

# Europeans Explore the East

## 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.

**Bartolomeu Dias**, an early Portuguese 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. **1. WHAT WERE THE TWO MAIN REASONS FOR EUROPEAN EXPLORATION?**

## CHAPTER 19 Section 1

### TERMS AND NAMES

**Bartolomeu Dias** Portuguese explorer who rounded the tip of Africa

**Prince Henry** Portuguese supporter of exploration

**Vasco da Gama** Explorer who gave Portugal a direct sea route to India

**Treaty of Tordesillas** Treaty between Spain and Portugal dividing newly discovered lands between them

**Dutch East India Company** Dutch company that established and directed trade throughout Asia

## Portugal Leads the Way; Spain Also Makes Claims

*(HOW DID PORTUGAL LEAD THE WAY IN EXPLORATION?)*

The first nation to develop and use the caravel and the magnetic compass was Portugal. **Prince Henry** 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.

Over the next few decades, Portuguese captains sailed farther and farther down the west coast of Africa. In 1488, **Bartolomeu Dias** reached the southern tip of Africa. Ten years later, **Vasco da Gama** 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 **Treaty of Tordesillas**. 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.

**2. HOW DID SPAIN AND PORTUGAL SOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER CLAIMS TO NEW LANDS?**



## 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 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. The **Dutch East India Company** 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. **3. HOW DID THE DUTCH AND ENGLISH BECOME INDIAN OCEAN TRADING POWERS?**

**CHAPTER 20** Section 3 (pages 566–570)

# The Atlantic Slave Trade

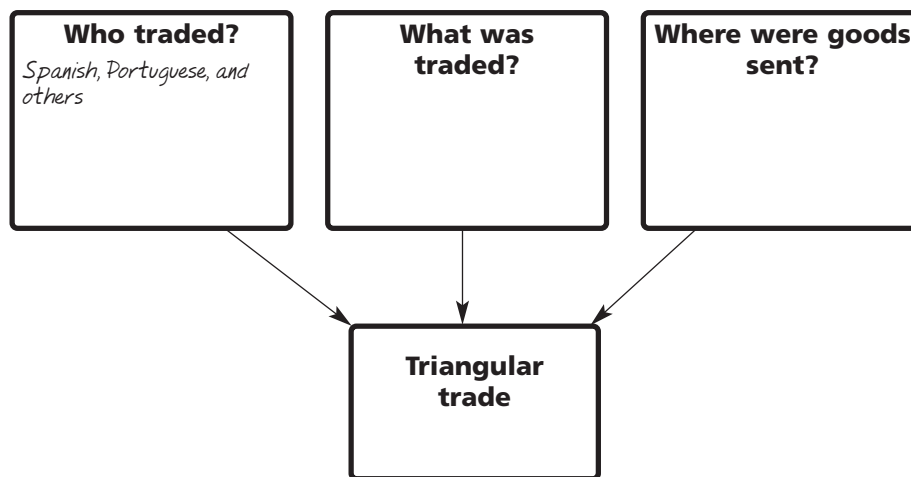
## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you saw how different European nations settled in North America.

In this section, you will read about the slave trade that brought Africans to the Americas.

## AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the triangular trade system.



### TERMS AND NAMES

**Atlantic slave trade** Buying and selling of Africans for work in the Americas

**triangular trade** European trade between the Americas, Africa, and Europe involving slaves and other goods

**middle passage** Voyage that brought captured Africans to the West Indies and the Americas

## The Causes of African Slavery

(pages 566–567)

### *What was the Atlantic slave trade?*

Slavery has had a long history in Africa and in the world. For most of that history in Africa, though, large numbers of people had not been enslaved. That changed in the 600s, when Muslim traders started to take many slaves to Southwest Asia.

Most worked as servants, and they did have certain rights. Also, the sons and daughters of slaves were considered to be free. The European slave trade that began in the 1500s was larger. The enslaved Africans also were treated far more harshly.

In the Americas, Europeans first used Native Americans to work farms and mines. When the native peoples began dying from disease, the Europeans brought in Africans. The buying and selling of Africans for work in the Americas became known as the **Atlantic slave trade**. From 1500 to 1870, when the slave trade in the Americas finally ended, about 9.5 million Africans had been *imported* as slaves.

The Spanish first began the practice of bringing Africans to the Americas. However, the Portuguese increased the demand for slaves. They were looking for workers for their sugar plantations in Brazil.

## 1. Why were slaves brought to the Americas?

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### Slavery Spreads Throughout the Americas (pages 567–568)

*What sorts of plantations existed in the Americas?*

Other European colonies also brought slaves to work on tobacco, sugar, and coffee plantations. About 400,000 slaves were brought to the English colonies in North America. Their population had increased to about 2 million in 1830.

