

# Exploring the Causes and Consequences of Iberian Maritime Exploration and Colonialism

HANDOUT  
4.1-INTRO

**Source 1** Political map of Iberian Peninsula c. 1000



States aligned with Islam are labeled in italics. All other states were aligned with Christianity.

**Source 2** Political map of Iberian Peninsula c. 1215



States aligned with Islam are labeled in italics. All other states were aligned with Christianity.

Source 3 Political map of Iberian Peninsula c. 1469



States aligned with Islam are labeled in italics. All other states were aligned with Christianity.

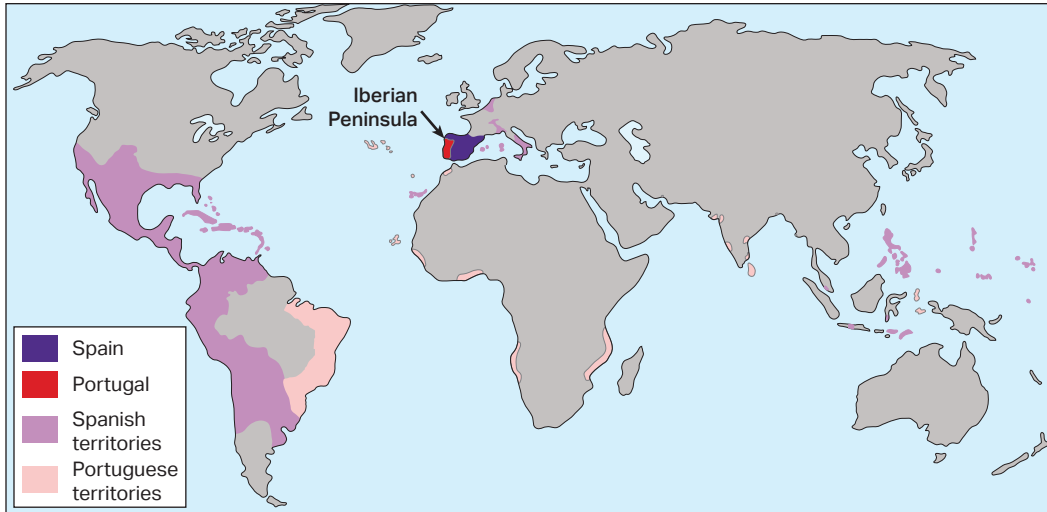
Source 4 Political map of Iberian Peninsula c. 1492



States aligned with Islam are labeled in italics. All other states were aligned with Christianity.

Source 5 Map of Spanish and Portuguese maritime empires c. 1600

HANDOUT  
4.1-INTRO



### OBSERVE AND ANALYZE

1. As you view the four maps of Iberia, what change over time do you notice? What evidence is there of cultural change?

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2. The worldwide map shows where Spain and Portugal established colonies by 1600. How do the locations of their colonies differ? Which country appears more powerful in 1600 based on the map?

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3. Both Portugal and Spain established colonies on islands, some of which were quite small. Using the map and geographic reasoning, hypothesize why these small territories were valuable to Portugal and Spain.

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4. Use the information from source 5 to complete the following sentence.

*Though Spain and Portugal both established colonies in \_\_\_\_\_, only Portugal \_\_\_\_\_.*

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### Reflect and Connect

- What are the most important takeaways from these sources?
- How do these takeaways relate to the key question(s) or starter claim?

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## Exploring the Search for Direct Access to African and Asian Markets

HANDOUT  
4.1-A

**Source 6** Adapted from Gomes Eanes de Zurara, official historian of the royal court, *The Chronicle of the Discovery and Conquest of Guinea*, a government history of Prince Henry the Navigator, c. 1450

*Prince Henry was responsible for organizing and sponsoring several voyages that led to Portuguese settlements on several islands in the Atlantic and several towns on the coast of West Africa.*

**—Reasons why the Lord Infant [Prince Henry of Portugal] was moved to command the search for the lands of Guinea [West Africa].**

After the taking of Ceuta he always kept ships well armed against the Muslims, both for war, and because he had also a wish to know the land that lay beyond the isles of Canary [in the Atlantic] and that Cape called Bojador [on the northwestern coast of Africa]. It seemed to Prince Henry that if he or some other lord did not endeavor to gain that knowledge, no mariners or merchants would ever dare to attempt it. And this was the first reason of his action.

