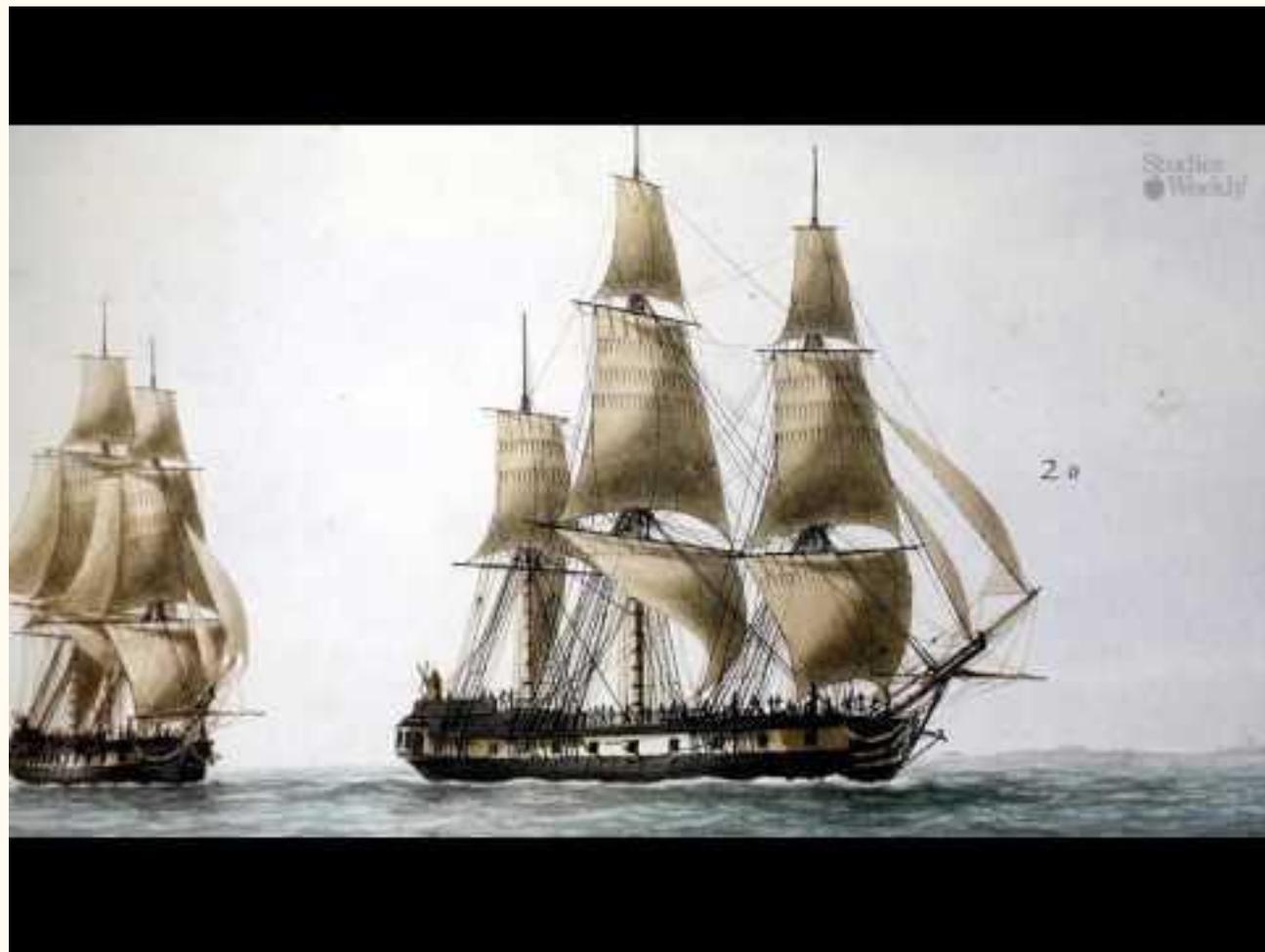
Renaissance

—

The Age of Exploration & Imperialism

Chapter 5: The Age of Exploration

Essential Question: What factors might motivate a society to venture into unknown regions beyond its borders?



