

The uncertain outcome of a voyage across the Atlantic

A discovery that transformed the history of mankind



1492: the beginning of new era

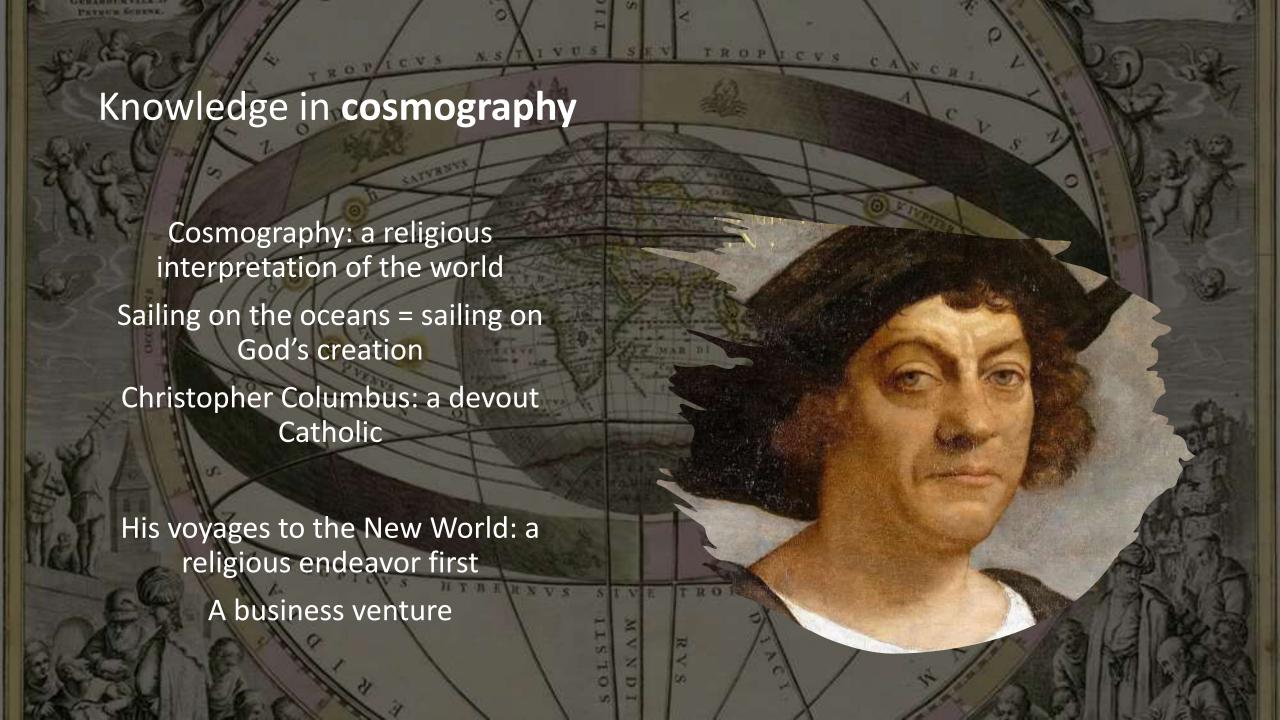
The colonization of the new world by the old

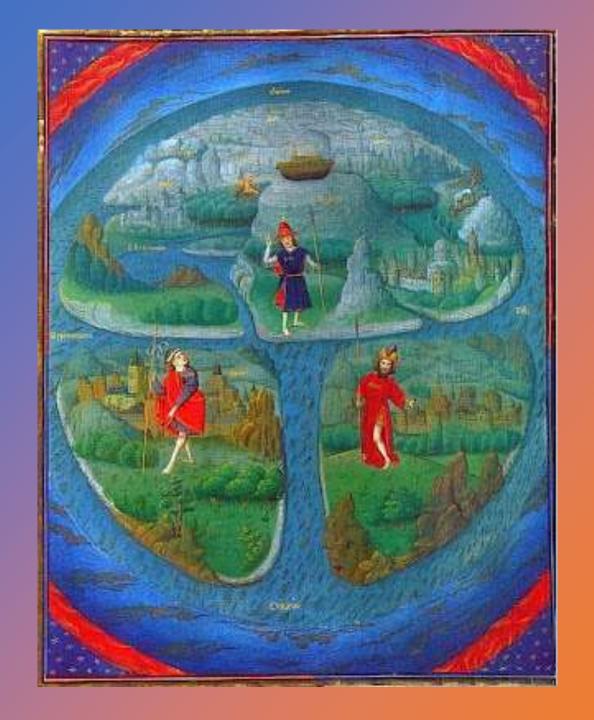
The start of a **ferocious competition** between the old European monarchies

At stake: the riches and natural resources of the American continent









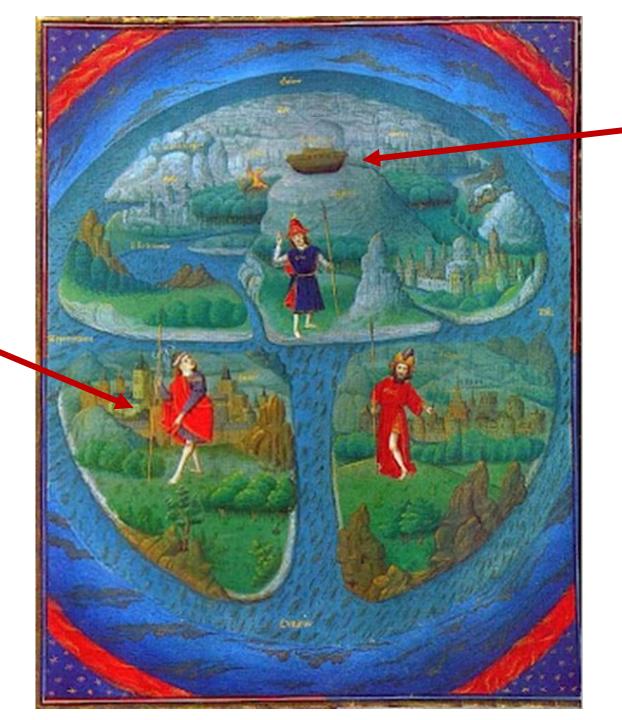
### Navigation in the Middle Age The search for riches + pilgrimage

Gold expected to be found in India (the world's highest mountain where to find the lost paradise & Noah's Ark)

The World after the Flood and the Chart of its peoples by Simon Marmion – Around 1460

Noah assigned to one of his 3 sons, Japheth, the task of colonizing
Western Europe

Medieval interpretation of the Bible assigned to the West an **illimited expansion** over lands yet to be discovered in the West, despite a major obstacle: the "sea Oceane" surrounding Europe



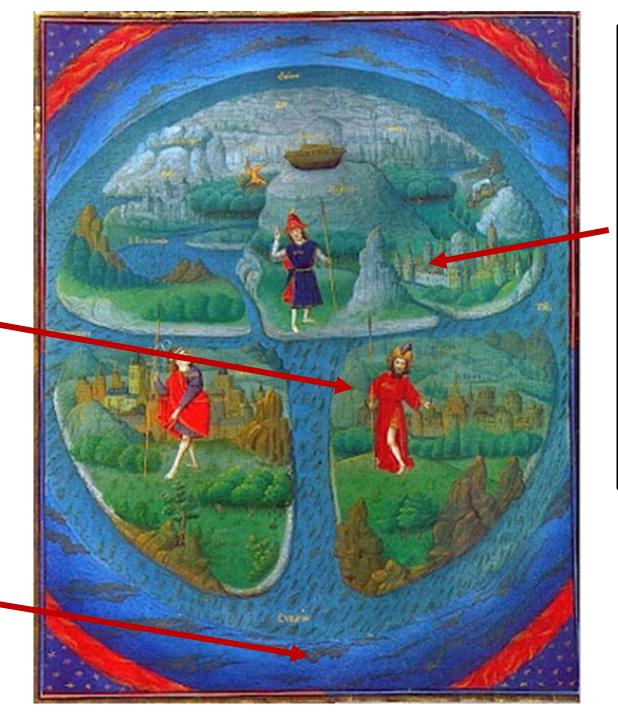
The earthly paradise & where Noah's ark ran aground following the Genesis flood

The source of water and gold

Cham and his offspring banished by Noah but colonized Africa

The "Curse of Canaan"
Helped justified the
African roots of slavery

The known world surrounded by water Navigation required to reach the earthly paradise and its riches



The Christian tradition associates the settlement of Asia with **Sem** (Noah's eldest son) and his offspring

Asia occupied by the Semites all the way to the Mediterranean BUT

The infidels rule over Asia which explains why Europe cannot reach the lost paradise (and its gold)



# Columbus settled in Portugal at 25

WHY Portugal?

A brother cartographer

Portugal spearheaded the Great Discoveries

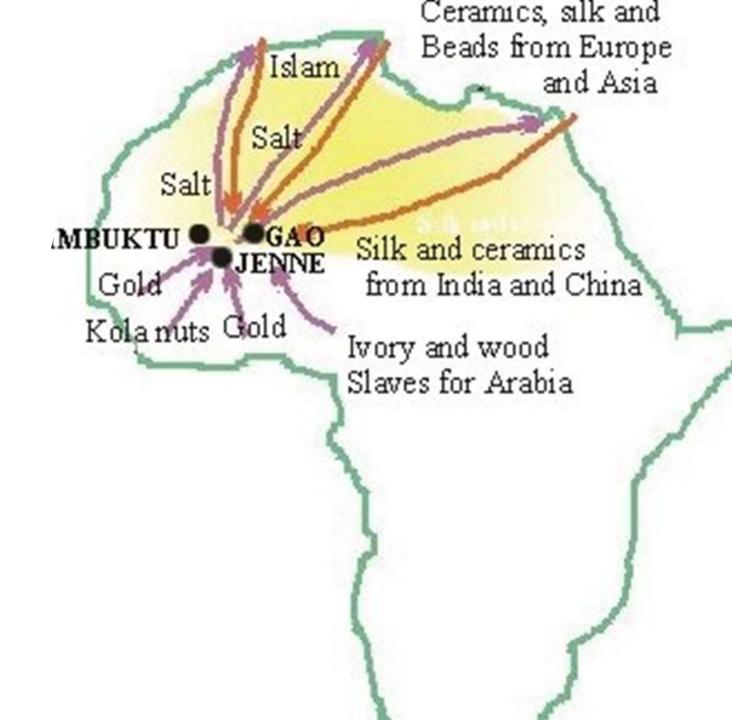




Africa: a key source of gold

Sponsoring & financing maritime exploration along the coast of Western Africa and **short-circuit** the African gold trade