The second reason was that if there chanced to be in those lands some population of Christians into which it would be possible to sail without peril, many kinds of merchandise might be brought to this realm, which would find a ready market, and bring great profit to our countrymen.

Yet another reason was because during the one and thirty years that he had warred against the Moors, he had never found a Christian king who for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ would aid him in the said war. Therefore he sought to know if there were in those parts any Christian princes who would aid him against those enemies of the faith.

And one more reason was his great desire to make increase in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to bring to him all the souls that should be saved.

**Source 7** Excerpted from Mary Ames Mitchell, *Crossing the Ocean Sea: Little Known Trivia, Legends, and Mysteries About Exploring the Atlantic*, 2015

While the Turks took control of Constantinople [in 1453], the Portuguese began building a trading post on Aguium\* Island in the Bay of Aguium just south of Cape Branco on the west coast of today's Mauritania ... It had been ten years since Nuno Tristão first visited the island in 1443. [Prince] Henry figured out that the Portuguese were better off connecting with the Muslim Arab slave traders than chasing after natives to enslave them themselves.

The arrangement meant that the Portuguese needed to develop good relations with the Muslims in spite of their *infidel* beliefs. The Portuguese also needed to keep tight relations with the Genoese, Venetians, and Florentines because after the Muslims took control of Constantinople, the Italians were looking for new opportunities in which to invest their fortunes. Merchant bankers from Genoa, Venice, and Florence would make it rich in the Guinea<sup>†</sup> trade. Ultimately, the new Guinea trade money partially funded Christopher Columbus' expedition to Central America and John Cabot's expedition to Newfoundland.

\*Spelling changed to "Arguin" after Dutch conquest in 1633, and commonly referred to as the "Bay of Arguin" today

<sup>†</sup>Refers to the Gulf of Guinea on the west coast of Africa

**OBSERVE AND ANALYZE**

1. According to source 6, how did Henry expect explorations in West Africa to benefit Portugal?

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2. According to source 6, what role did Henry’s religious beliefs play in his decision to explore West Africa?

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3. How does source 7 describe Prince Henry’s actions and Portuguese policies after 1453? How do these descriptions compare to how Henry is portrayed in source 6?

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4. Complete the following sentences using information from source 6.

*According to Gomes Eanes de Zurara, Prince Henry wanted his country to explore Guinea because \_\_\_\_\_ .*

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*According to Gomes Eanes de Zurara, Prince Henry wanted his country to explore Guinea, but \_\_\_\_\_ .*

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**Reflect and Connect**

- Would anything about the point of view, audience, purpose, or historical situation affect how you see these sources?
- What are the most important takeaways from these sources?
- How do these takeaways relate to prior sources and to the key question(s) or starter claim?