The Desire to Explore

What elements of the worldview of Renaissance Europeans lead to exploration and expansionism?



Definitions

Cartographer: a person who draws or produces maps

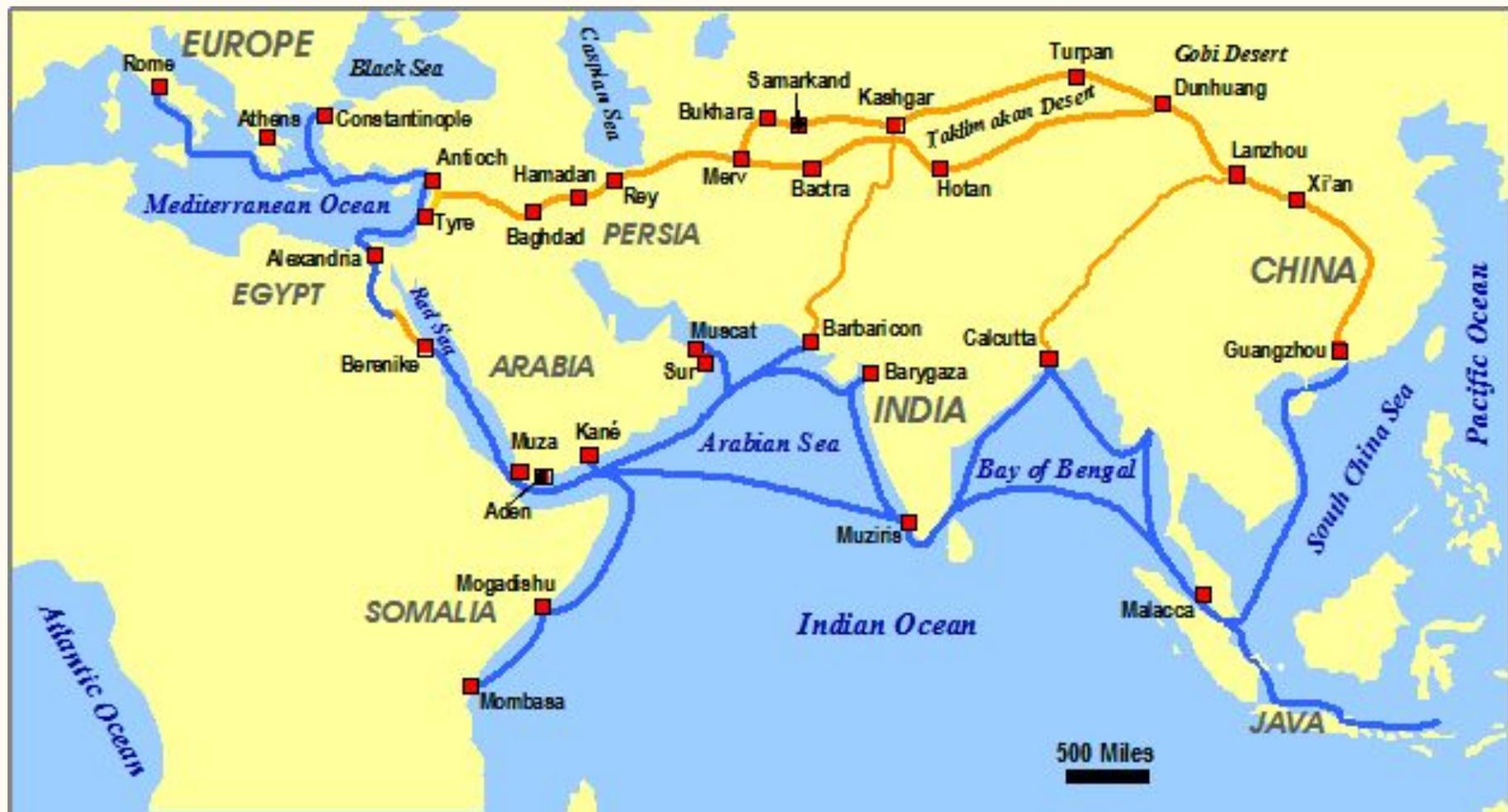


FIGURE 5-1 1 This painting of Christopher Columbus arriving in the Americas was done by Louis Prang and Company in 1893. What do you think Columbus might be doing in this painting?