The founding of a **navigation** school





## 1453: the **fall of Constantinople**

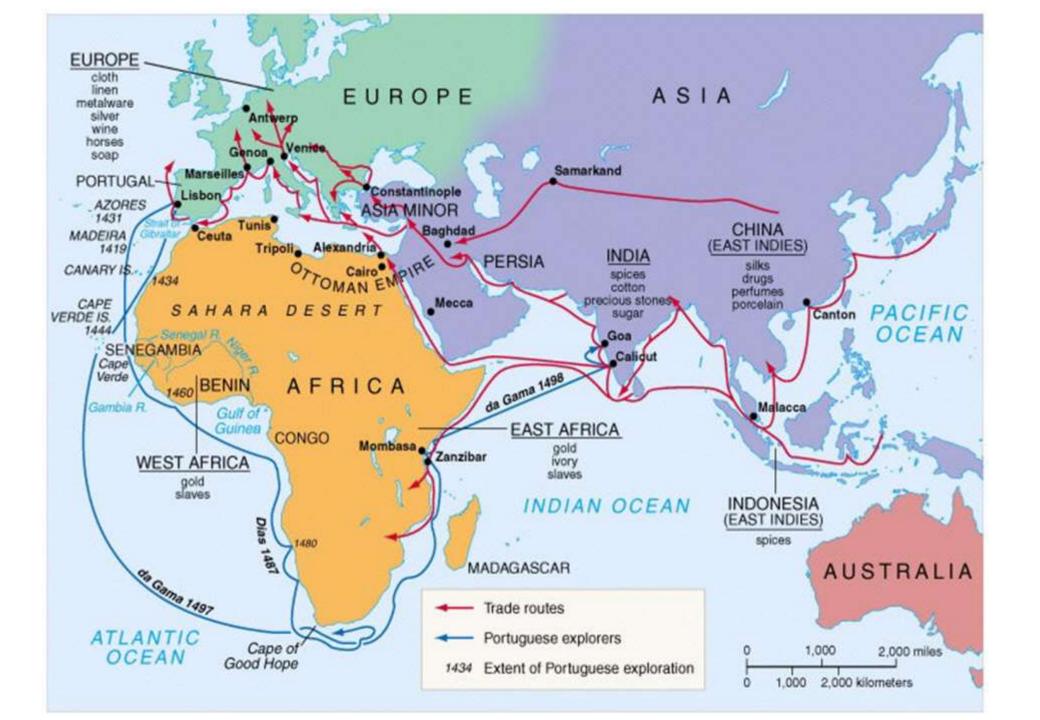
The collapse of the Byzantine Empire

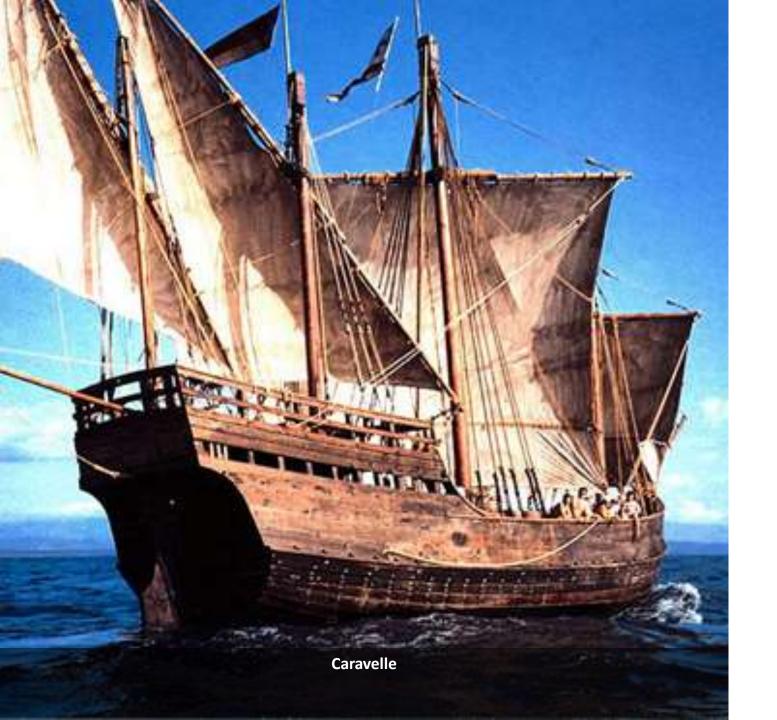
The Ottoman Empire now in control of the spice trade routes

**Hefty taxes** on merchandise bound for the West – Severe economic crisis

Finding an **alternate seaways** around Africa



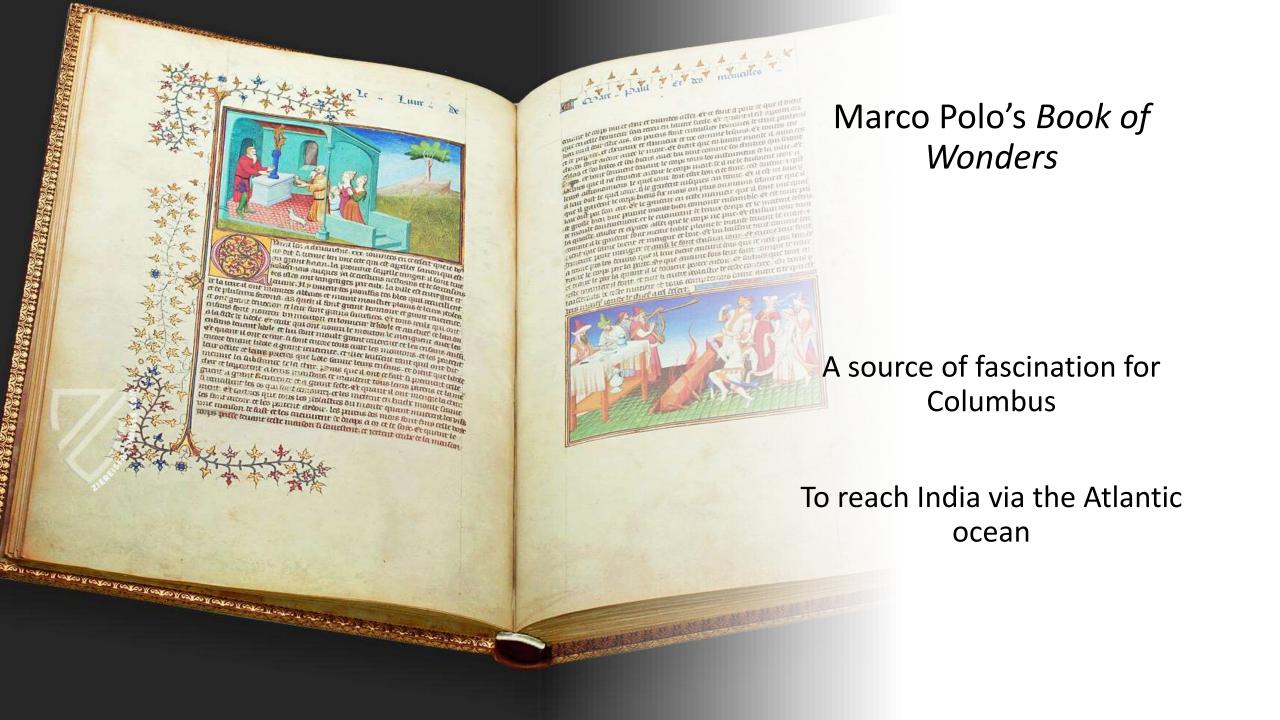


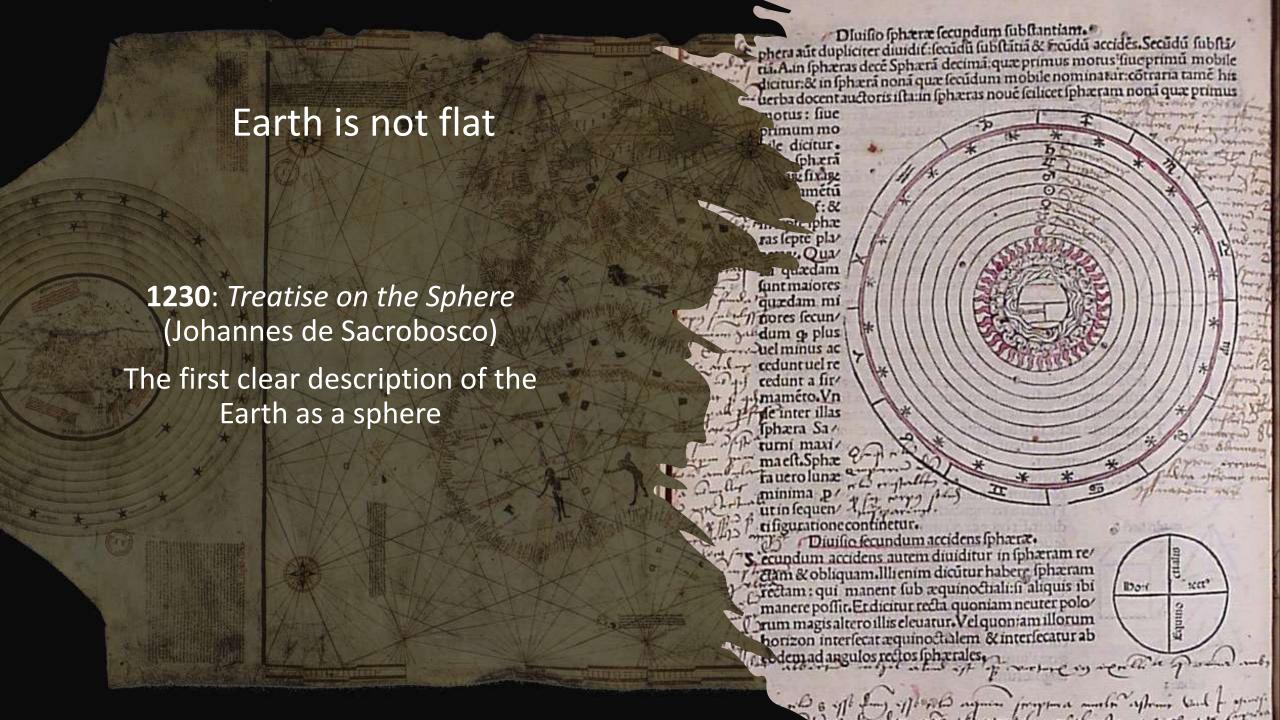


# The creation of a **new** type of ship

The **Caravelle**: steadier & faster ship

Without Henry the Navigator,
Christopher Columbus
would never have reached
the Americas