Many African rulers joined in the slave trade. They captured people inland and brought them to the coast to sell to European traders.

## 2. How did some African rulers participate in the slave trade?

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### A Forced Journey (page 568–569)

*What kinds of trade included human beings?*

Africans taken to the Americas were part of a **triangular trade** between Europe, Africa, and the Americas. European ships brought manufactured goods to Africa, trading them for people. They carried Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas, where they were sold into slavery. The traders then bought sugar, coffee, and tobacco to bring back to Europe.

Another triangle involved ships sailing from the northern English colonies in North America. They

carried rum to Africa, people to the West Indies, and sugar and molasses back to the colonies to make more rum.

The part of the voyage that brought people to the Americas was called the **middle passage**. It was harsh and cruel. People were crammed into ships, beaten, and given little food. About 20 percent of the people on these ships died.

## 3. What was the triangular trade?

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### Slavery in the Americas; Consequences of the Slave Trade (pages 569–570)

*What was life like for the slaves?*

Life on the plantations was harsh as well. People were sold to the highest bidder. They worked from dawn to dusk in the fields. They lived in small huts and had little food and clothing. Africans kept alive their traditional music and beliefs to try to maintain their spirits. Sometimes they rebelled. From North America to Brazil, from 1522 to the 1800s, there were small-scale slave revolts.

The Atlantic slave trade had a huge impact on both Africa and the Americas. In Africa many cultures lost generations of members. Africans began fighting Africans over the control of the slave trade.

The Africans' labor helped build the Americas. They brought skills and culture too. Many of the nations of the Americas have mixed race populations.

## 4. How did Africans change the Americas?

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**CHAPTER 20** Section 1 (pages 553–559)

# Spain Builds an American Empire

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about European exploration in the East.

In this section, you will study the Spanish and Portuguese exploration of the Americas.

## AS YOU READ

Use the web below to show some of the results of Spanish conquest.

### TERMS AND NAMES

**Christopher Columbus** Italian explorer who landed in the Americas  
**colony** Land controlled by another nation

**Hernando Cortés** Conquistador who defeated the Aztec

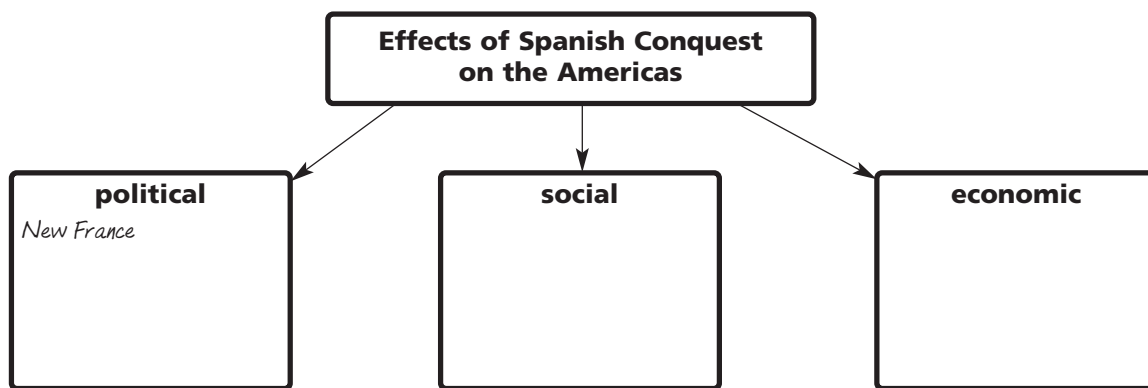
**conquistadors** Spanish explorers in the Americas

**Francisco Pizarro** Conquistador who defeated the Inca

**Atahualpa** Last Incan emperor

**mestizo** Person with mixed Spanish and Native American blood

**encomienda** System of mining and farming using natives as slave labor



## The Voyage of Columbus

(pages 553–554)

### *How did the voyage of Columbus change the Americas?*

In 1492, **Christopher Columbus**, 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 **colonies**. 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. Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean. Ferdinand Magellan sailed completely around the world.

### 1. Which voyages gave Europeans new knowledge of the world?

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## Spanish Conquests in Mexico

(pages 554–556)

*Why did Spain conquer the Aztecs?*

**Hernando Cortés** was one of the Spanish **conquistadors**, 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.

**2. What was the main goal of Cortés in his conquests?**

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## Spanish Conquests in Peru

(pages 556–557)

*How did Spain build an empire?*

About 15 years later, **Francisco Pizarro** led another Spanish force. It conquered the mighty *Inca Empire* of South America, led by **Atahualpa**, 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. After 1540, the Spanish looked north of Mexico and explored the future United States.

The Spanish lived among the people they conquered. Spanish men married native women. Their children and *descendants* were called **mestizo**—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 **encomienda**.