Exploring to Expand **Trade** - Trade with the East

Renaissance Europeans spent huge amounts of money on luxury goods and spices from the East.

- Issues:
 - Spices were so expensive because they were moved over great distances and between many people
 - High prices for other luxury goods w
 - Security over trade routes
- Solution:
 - Europeans believed a **sea route** to the east would solve trade problems and would give them control



Exploring to Expand the **Gold Supply**

The trading economy of Europe depended on the exchange of goods and resources for money.

- Issues:
 - Only coins were used and **gold** coins were worth more than silver coins
 - European mines were running out of gold and silver
- Solution:
 - Find new sources of these resources

Exploring to Expand Christianity

Religion was very important aspect of people's worldview during the Renaissance. Spreading Christianity became very important during the Age of Exploration

Why?

- Renaissance explorers and the monarchs who sponsored their voyages believed:
 - They were following Jesus' wishes in bringing Christianity to the people in the lands they visited.

The Means to Explore

How did the exchange of knowledge and technology make European exploration possible?



Definitions

Navigation: The science of determining the course, position, and distance travelled by a ship.

Expanding the **Known World**

Despite their openness and curiosity, Europeans' knowledge of the lands beyond Europe was very limited.

Sources of Information:

- Books by travellers
 - Issue: Full of misinformation
- Geographia: a manuscript written by Ptolemy
 - Issue: Based on his beliefs of what the world looked like (150 AD)
- Maps by cartographers
 - Issue: Had to draw while travelling or from memory

ALTERA GENERALIS TAB· SECVNDVM PTOL·



Expanding Navigational Technology

For Renaissance voyages of exploration, ships that could travel across the ocean and navigational instruments that could keep these ships on course were essential.

Prince Henry of Portugal: Patron of Portuguese explorers

Established a centre where cartographers, mathematicians, astronomers, sailors, and navigators from all over Europe came to **SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE.**

Here they improved/created:

- Navigational instruments
- New maps based on Portuguese exploration
- Mathematical tables for sailors to determine their latitude

The Expansion of Navigational Technology

Instrument	Use of Instrument	Origin of Instrument
 <p data-bbox="378 834 716 867">FIGURE 5-15 Compass</p>	Used for finding the direction a ship is travelling	Probably developed in China about 1700 years ago, used by Muslim travellers in navigation

The Expansion of Navigational Technology



FIGURE 5-16 Astrolabe

Used the North Star or Sun to calculate latitude, the distance north or south of the Equator

Probably invented by ancient Greeks, further developed by Arab mathematicians and astronomers

The Expansion of Navigational Technology



FIGURE 5-17 Cross-staff

Used to measure the altitude of the Pole star above the horizon to determine latitude

Invented around 1342 for astronomy and first used around 1514 for navigation

The Expansion of Navigational Technology



FIGURE 5-18 Back-staff

Used to measure the altitude of the Sun to determine latitude

Developed in 1594 as an improvement over the cross-staff

The Expansion of Navigational Technology

Ships also developed as Europeans encountered different elements such as sea vs ocean, wind strengths, rapids, materials available and encounters with other cultures.



European Expansion

How did the desire and means to explore foster an expansionist worldview?