#### Paolo Toscanelli

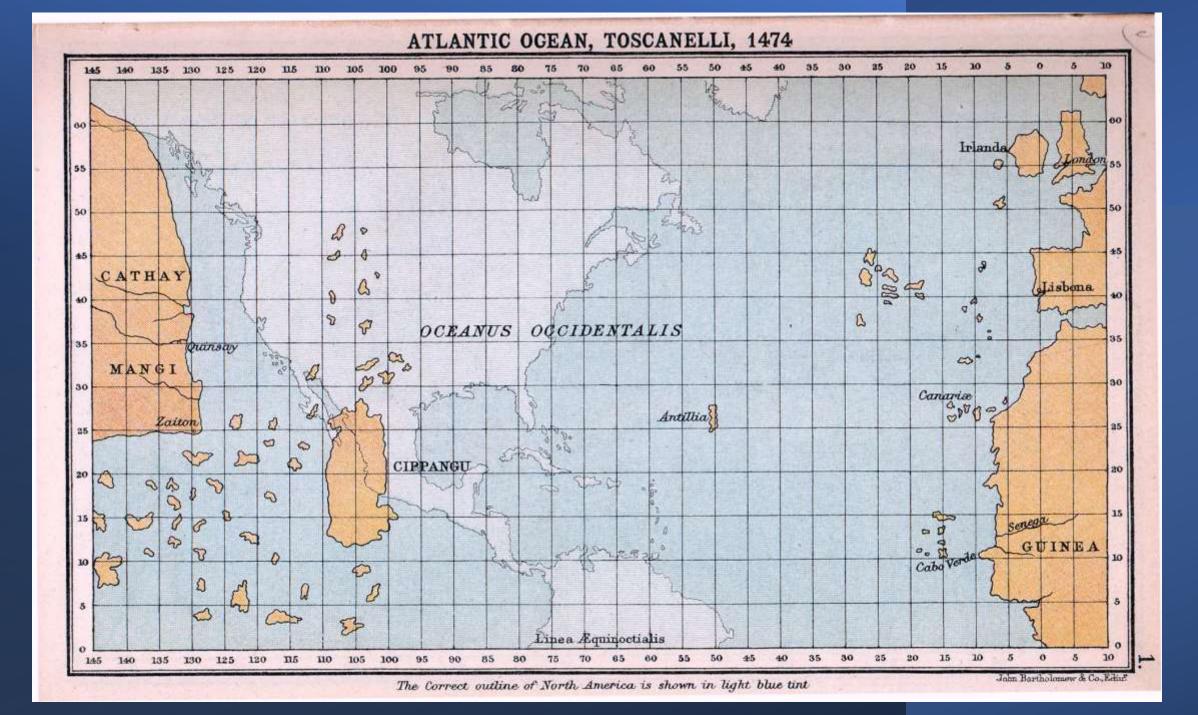
Famous cartographer from Florence (the cultural epicenter of Italian Renaissance): sailing west as a shortcut to the spice-producing regions in the east very possible

