Modern European History

European Exploration

Detailed Outline

Directions:

Use the outline handout provided and any other textual sources you may have available to write thorough answers to the following questions on another sheet of paper.

1. How were European countries’ goals for exploration similar and different?

2. What technological advancements enhanced the ability of exploration to occur on such a grand scale?

3. What were the similarities and differences among the locations explored by each country?

4. If you were a member of an indigenous culture, which European country would you want to have contact with and why?

5. Assess whether or not each country achieved its goals. Defend your answers with specific information.

***ethnocentrism: the belief that one’s own culture is superior to others***

Early Explorations

Europe depended on spices from Asia

used to flavor and preserve meat, also as perfume, cosmetics, and medicine

Chinese and Arab traders sold spices to Arab merchants

they shipped them overland to Europe and sold to Venetian merchants

Europeans wanted direct trade with Asians but couldn’t go through unsafe overland routes

Reasons for exploration

1 - need trade route with Asia

2 - spread Christianity/halt spread of Islam

3 - Renaissance movement opened people’s minds to the greater world

Technology

sailors needed to be able to leave and return(!)

used hourglasses to clock travel time

compass (Chinese invention) used to determine geographical location

astrolabe (Greek invention enhanced by Arabs) used altitude of sun to determine location (more difficult to use)

most maps very inaccurate (cartography/ers)

some included mythical lands

greatly improved by 1300

Greek astrologer Ptolemy’s maps improved and used

created grid system of maps with longitude and latitude

better ships

used triangle-shaped (lateen) sails (Arab origin)

allowed ships to sail against the wind as well as with it

used multiple-masts with smaller sails hoisted above larger ones

ships sailed faster

moved rudder from side to stern (back)

ships maneuvered better

caravel: 1400s European ship that included all these improvements

Portugal

1st European nation to travel out of the Atlantic Ocean in search of spices and gold

Prince Henry the Navigator (early 1400s)

not a sailor, but the son of King John I of Portugal

brought together mathematicians, cartographers, astronomers to study

navigation

funded exploratory voyages locating Azores, Madeira Islands, Cape Verde

Islands

Bartholomeu Dias

1488: discovered southern tip of Africa, later named Cape of Good Hope

Dias called the cape he had navigated the “Cape of Storms”

King John I, optimistic about finding a sea route to India, renamed it

Vasco da Gama

1497: four ships sailed for 10 months down the west coast of Africa, around the Cape of Good Hope, up the west coast of Africa, and landed at the southwest coast of India at Calicut

Spain

Christopher Columbus

Italian explorer who convinced King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1492 to fund his voyage to reach India by sailing west across the Atlantic

tried to sell his idea to John II of Portugal, Henry VII of England, and Charles the VIII of France; they turned him down b/c he wanted a title, command of the lands, and 10% of the profits

calculated the distance to be 2,200 nautical miles, knowing it was more he lied to his crew

sighted land on the last day they were to be out

thinking he’d landed in India, he called the natives he encountered “Indians”

called “America” because Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci suggested in 1507 that Columbus had discovered a “New World” between Europe and Asia

Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)

Spain and Portugal, wanting to protect their claims, asked the Pope for help

he drew a line of demarcation, an imaginary line running down the middle of the Atlantic from the North Pole to the South Pole

Spain controls west, Portugal controls east

Portugal wanted the line moved, so signed treaty moving line a little further west

treaty divided the entire unexplored world between these two powers(!)

Ferdinand Magellan

Portuguese soldier of fortune who set sail on five ships and a 260-man crew in 1519 to find a western passage to Asia

after a near-mutiny off the coast of Argentina, they reached a narrow water passage near the southern tip of South America, now named the Strait of Magellan

named the other ocean Pacific because it was so calm

reached the Philippines and Magellan killed during local war

three years later 18 survivors reached Spain, completing the first circumnavigation

Portugal

Pedro Alvares Cabral

Portuguese seacaptain who secured, through war, a stronghold on the

Indian Ocean

then sailed west to Brazil (which is technically east of the line of

demarcation)

grew income-producing crops that were labor-intensive, used

African slaves

Spain

Hernando Cortez

Spanish conquistador (conqueror) who landed in Mexico in 1519

traveled inland to Tenochtitlan guided by Malinche (Native American woman who learned Spanish) to meet up with Aztecs (allying with Aztec enemies along the way)

Montezuma II, Aztec leader, thought the advancing Cortez might be the long-awaited god-king Quetzalcoatl and offered him gifts of gold

Cortez thrilled with gold riches, conquered the Aztecs in three years, killing thousands

Francisco Piazarro

invaded and conquered the Inca Empire (Peru) in 1532

intervened in civil war where Atahualpa won the throne from his brother, then captured him for a ransom, and killed him after it was paid

encomienda system

Spanish monarchs granted landowners right to use Native American labor

farmers set up plantations, landowners mined for gold and silver, priests set up missions

Bartolome de Las Casas, Spanish priest who tried to protect Native Americans

most were abused, mistreated

as native population decreased, more slaves brought over from Africa

Netherlands

gained independence from Spain in late 1500s and lacking natural resources and limited farmland, saw commerce as their key to survival

by 1600s, Amsterdam became the world’s largest commercial city and the Dutch had the highest standard of living in the world

Dutch East India Company chartered in 1602 to maintain trading relations with Asia

set up headquarters in Indonesia

set up the Dutch West India Company to establish colonies in the Americas

Henry Hudson claimed land in North America along the Atlantic Coast for the Dutch

founded New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island

Dutch farmers known as Boers settled in Cape of Good Hope (Africa) in 1652

France

Giovanni da Verrazano

Italian hired in 1524 to find Northwest Passage through America to India; failed

Jacques Cartier

French navigator who sailed up the St. Lawrence River in 1534 to site of present-day Montreal, claiming much of eastern Canada for France

Samuel de Champlain

French mapmaker who founded Quebec in 1608

first permanent French settlement in the Americas

England

John Cabot

Italian-born navigator who explored the coast of present-day Newfoundland in 1497

Francis Drake

raided Spanish ships for gold and silver in 1500s

English East India Company

founded in 1600, marking the beginning of serious English exploration and expansion

set up posts in India and Southeast Asia

founded settlements in Americas, using slave labor

Triangle Trade

ships left Europe with manufactured goods (knives, swords, guns, cloth, rum)

sailed to West Africa and traded for slaves

sailed to Caribbean islands and north America and traded for sugar, molasses,

cotton, tobacco

ships returned to Europe to trade for manufactured goods

“Middle Passage:” horrible conditions suffered by slaves in middle leg of triangular trade

joint-stock companies

organizations that sold stock, or shares, in an exploration, allowing investors to share the profits or losses with others

entrepreneurs

people who combined money, ideas, raw materials, and labor to make goods and profits

mercantilism

an economic policy that states that a nation’s power depended on its wealth, which is measured in *bullion*, or gold and silver

balance of trade

favorable = export more than import

unfavorable = import more than export