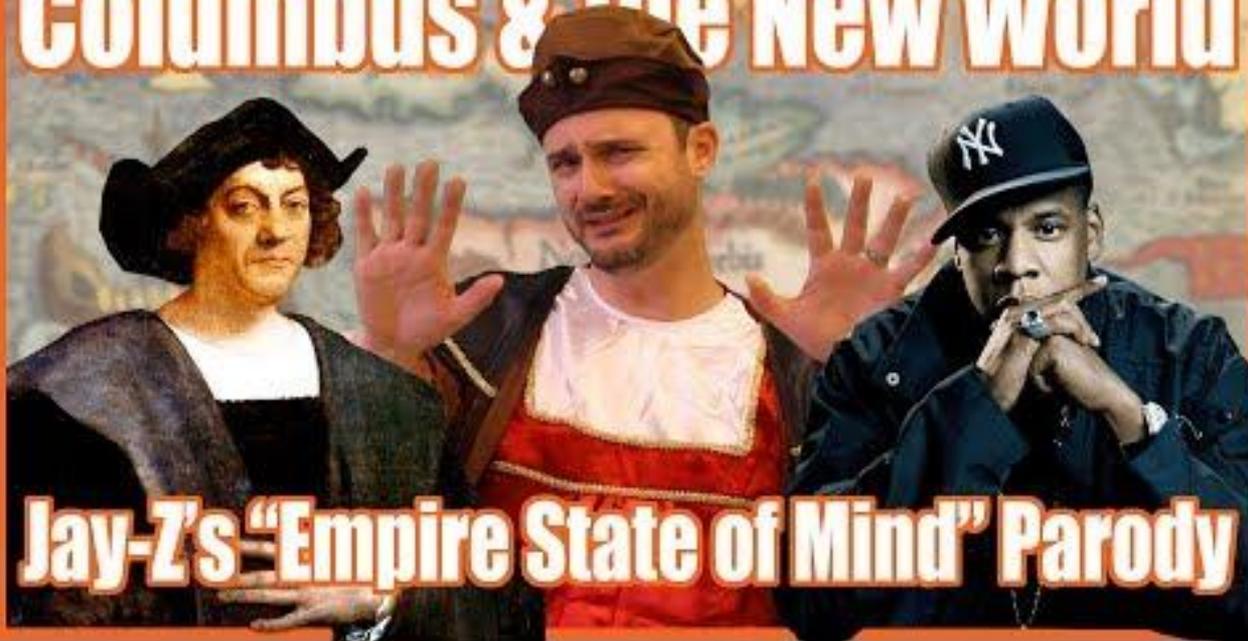
Definitions

Circumnavigation: To sail completely around the world.