The shortest route to the east: crossing the Atlantic Ocean

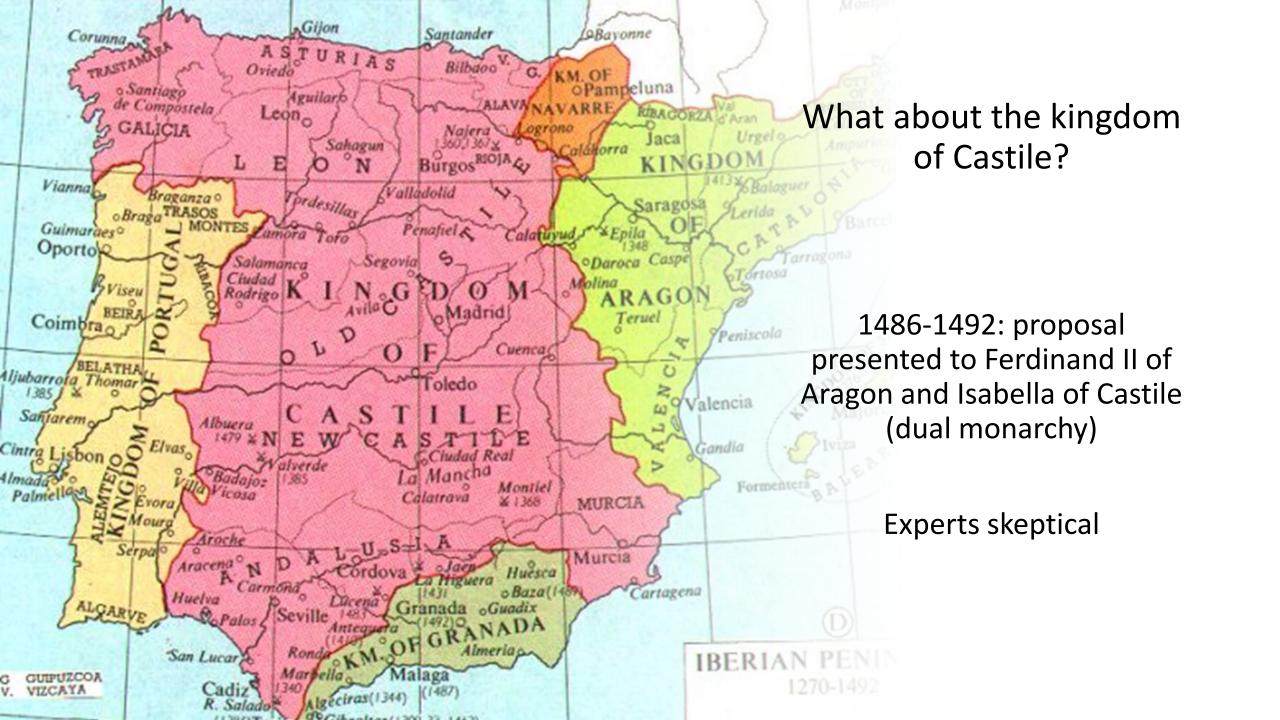
Knowledge of trade winds













### Luis de Santangel

In charge of Isabella's finances
The **Catholic Reconquest**: a costly endeavor

Support to Columbus' project

A 5 year wait

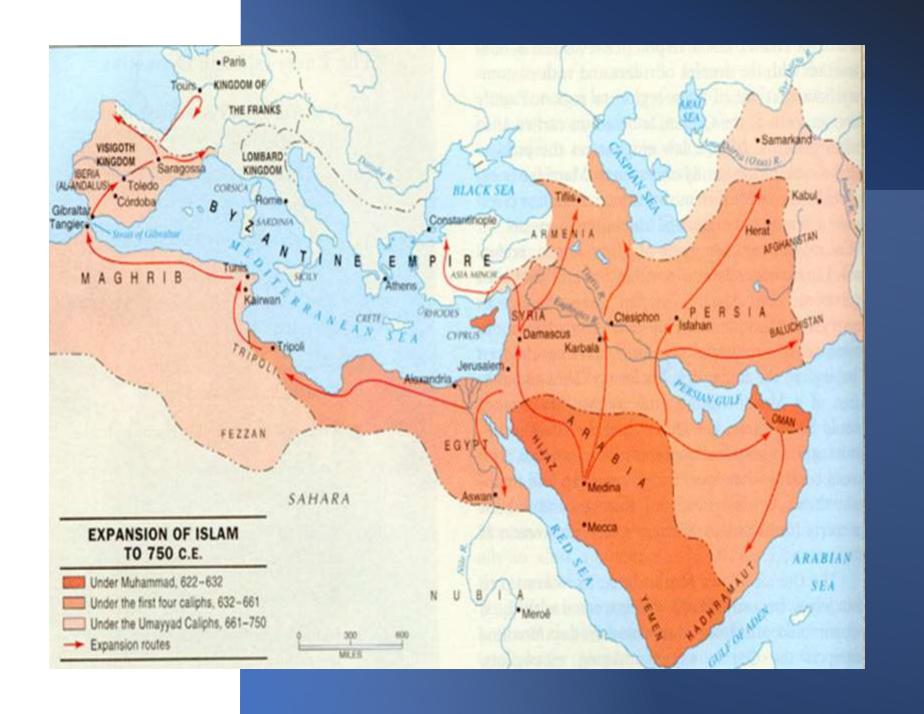




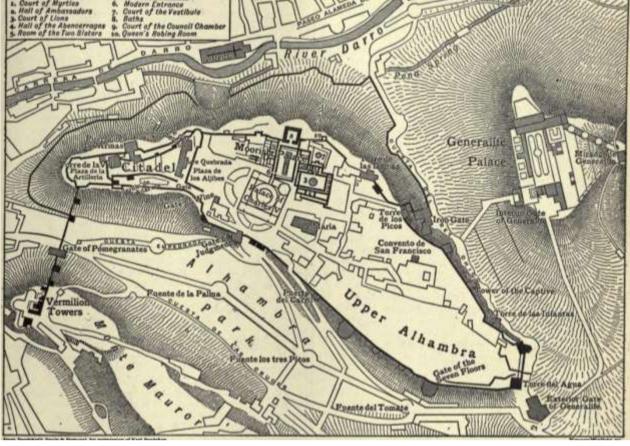
FIGURE 9-7 The Spanish Reconquista











Al-Hamra ("the Red"): the color of the initial citadel

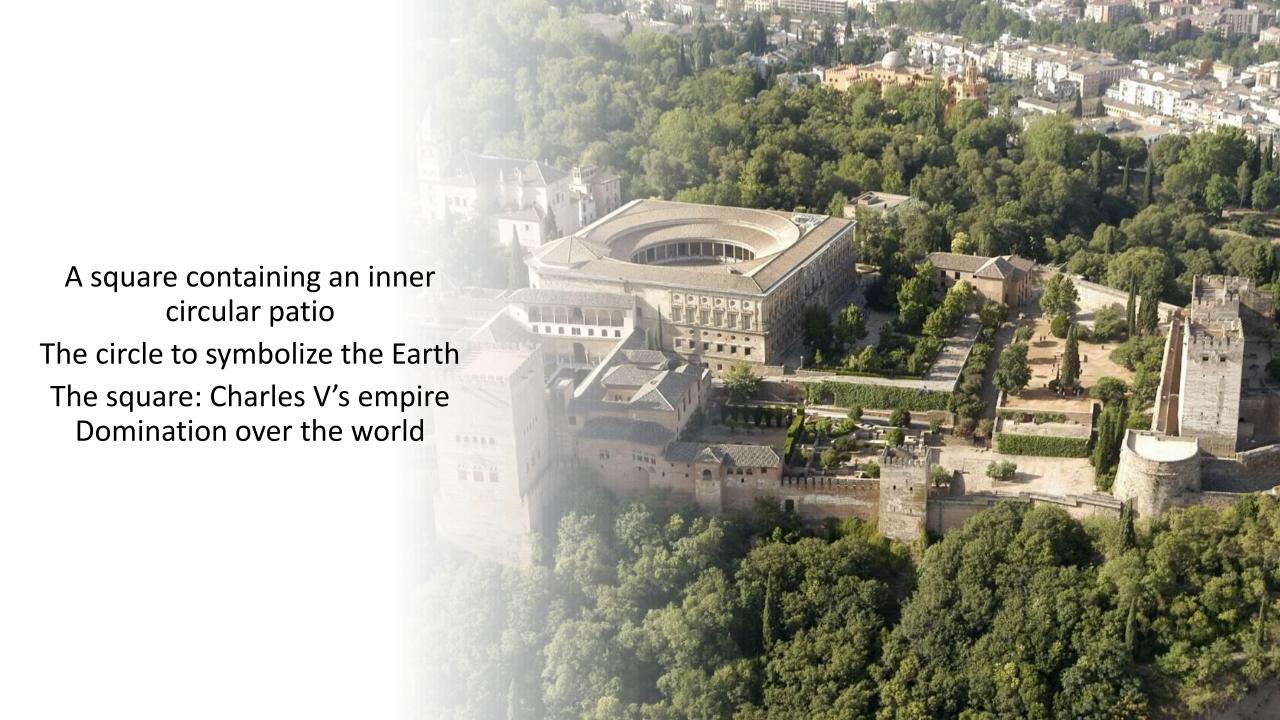




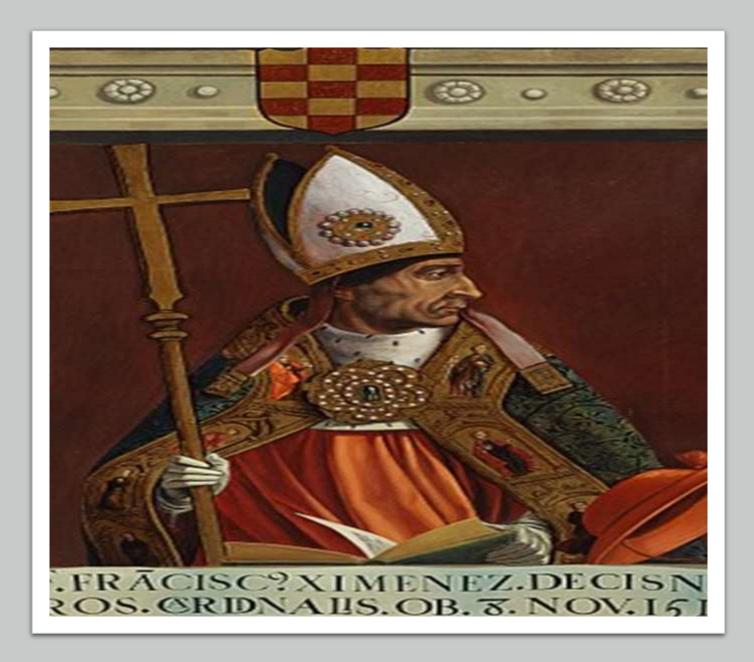




Charles V: a **Renaissance-style palace** at the Alhambra: victory of the Christians over the Muslims (the **Reconquest**)







## The Spanish Inquisition (1231-1233)

To combat religious dissidence & convert "heretics"

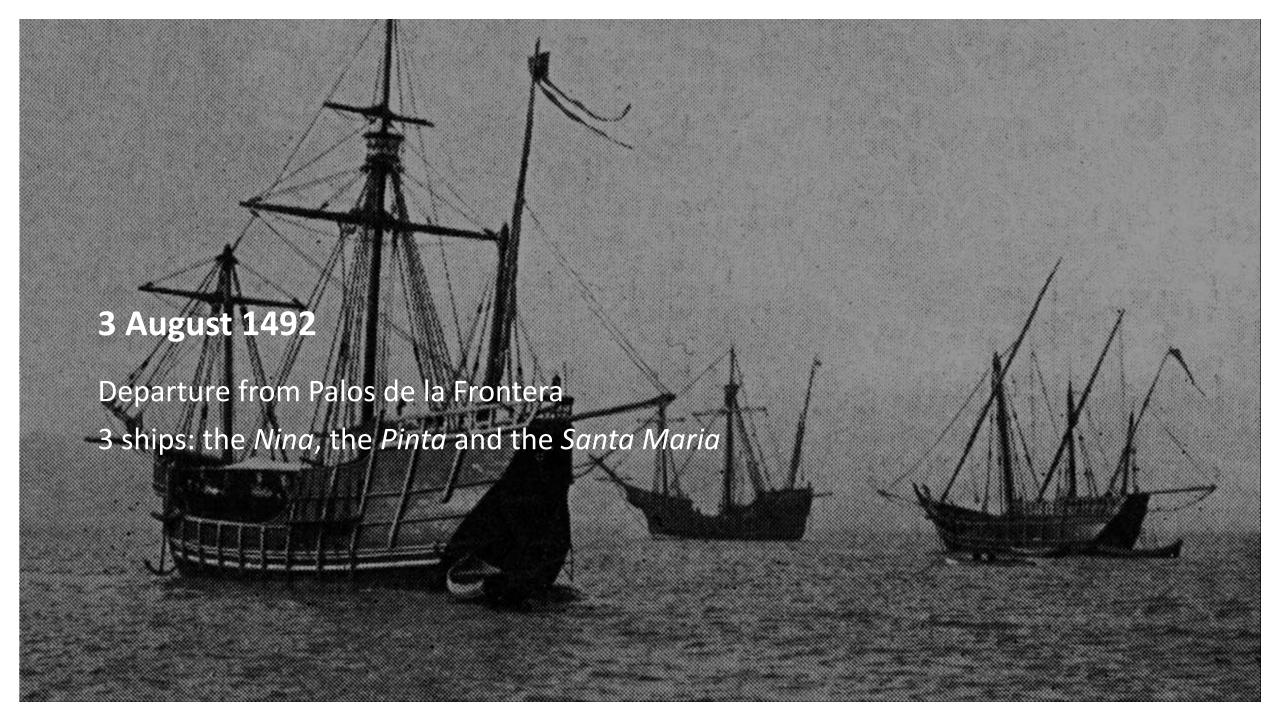




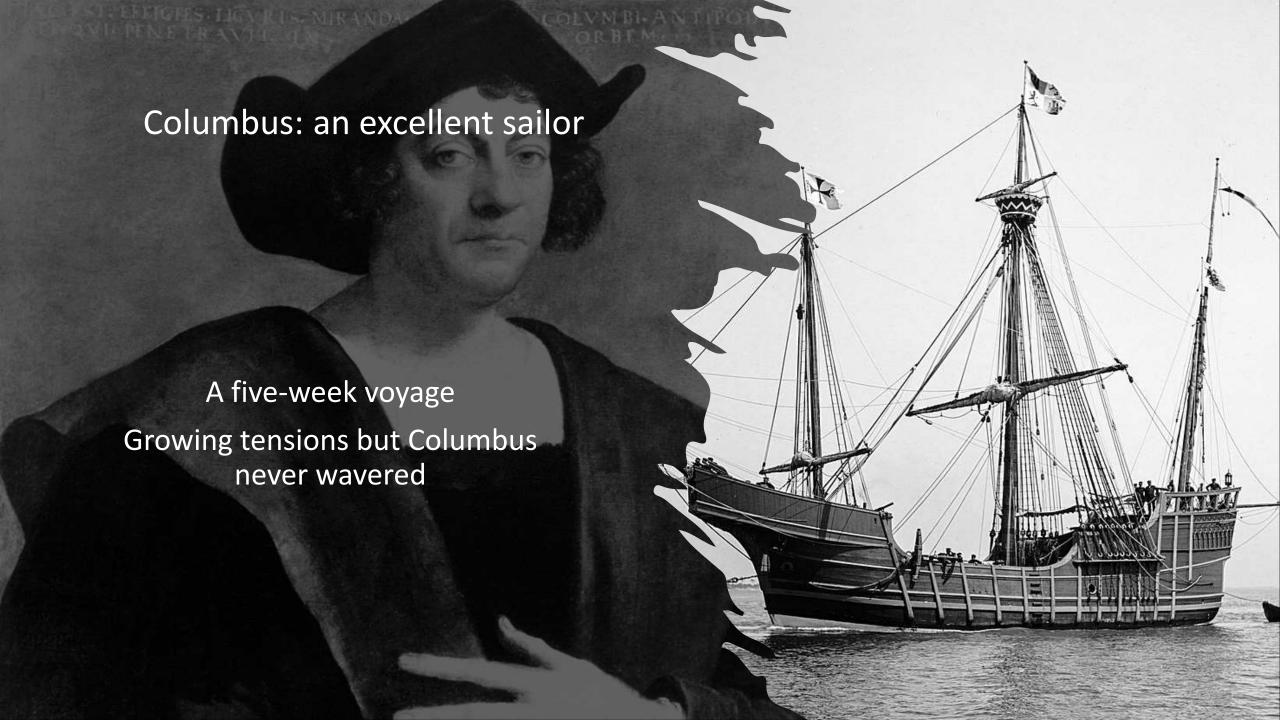
Royal support to Columbus' voyage at last!

April 1492: the "Capitulations of Santa Fe"

Columbus granted the titles of viceroy of the Indies,
Admiral of the Ocean Sea,
governor of all discovered lands and a percentage of all profits

