

Exploration and Conquest



Portuguese Expansion

Prince Henry of Portugal became aware of the gold and slave trade, prompting his founding of a center for navigation. The caravel was developed and allowed for farther sailing and more trade.

Italian merchants also joined in due to the powerful Ottoman Empire's eastern influence. Multiple Atlantic islands off the shore of Africa were used to experiment with different cash crops.

Cash Crops Included:

- ❖ Wheat
- ❖ Wine Grapes
- ❖ Woad
- ❖ Livestock
- ❖ Honeybees
- ❖ Sugar

While most islands had been uninhabited, the Guanches living in the Canaries were conquered and enslaved.

Portuguese explorers like Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco de Gama hoped to find other markets; the latter was successful and traded with the Arabs and Indians.

The African Slave Trade

Slavery was widespread in Africa and eventually became exchangeable and were used for a variety of tasks. Over nine million were part of the sub-Saharan slave trade.



Originally relatively uninterested in the trade of other humans, Europeans began to participate after realizing its value. To redirect the existing trade, the Portuguese set up trading posts.



Columbus and the Caribbean

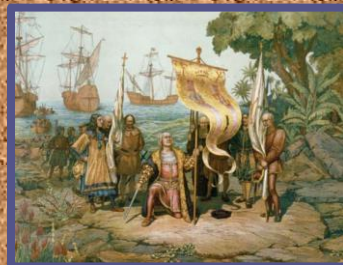
Ferdinand II and Isabella I of Spain completed the *recoquista*, the driving of Muslims from Spain, and also began an Inquisition against heretics.

They also paid for the voyage of Christopher Columbus, who believed that the Atlantic was shorter than others thought.

After six weeks of sailing, Columbus landed in the Bahamas and claimed the nearby areas for Spain. He also demanded tribute from local native tribes.



Columbus colonized the West Indies with over 1,000 settlers. He did not, however, acquire gold or treasure by the time of his death.



The Spanish Invasion

After tribes had been subdued, the Spanish conquistadores moved inward to look for wealth and slaves.



In 1521 Hernan Cortes had successfully ended the Aztec Empire, aided by disease. The same was the case with Francisco Pizarro and the Incan Empire as well, which was crushed by 1535.



Many natives were crippled by the disease and warfare brought by the Europeans.

Cabral and Brazil

Pedro Alvares Cabral of Portugal discovered the land that would later known as Brazil.



King Dom Joao III sent settlers to the land and plantations were set up. While natives were first used on the plantations, soon enough as sugar production rose so did the use of African slaves.