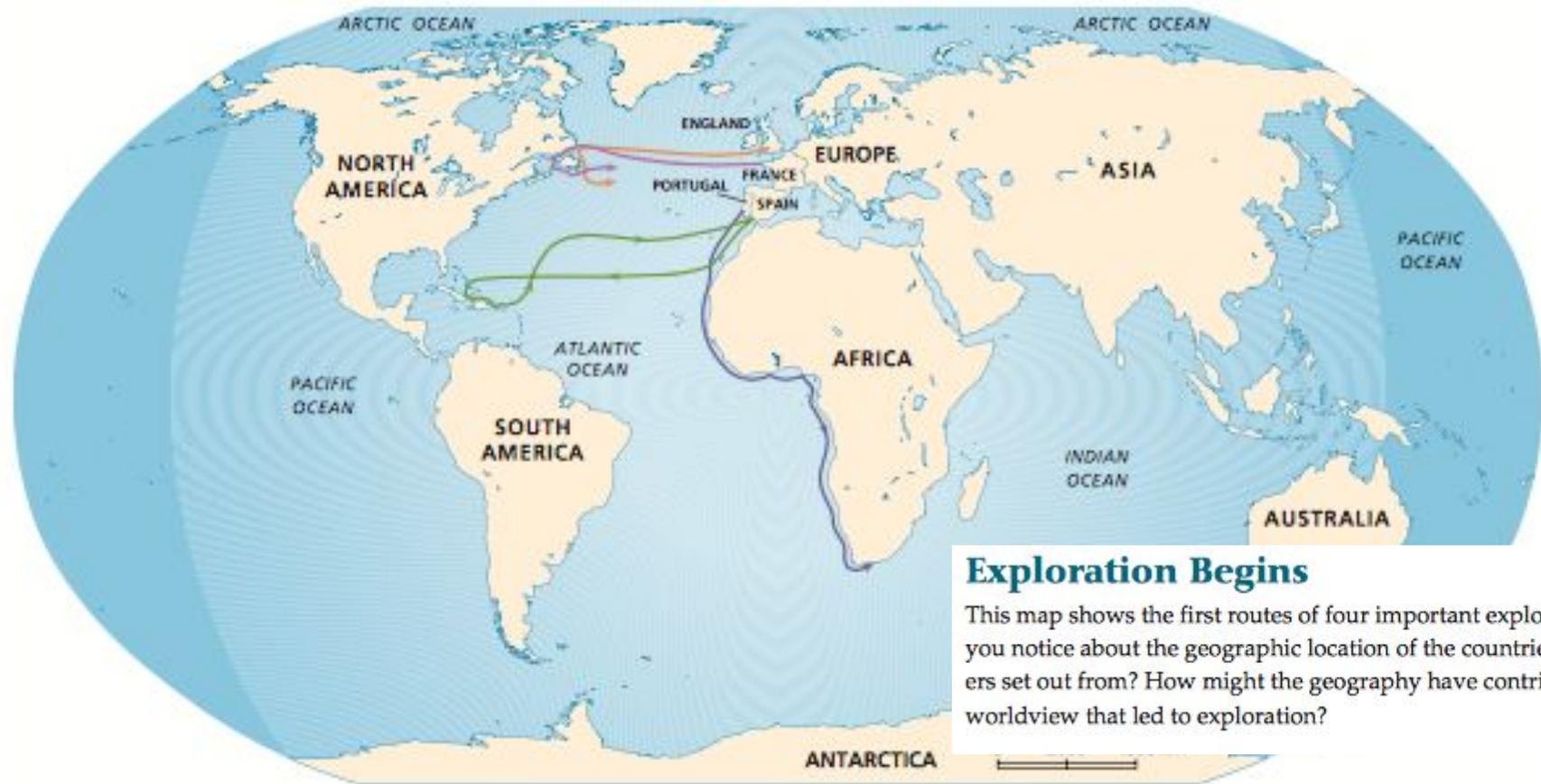
Expansionism: The actions and attitudes of a state or country whose goal is to increase its power and territory.

- The city-states in Italy were constantly trying to increase their wealth and power by expanding their territory
- In other words, they had an “expansionist” worldview
- During the Age of Exploration, countries sent out explorers on voyages of thousands of kilometers to achieve their expansionist goals

Columbus & the New World



Jay-Z's "Empire State of Mind" Parody



Exploration Begins

This map shows the first routes of four important explorers. What do you notice about the geographic location of the countries these explorers set out from? How might the geography have contributed to a worldview that led to exploration?

- Bartholomeu Dias (Portugal), 1488
- Christopher Columbus (Spain), 1492
- Giovanni Caboto (England), 1497
- Jacques Cartier (France), 1534

Portugal

The first European country to become involved in organized exploration.

- **Destination:**

- West coast of Africa

- **Purpose:**

- To seek gold-producing areas
- Became involved in the slave trade (began before European contact)

Spain

Christopher Columbus was convinced that a shorter route lay west across the Atlantic.

- **Intended Destination:**
 - Asia
- **Actual Destination:**
 - Carribean
- **Purpose:**
 - Gold and spices

He died bitter and poor after his fourth voyage in 1506, convinced still that he had reached Asia.

Spain

In 1520, Ferdinand Megellan sailed along the coast of South America and on into the Pacific Ocean. Eventually, he landed in the Philippines. After his death and his ship under new command, they returned to Spain loaded with spices.

- Spain was the first to:
 - Record a voyage to circumnavigate the world!

England and France

- **Destination:**
 - across the Atlantic
- **Actual Destination:**
 - Canada
- **Purpose:**
 - New territories

Expansionism Begins

Before Christopher Columbus set off in 1492, he and Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand made an agreement: “The Articles of Agreement between the Lords of the Catholic Sovereigns and Cristobal Colon.” Here is an excerpt.