One large area of the Americas—Brazil—was the *possession* of Portugal. In the 1830s, colonists began to settle there. Colonists built huge farms called *plantations* to grow sugar, which was in demand in Europe.

**3. Give two examples of conquistadors and explain what they did.**

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## Spain's Influence Expands

(page 558)

*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.

**4. What area did Coronado explore?**

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## Opposition to Spanish Rule

(page 559)

*Who opposed Spanish rule?*

Spanish priests began to make some protests, however. 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 a well-organized effort. It involved about 17,000 warriors and drove the Spanish back into New Spain for 12 years.

**5. What challenges to their power did the Spanish face?**

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CHAPTER  
**18**

Section 3

**GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION**

*Europe Discovers the Riches of India*

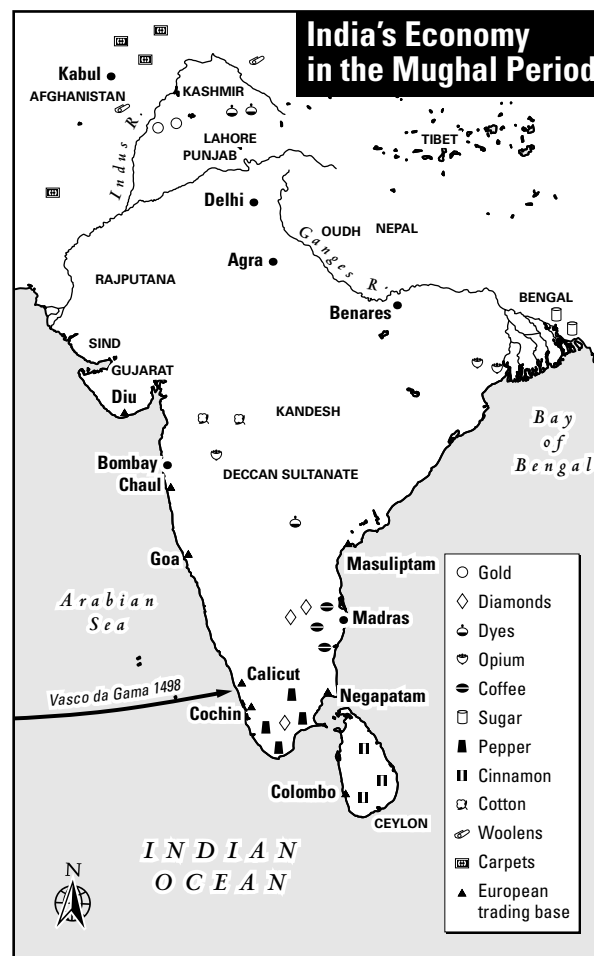
*Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.*

In 1498 the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama was the first European to reach India by sea. In contrast to most outsiders reaching India, he was interested only in the country's natural resources, not in conquering territory. Da Gama landed at Calicut, the richest of several Indian port cities. He was totally unprepared, however, to encounter shops and warehouses stocked with such items as cotton textiles and diamonds. Europeans had underrated India's sophistication. Da Gama had brought as gifts to his Indian hosts only striped cloths, hats, strips of coral, sugar, oil, and honey. These items had impressed the African kings he had met but now were considered an insult to the lord of Calicut. The gifts were refused. Da Gama was told that his presents should have been made of gold.

The failure of the Portuguese to offer the proper respect angered the Mughals, and so da Gama returned home only with stories of what he'd seen—and some spices he had bought himself. The spices, however, were sold in Europe at 27 times their cost, and the scramble for Indian products was under way. Pepper became the most desired of India's spices. Indian dyes were sought everywhere. Most popular of all were textiles—especially rugs—as weaving had been done in India for centuries.

During the 1500s Portuguese traders controlled sea routes to India and seized several trading forts along the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal. However, the Portuguese traders eventually lost their Indian strongholds to the Dutch, who took over trading posts in Colombo in 1641, Negapatam in 1658, and Cochin in 1663. Soon thereafter French and English traders took over Dutch trading claims. Mughal

rulers were still relatively strong during these years, and they never permitted Europeans to capture anything more than an economic toehold on the subcontinent. That power ended when Aurangzeb's death broke up the Mughals' central state.



**Interpreting Text and Visuals**

1. On which coast of India were most of the European trading posts located? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the main products of the Bengal region of India at this time? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the only product found in both the northern and southern regions? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the sole major product of Ceylon, which is modern Sri Lanka? \_\_\_\_\_
5. From which country did Vasco da Gama come and where in India did he land? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Look at the product symbols for the Afghanistan and Kashmir regions of India. What was the main economic activity in those regions? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What was Europe's most desired Indian spice and where did it come from? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Explain why the export of carpets, woolens, most dyes, and gold from India to Europe was probably more difficult than that of the other products found on the map. \_\_\_\_\_  
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