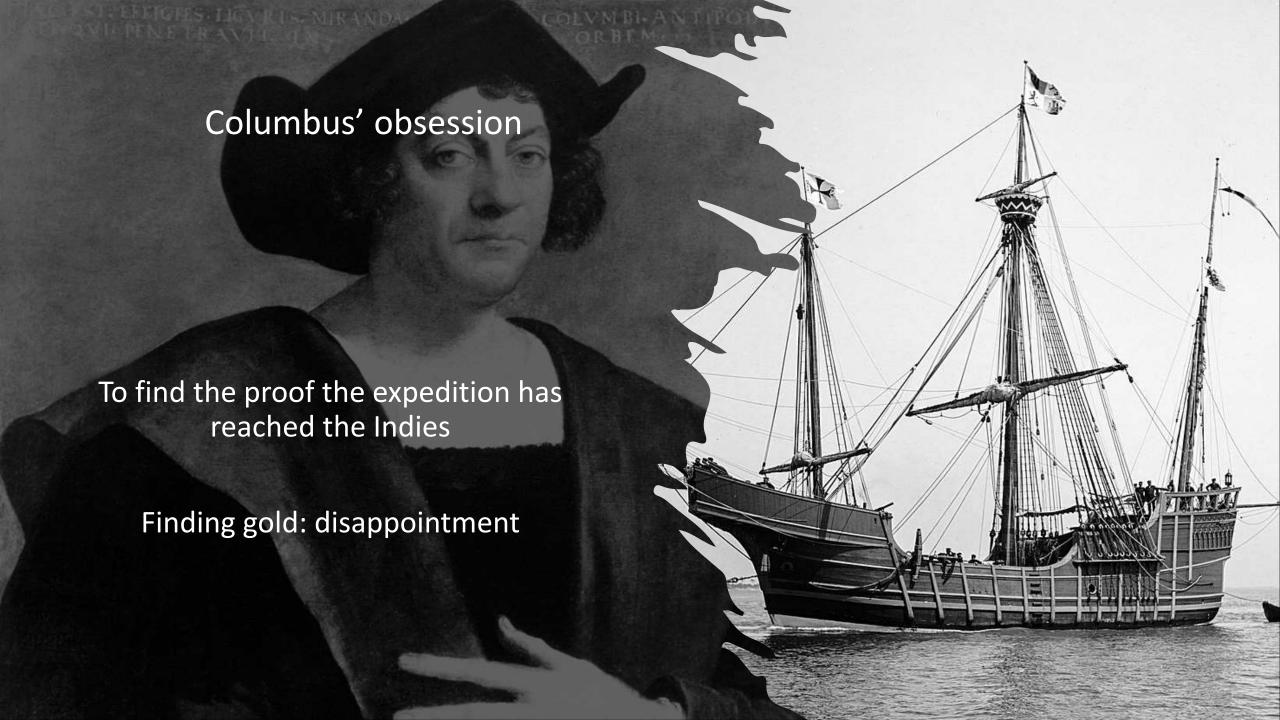




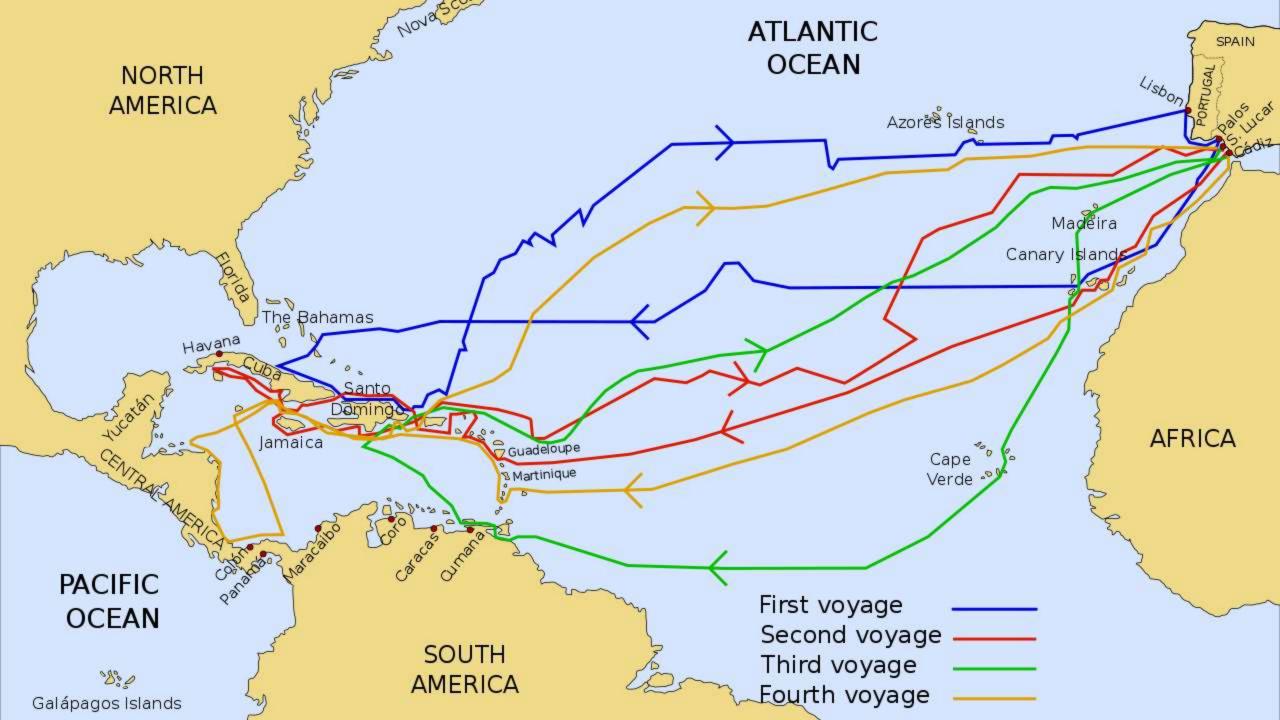




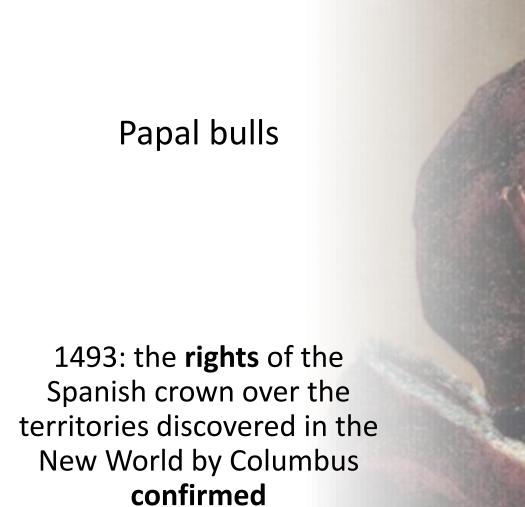


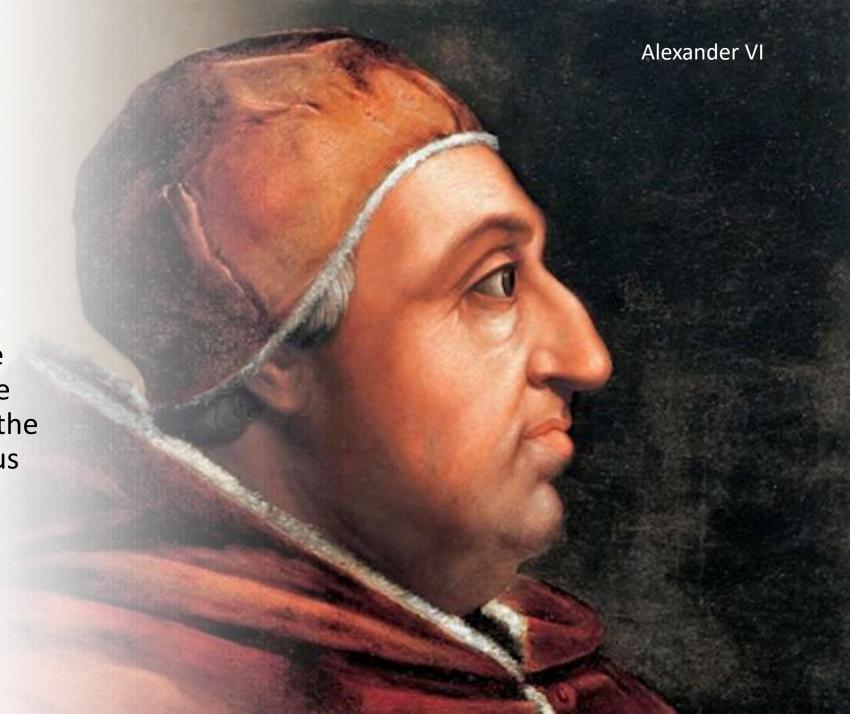


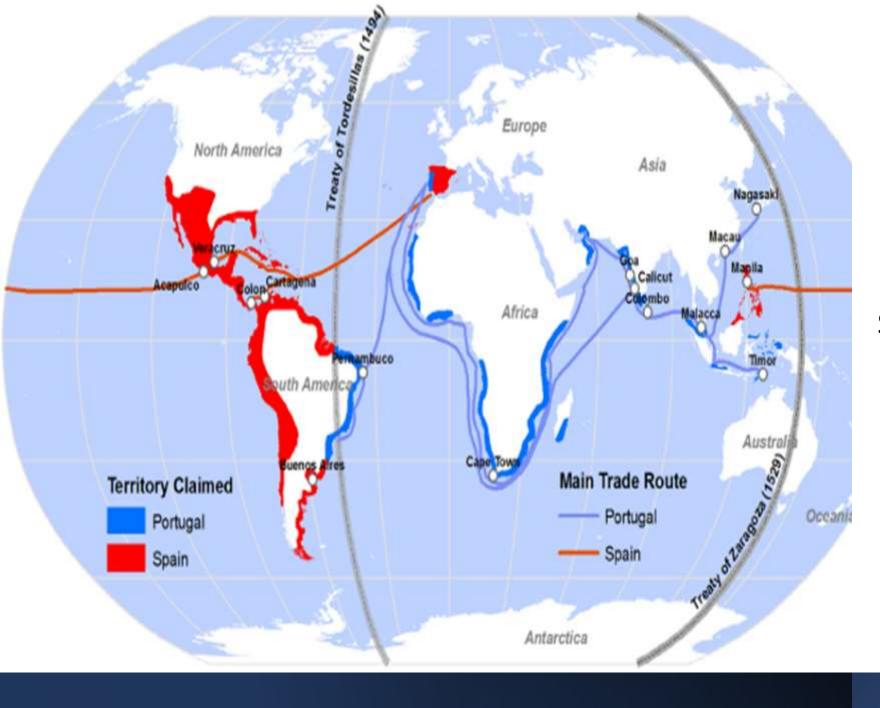










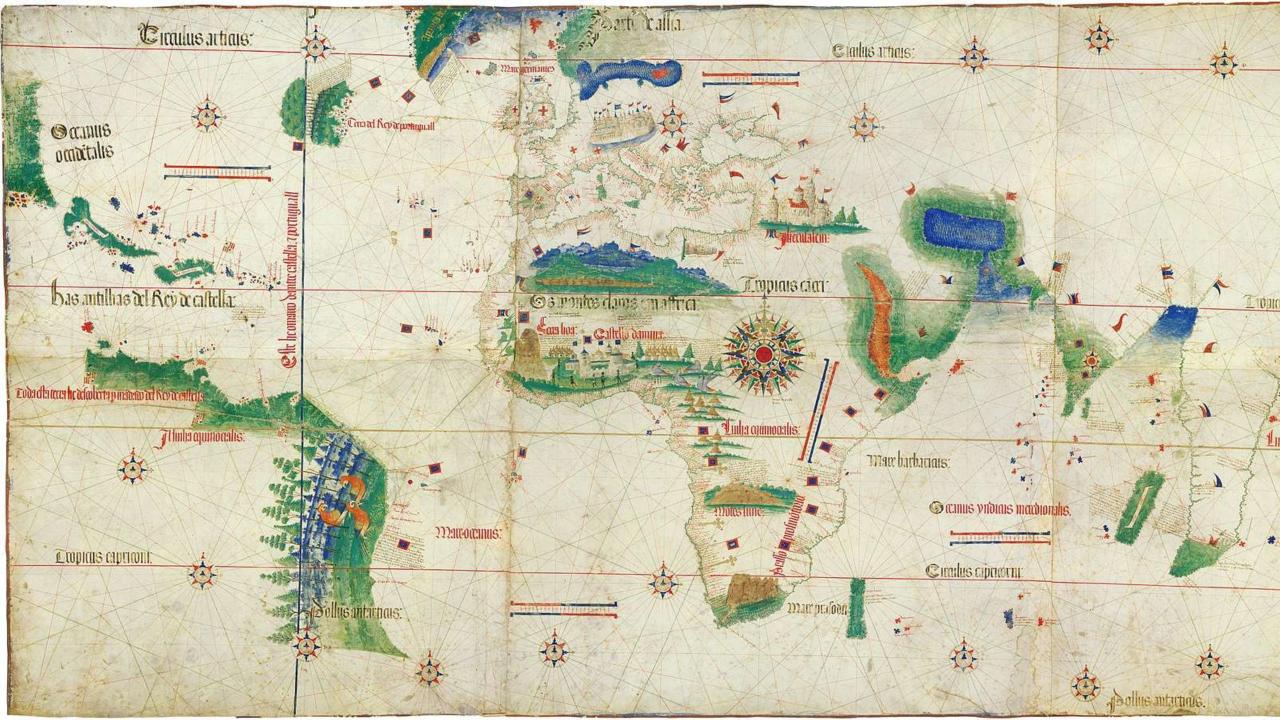


### 1494 (Treaty of Tordesillas):

when Portugal and Spain divided the newly discovered lands outside Europe between themselves

Spain & Portugal's agreement not validated by the other Europeans!