Firstly, that Your Highnesses, as actual Lords of the said Oceans, appoint from this date the said Cristobal Colon to be your Admiral in all these islands and mainlands which by his activity and industry shall be discovered or acquired . . .

Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand are declaring their sovereignty or power over unknown oceans.

Likewise, that Your Highnesses appoint the said Don Cristobal Colon to be your Admiral/your Viceroy and Governor General in all the said islands and mainlands . . .

claimed or bought

. . . that of all and every kind of merchandise, whether pearls, precious stones, spices and other objects and merchandise whatsoever . . . which may be bought, bartered, discovered, and obtained . . . that he may have and take for himself, the tenth part of the whole

Columbus is being given power over the places he visits.

By command of the King and of the Queen

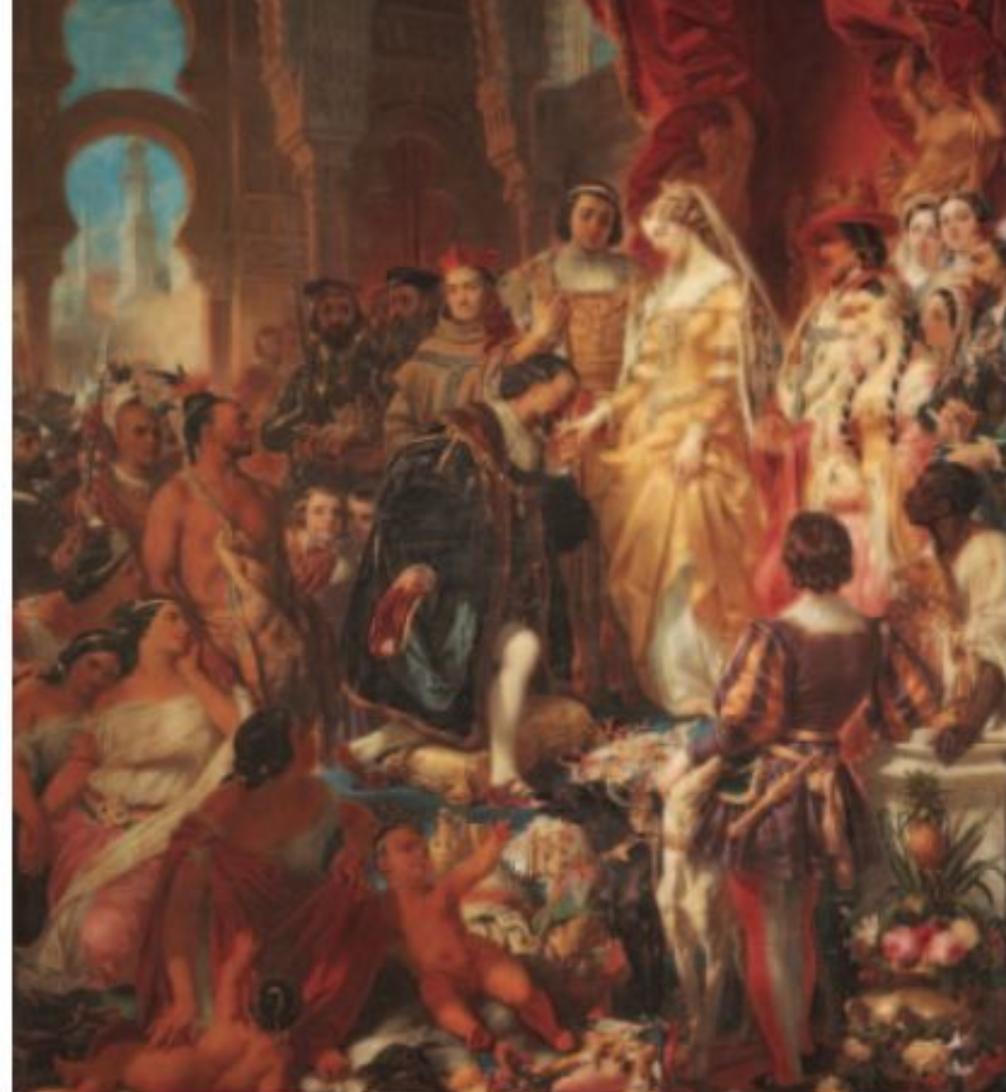
Think IT THROUGH

How do the annotated parts of the document express an expansionist worldview?