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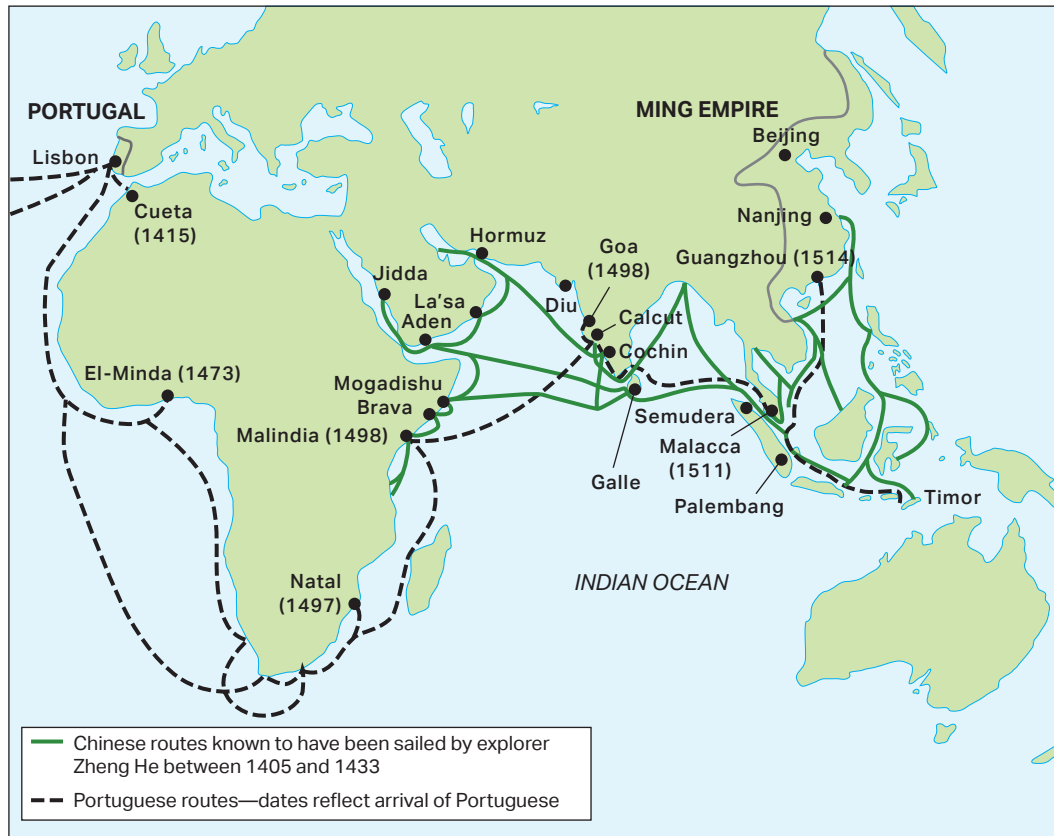
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## Exploring the Diffusion of Asian Maritime Technology

HANDOUT  
4.1-B

**Source 8** Key voyages of Chinese and Portuguese explorers 1405–1514



**Source 9** Excerpted from Hsü Ching, illustrated record of the official mission of a group of Chinese diplomats traveling to Korea, c. 1124

During the night it is often not possible to stop because of wind or current drift, so the pilot has to steer by the stars and the Great Bear. If the night is overcast then he uses the south-pointing floating needle to determine south and north.

**Source 10** Excerpted from Lynda Shaffer, "Southernization," *Journal of World History*, 1994

The Portuguese success would have been impossible without the Chinese compass, Arabic tables indicating the declination of the noonday sun at various latitudes, and the lateen sail, which was also an Arab innovation. The Portuguese caravels were of mixed, or multiple, ancestry, with a traditional Atlantic hull and a rigging that combined the traditional Atlantic square sail with the lateen sail of Southern Ocean provenance. With the lateen sail the Portuguese could tack against the wind for the trip homeward.

The new route to West Africa led to Portugal's rounding of Africa and direct participation in Southern Ocean trade. While making the voyages to West Africa, European sailors learned the wind patterns and ocean currents west of Africa, knowledge that made the Columbian voyages possible. The Portuguese moved the sugarcane plant from Sicily to Madeira, in the Atlantic, and they found new sources of gold, first in West Africa and then in East Africa. Given that there was little demand in Southern Ocean ports for European trade goods, they would not have been able to sustain their Asian trade without this African gold.

**OBSERVE AND ANALYZE**

1. According to the map, how did Chinese and Portuguese overseas voyages differ during the 15th century? In what ways were they the same?

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2. The source 9 excerpt is one of the first explicit references to the compass in history. What might this fact reveal about the chronology of the voyages documented in the map?

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3. According to source 10, how did Portuguese exploration represent a synthesis of European and Asian methods?

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4. Use the sources to complete the following sentences.

*In the 15th century, both the Chinese and the Portuguese \_\_\_\_\_ .*

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*However, unlike the Chinese, the Portuguese \_\_\_\_\_ .*

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**Reflect and Connect**

- What are the most important takeaways from these sources?
- How do these takeaways relate to prior sources and to the key question(s) or starter claim?