Growing interest for new discoveries









First indications of the presence of gold

The natives used as cheap labor and maltreated

Continued seizures of their food supplies

Abuse of women Diseases

A rebellion crushed in 1495



### Rumors

Columbus' incompetence as a governor

August 1500: the opening of an inquiry (Francisco de Bobadilla) against Columbus and his family

Christopher Columbus and his brothers arrested and transferred to Spain for trial



## A damning report

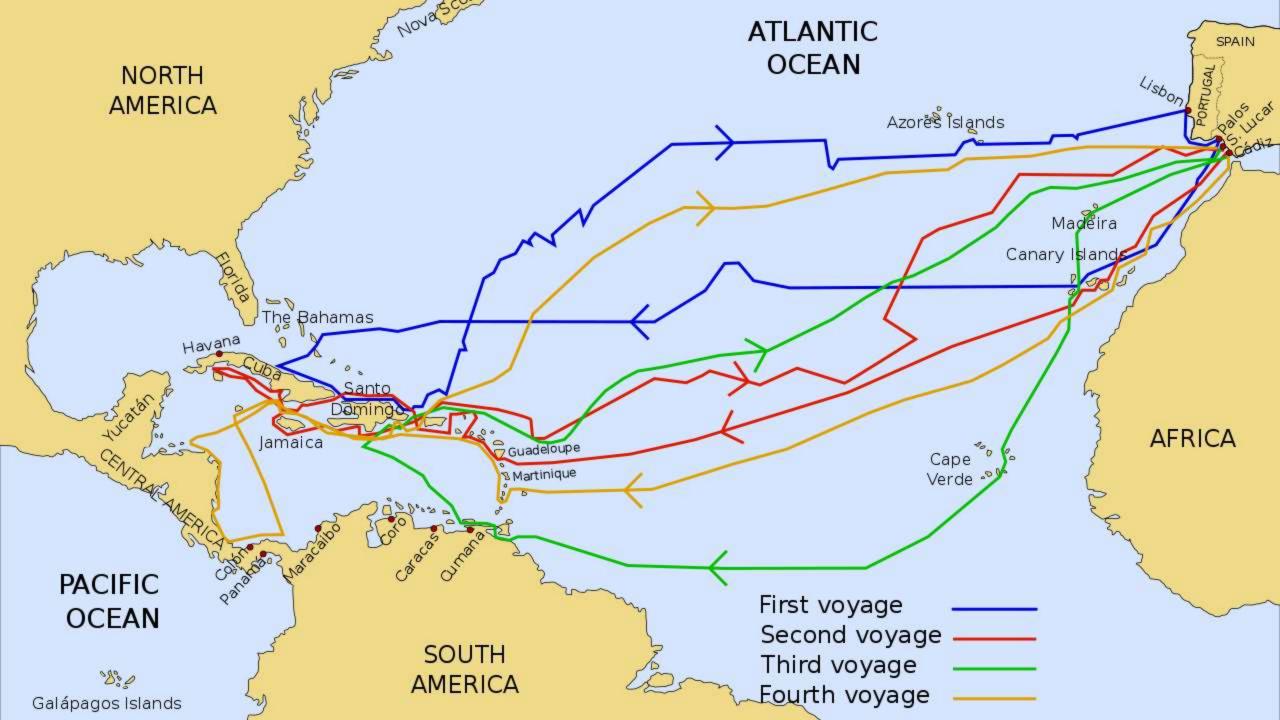
Criminal proceedings found and archived in 2006

The **conclusions**: Columbus' governorship, a complete disaster

Embezzlement, illegal taxation, cruel treatment of natives, abuse of women, slavery, organized famines, homicides...





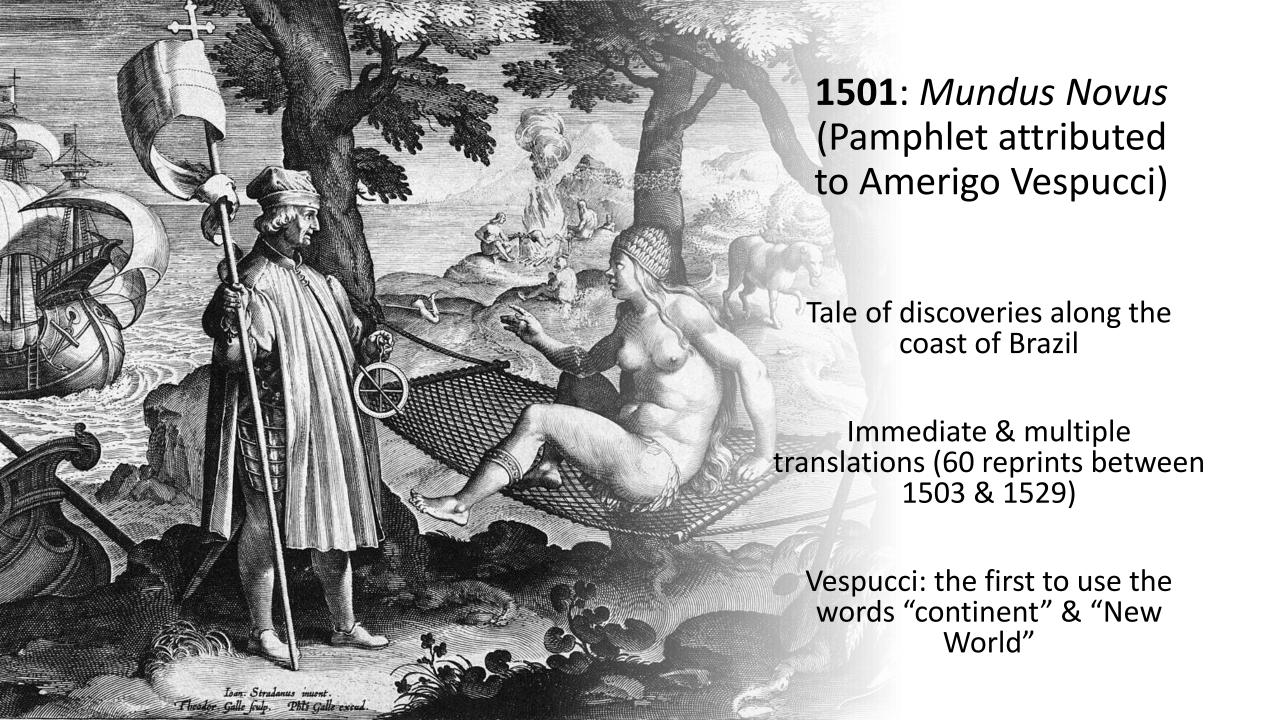


## A New World?

Christopher Columbus convinced the islands discovered belong to the Far-East

Growing doubts amongst sailors and scientists

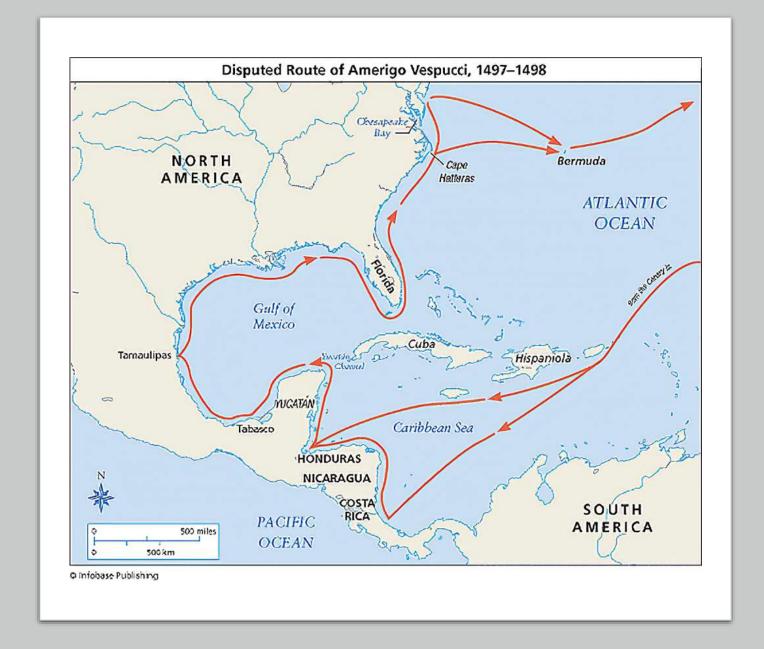




## A disputed first voyage

Vespucci likely acting as a pilot under the leadership of a captain

No written accounts





# "America" was born in... Alsace!

COSMOGRAPHIAE INTRODVA CTIO / CVM QVIBVS DAM GEOME TRIAE AC ASTRONO MIAE PRINCIPIIS AD EAM REM NECESSARIIS;

Insuper quatuor Americi Ver spuch nauigationes.

Vniuerfalis Colmographię descriptio tam in solido cp plano/eis etiam insertis que Ptholomeo ignota a nuperis reperta sunt.

(DISTICHON:

Cum deus aftra regat/& terræ climata Cælar Nec tellus nec eis fydera maius habent.

#### Saint-Die-des-Vosges



### **1507**

A group of scholars decided to name the lands discovered by Columbus "America"

"America" directly inspired by Vespucci's first name "Amerigo" COSMOGRAPHIAE INTRODVA CTIO / CVM QVIBVS DAM GEOME TRIAE AC ASTRONO MIAE PRINCIPIIS AD EAM REM NECESSARIIS;

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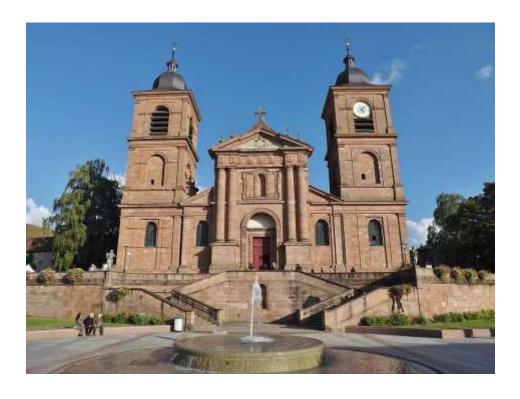
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## WHY Saint-Die-des-Vosges?