Small Groups:

What do you think of that agreement?

Who does it benefit? Who loses out?



In this painting, Christopher Columbus is shown being received at the court of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand after his first voyage to the Americas. He is proudly presenting to the monarchs some of the riches of the territories he explored. He also has brought along several Indigenous people whom he kidnapped before leaving the Caribbean to return to Spain. How has the artist made Columbus the focus of the painting? Do you think the artist views Columbus as the hero of the scene? Explain your thinking.



Chapter 6: O Brave New World



How can exploration and expansionism affect the worldview of a society and the societies it comes into contact with?

The Renaissance Exploration Connection to Canada

Missionary: a person sent on a religious mission, especially one sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country.

European explorers of what is now Canada were often accompanied by missionaries.

Missionaries began to preach to First Nations people and this missionary work spread northward and westward.

The first permanent mission was in what would become Alberta.

Most Catholic missionaries in the West were Francophones

European Imperialism

What does the Europeans' treatment of peoples they came into contact with reveal about their worldview?



Definitions

Imperialism is the extension of the power over a territory, its resources and people.

Immunity: the ability of an organism to resist a particular infection or toxin

Quipu: a system of knotted strings that was used by the Incas and other South American cultures to communicate and keep records.

The Treaty of Tordesillas

After Christopher Columbus thought he had found a sea route, Portugal and Spain both wanted their share of the Asian trade and their rules could not come to an agreement, so they asked the pope to settle the matter.

- In 1494, the pope proposed a secret treaty, the Treaty of Tordesillas (TOR-thase-lyas)
 - They would divide the world between the Spanish and the Portuguese.
 - Spain would have all the land west of an imaginary line running north to south
 - Portugal would have the land to the east.

The Treaty of Tordesillas

- Other European rulers were angry when they heard about the Treaty of Tordesillas.
 - England and France ignored its terms and sent out explorers.

What gave Europeans the idea that they had the right to divide up the world among themselves?

Why did they think their explorers could simply arrive somewhere and claim the territory?

Answer: The expansionist worldview had now turned into “imperialism”

Portugal, Spain, and other European countries wanted more than to expand their world- they wanted:

- power over all territory, resources, and people they came across.

Taking Charge

The imperialist behaviour of Europeans was partly a result of their attitude toward the Indigenous people they found living in the new territories.

The territories in Central and South America claimed by Columbus and other Spanish explorers became known as: New Spain.

Indigenous people were:

- Enslaved by Spanish landowners
- Forced to work in terrible conditions.
- Millions of people were literally worked to death in the silver mines and fields.

For a time, Spain was by far the richest country in Europe.

Piracy

England was jealous of the Spanish and their treasures. Queen Elizabeth I supported illegal attacks on Spanish ships. English ships were raiding coastal towns of New Spain for treasure.

Spain's ambassador to England protested these raids and named England's conspirator, Francis Drake, "the master thief of the unknown world."

The Terrible Cost of Imperialism

The Terrible Cost of Imperialism

In the early 1490s, the Inca and Aztecs had thriving civilizations in what is now Central and South America. In a few years, these empires were destroyed by the Spanish. Everywhere that Europeans explored and settled in the Americas, the **Indigenous peoples paid a terrible cost.**

- By 1600 less than one-tenth of the original population of the Americas remained
- An estimated 90 million Indigenous people died
- Most died of diseases (smallpox, measles, influenza, malaria, bubonic plague, yellow fever) brought by the Europeans.

These diseases were unknown to the Americas and people had no immunity/resistance to them.

The Terrible Cost of Imperialism

- Many Indigenous peoples in the Americas completely died out. Among them the Beothuk of Newfoundland.
- Most of the written records of the original peoples of the Americas were destroyed along with their cities and monuments.