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## Exploring Iberian Maritime Colonization

HANDOUT  
4.1-C

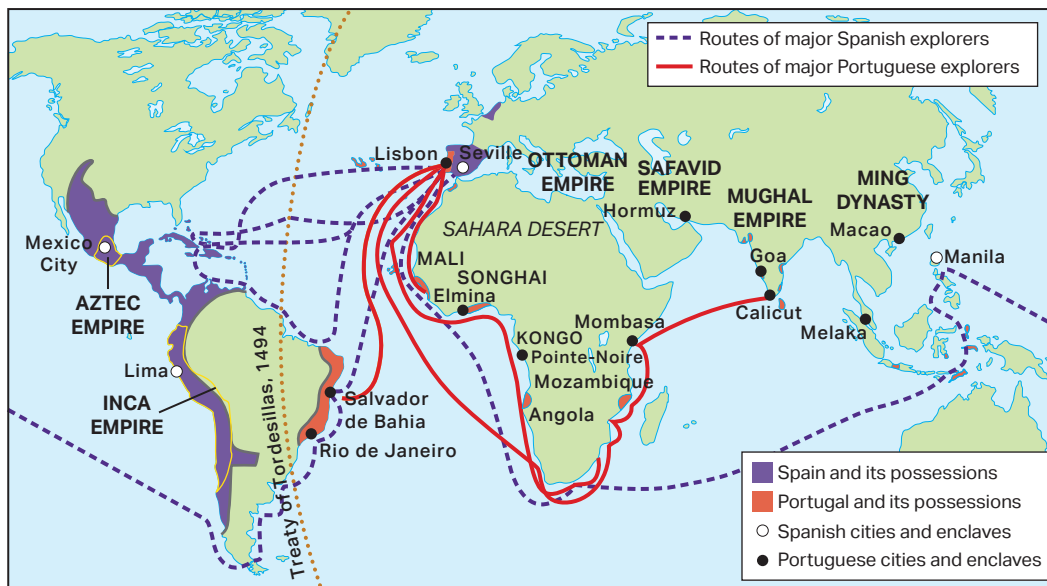
**Source 11** Excerpted from Thomas James Dandeleit, *The Renaissance of Empire in Early Modern Europe*, 2014

The Spanish conquistadors saw themselves as “Romans in the New World” and the protagonists of an epic conquest that was equal to or greater than that of ancient empires. Their monarchs successfully imposed significant aspects of their social, political, economic, cultural, and religious systems on the new territories. Capitalizing on their military advantage, they exploited native labor to extract as much raw wealth as possible from their colonies.

The Portuguese, by contrast, set up trading fortresses in India and the Spice Islands using the model they had developed along the West African coast in the fifteenth century. They did not conquer vast territories and established monarchies or empires\*, and they initially did not carry out an expansive imperial project like that of the Spanish. Rather, they focused on extracting wealth through trade. ... The actual amount of territory that they claimed was small compared to the Spanish territorial conquests.

\*Note: Such states and empires in Asia and Africa are capitalized on the map.

**Source 12** Map of Spanish and Portuguese exploration and the colonies and trading posts that were established in the 15th and 16th centuries



**HANDOUT**  
4.1-C

**OBSERVE AND ANALYZE**

1. According to Dandeleit, how did the Spanish and Portuguese differ in their approaches to gaining and organizing overseas territories?

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2. What evidence from the map supports the claims in the passage regarding the imperial goals of Portugal and Spain?

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3. Which approach to expansion described in the passage would likely require more state resources? How might the different types of expansion reflect the differences between Portugal and Spain in Iberia?

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4. Compare the imperial methods used by the Iberian empires by completing the following sentences.

*Both the Spanish and the Portuguese empires \_\_\_\_\_ .*

*However, the Portuguese \_\_\_\_\_ , while the Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ .*

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**Reflect and Connect**

- What are the most important takeaways from these sources?
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