A vibrant community close to silver mines (engineers & scientists)



#### Saint-Die-des-Vosges



## German cartographer Martin Waldseemuller

Introduction to Cosmography

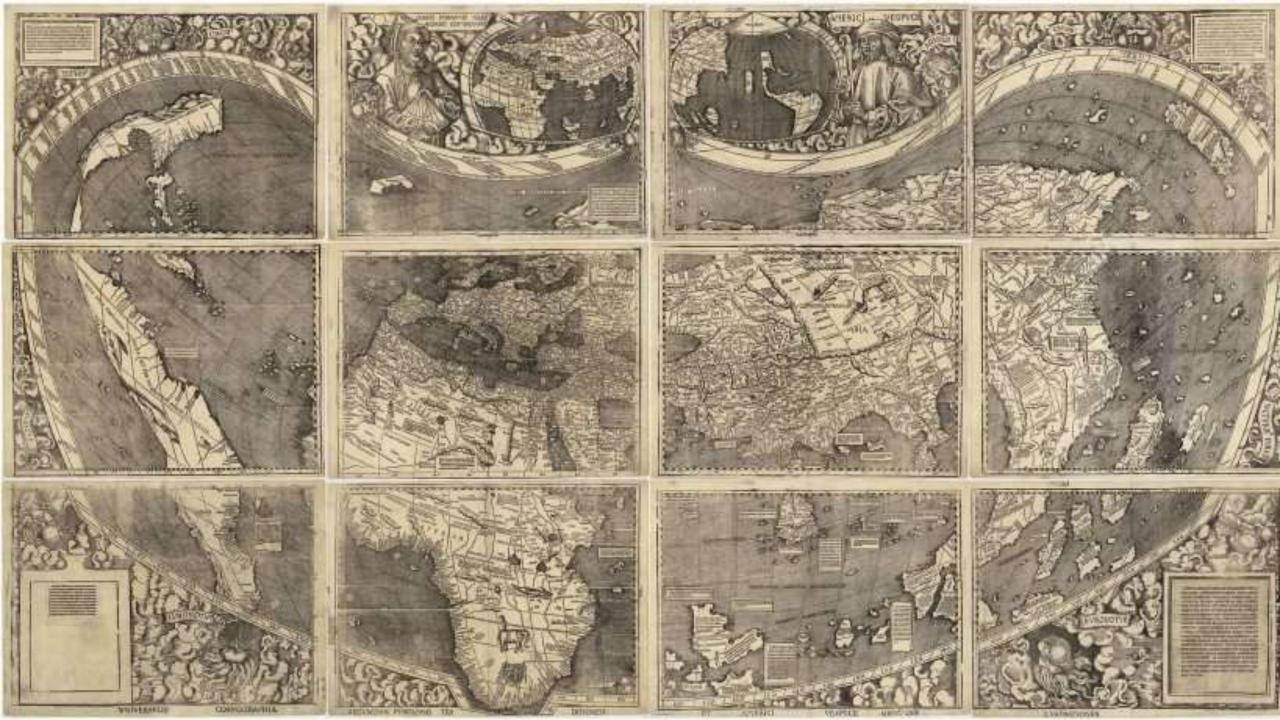
A world planisphere (one of the first ever printed)

Large size (1,3m x 2,3m)

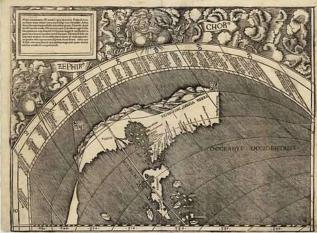
A collection of 12 engraved sheets

4 continents clearly separated by oceans



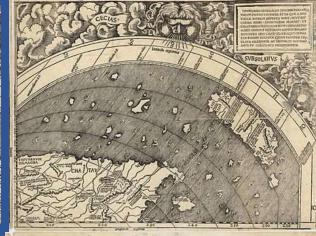






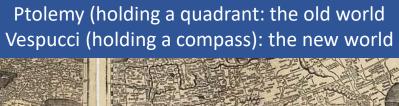








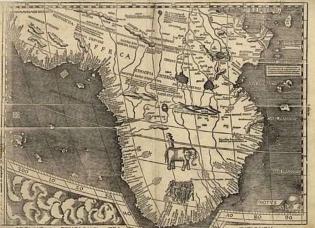


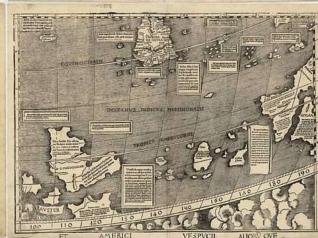


Vespucci

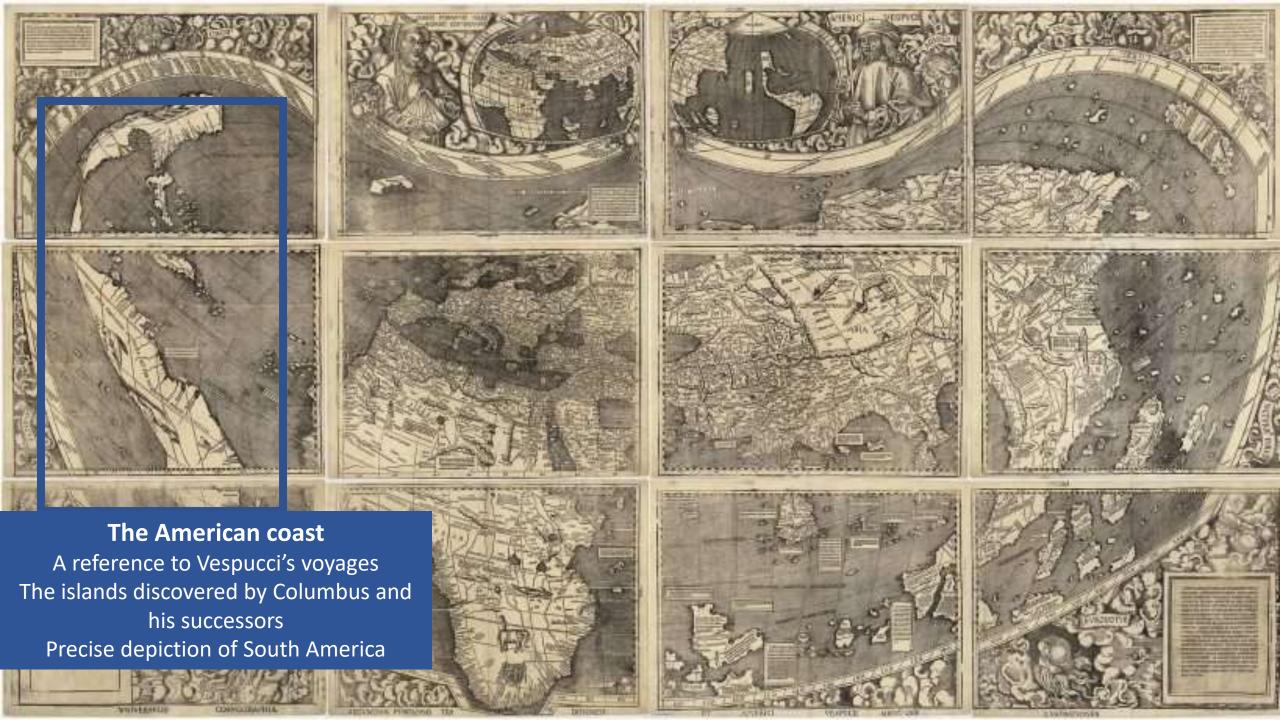












## **Jacob Fugger**

One of medieval Europe's wealthiest merchant & banker

Financing the translation of *Mundus Novus in German* 

**Great interest** for the economic potential of the newly discovered territories



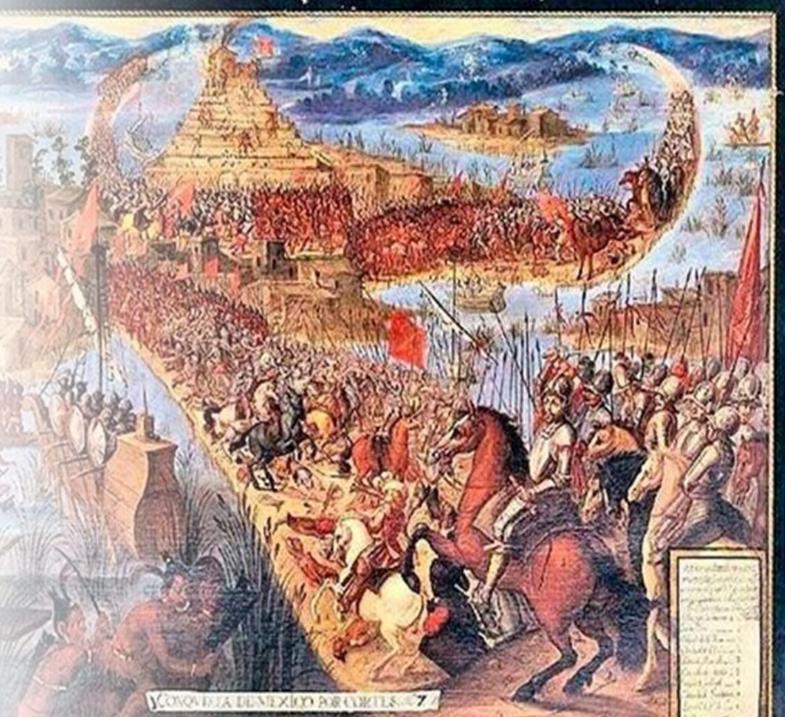
**1519**: Hernan Cortes and the conquest of the American continent

## A clash of civilizations

Cortes: a controversial figure

1504: arrival in Santo-Domingo

1511: military conquest of Cuba



The conquest of the **Aztec Empire** 

Negotiations with Native Chiefs vs. fighting

Key objective: securing Mexico







## An easy conquest

Tensions and disagreements amongst Native tribes

A divide-and-conquer strategy



Francisco Pizarro and the conquest of the Inca Empire

Same strategy: the support of populations hostile to the Incas





1540: immense colonial empire in the name of the king of Castile

The Spaniards not considered (initially) as enemies

Existing widespread racial mixing
Tradition to integrate migrants

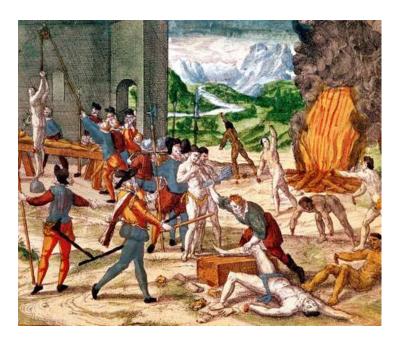
Cortes: 600 men

The conquest of an empire (25 million people)