The Spanish burned thousands of ancient books of the Mayan People.

About 500 **quipus** have been recovered but, no written records in *Quechua*, the Incan language, have been found.

Can you think of a similar
experience that has happened
in Canada?

Discussion

Think - Pair - Share

European Worldview and Identity

How did the Age of Exploration affect Europeans' lives and
worldview?

Definitions

Patriotism: an assumed attitude when sense of identity becomes linked with the achievements of one's country

Decolonization: the action or process of a state withdrawing from a former colony, leaving it independent.

Terraforming: to change a planet to support human life by making it resemble Earth

European Worldview

European society had moved from **feudalism** where people had little knowledge about world geography and had superstitions. Humanists opened peoples' eyes to **human achievement**. This led to a development of an appetite for **knowledge**, as well as a hunger for **riches** and the desire to **explore** to find them.

For Queen and Country

The heroes of a society often reflect its values and attitudes.

Francis Drake captured the imagination of the English because he was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world. He brought wealth to England and earned the gratitude of the Queen.

She was a true Renaissance monarch:

- Well educated
- Read Latin and Greek, and was a patron of the arts
- Defeated Spain, the most powerful country in Europe, in a naval battle
- Sponsored explorers

For Queen and Country

The military and economic success of England gave its people a sense of confidence and pride. They became a country of patriotic people.

Making Contact

Europeans were fascinated by the reports of the Indigenous peoples that filtered back to Europe. What were these people really like? How did they organize their societies?

The invention of the printing press made illustrated books about Indigenous peoples available to eager readers across Europe. These illustrations showed that Indigenous people were:

- Closer to nature
- Did not live crowded together
- Had clean and quiet villages.

Making Contact

Many of their communities operated on principles of **equality** and **sharing** (a big difference from the Europeans!)

These accounts challenged some people's thinking about European society. Some philosophers wondered if it was possible that Indigenous peoples had happier lives than Europeans.

- Future works on political theory were even influenced by this cultural contact with Indigenous peoples.

Expansionism and Imperialism

On the whole, however, Europeans saw themselves as **superior** to the peoples of the Americas. From their perspective, they needed the **resources** of the Americas to support Europe.

- They saw the competition for land and resources as necessary to their survival and supremacy.

Expansionism and Imperialism

This attitude led them to afflict many populations with horrendous acts.

European expansionism contributed to:

Indigenous and First Nations peoples:

- A disregard for rights to traditional lands.

African populations:

- establishment of African slaves trade.

It was carried out mainly by English merchant traders who bought or captured African men, women, and children, packed them tightly into ships and took them to the Americas. There they were sold to plantation owners who needed workers.

How does all of this affect us, today?

The Renaissance and the Age of Exploration were the first steps toward the global village we live in today! The invention of the printing press allowed for **knowledge and ideas to be exchanged** across the whole of Europe. **Humanism** with its curiosity, optimism, and belief in the individual encouraged people to look beyond the little world they knew. The **rise of trade and business** gave people the motivation to venture into the unknown.

By the end of the Renaissance, Europeans had travelled to most of the continents of the world. For the first time in recorded history, the people of these continents made contact with one another. **Wherever the Europeans arrived, they imposed their religion, ideas, values, and economies (their worldview), for better or worse.**

isolation→ intercultural contact→ change

Consider the Future

In the future, will people on Earth try to colonize other planets or moons in our solar system or beyond?

There is much debate between scientists over the pros and cons of terraforming. Some think it is the only way to save the human race long term. Others believe it is wrong to transform the ecosystem of another planet to fit our needs.

Pros:

- The Sun will eventually burn too hot and wipe out life on Earth. Therefore, we have the responsibility to colonize to save the human race.
- Even though planets contain their own life forms, they will probably be microscopic. Our rights to life are more important.

Cons:

- It would be wrong to destroy potential life forms through terraforming.
- It would be too expensive and take too long to terraform another planet. The money would be better spent on improving living conditions here on Earth.