The superiority of Spanish weapons



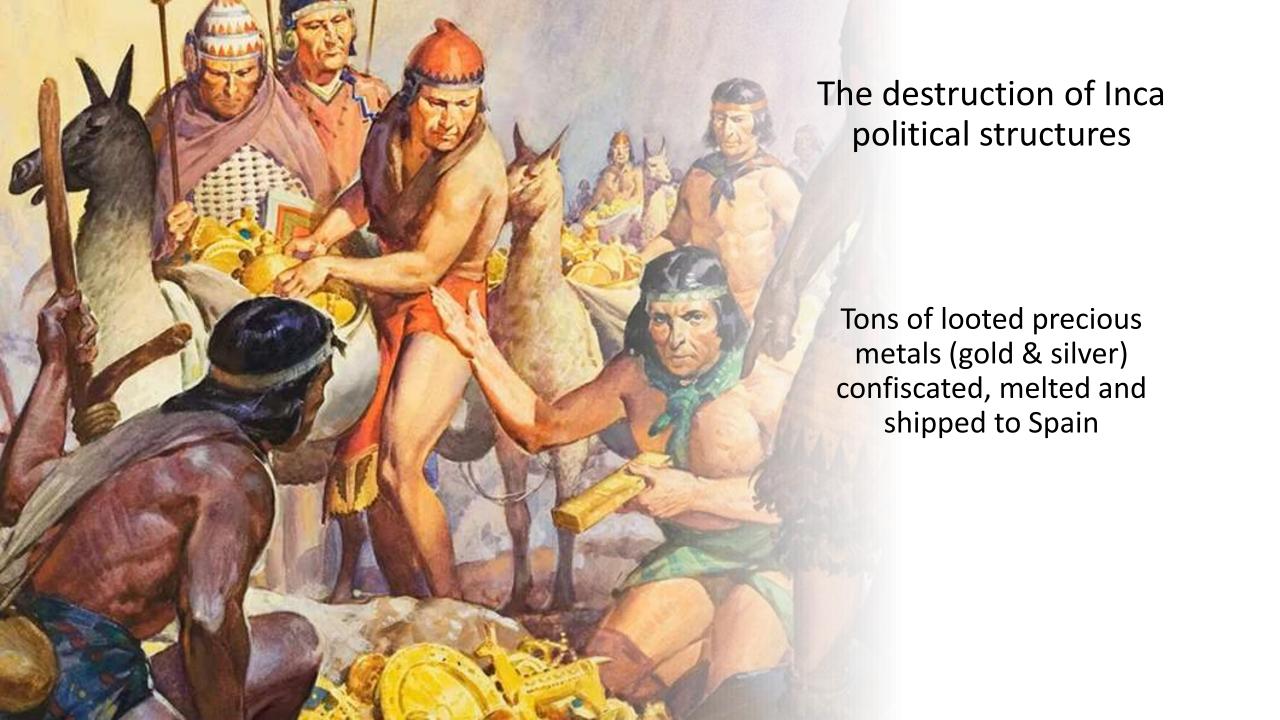
Post conquest demographic collapse





Without equivalent in History: (90% of local populations died of illnesses, wars and forced labor)

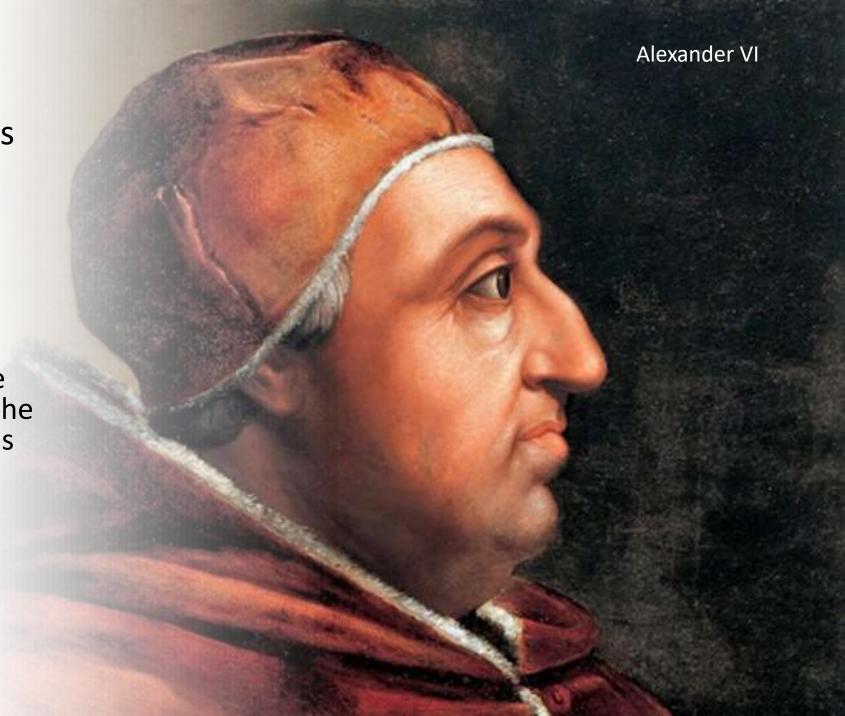
Plantation system & mines (gold & silver)

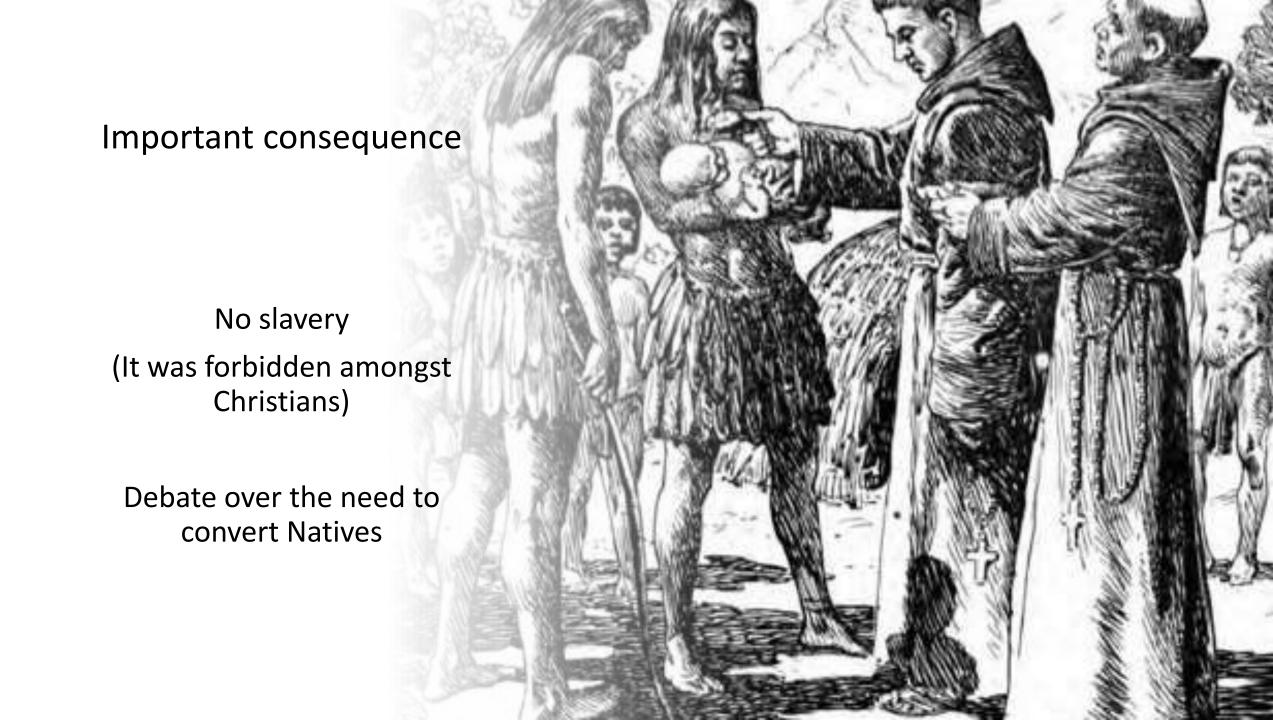


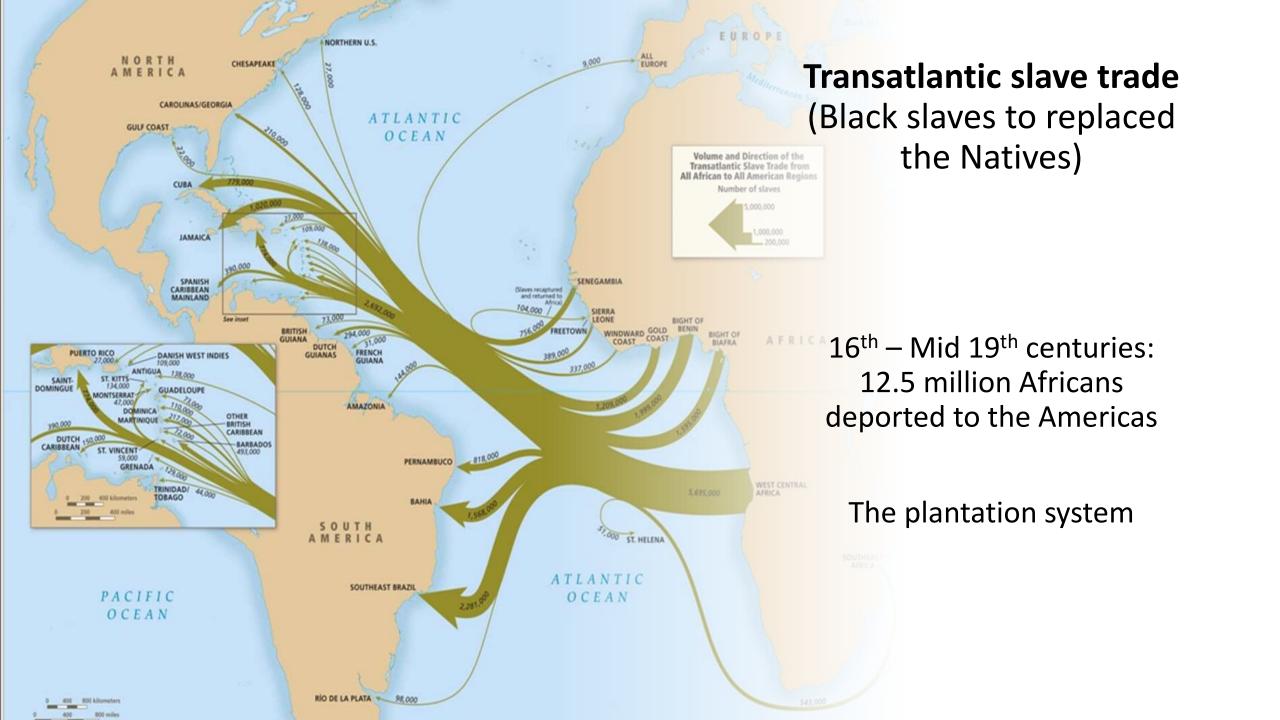
Religious conversions

1493: the **rights** of the Spanish crown over the territories discovered in the New World by Columbus **confirmed** 

The condition: mass conversion







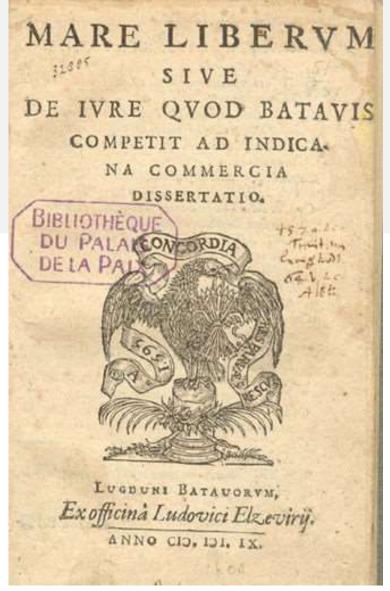


**Hugo Grotius** (1583-1645)

The division of the world by the Iberians illegal

Mare Liberum (1609): the sea as international territory and all nations free to use it for seafaring trade





European law to apply to newly discovered territories

The new territories: an extension of Europe

The Indies: NOT Spain or Portugal's exclusive property

Competition between nation must be allowed

To discover is not to own



## The race is on...

- Towards the East for spices
- Towards the West for gold

