

The Age of Columbus

Renaissance Europe,
Christopher Columbus,
& the Age of Exploration



The Age of Columbus



Topics of Discussion

A. In 1492 . . .

B. Columbus . . .

C. Sailed . . .

D. The Ocean . . .

E. Blue – Red, White, & Black



The Age of Columbus



A. In 1492 . . .

1. End of Medieval Period

500-1400 CE

Mistakenly called the “Dark Ages”

Dominated by the Catholic Church



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A. In 1492 . . .

2. Era of Catholic Culture
Architecture and Meaning

Chartres Cathedral (1194-1260)

French High Gothic

Since 876 – Tunic of Mary

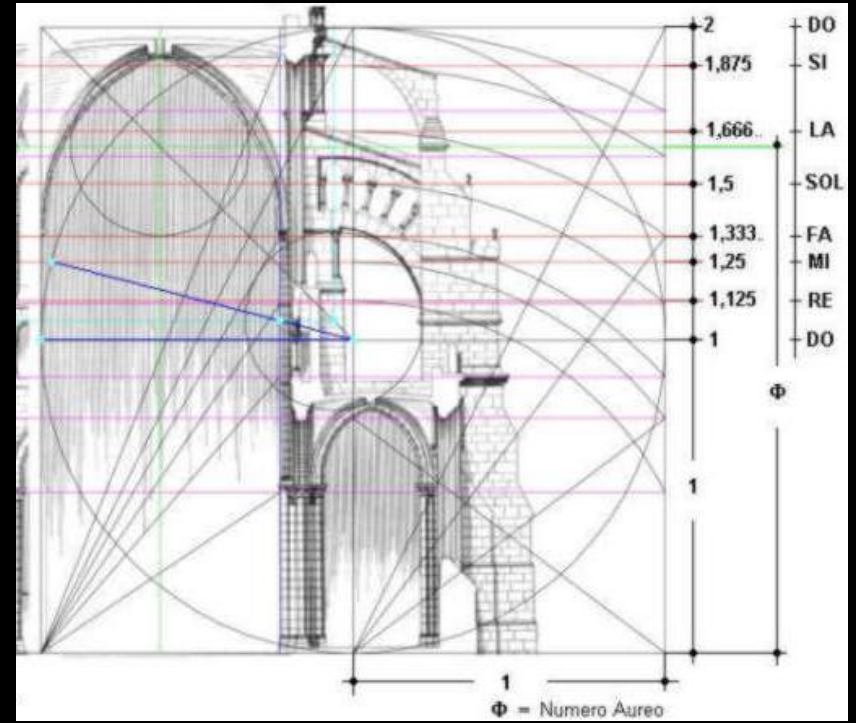
Marian pilgrimage

Four fairs – feast days of the Virgin









The Age of Columbus



A. In 1492 ...

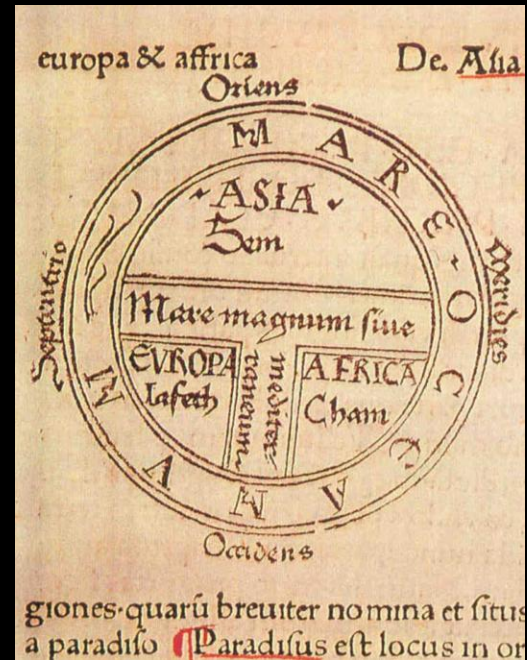
2. Era of Catholic Culture:
Cartography: T-O Maps

Jerusalem at center

Oriented toward the east

Three known continents

Religious Map



europa & affrica

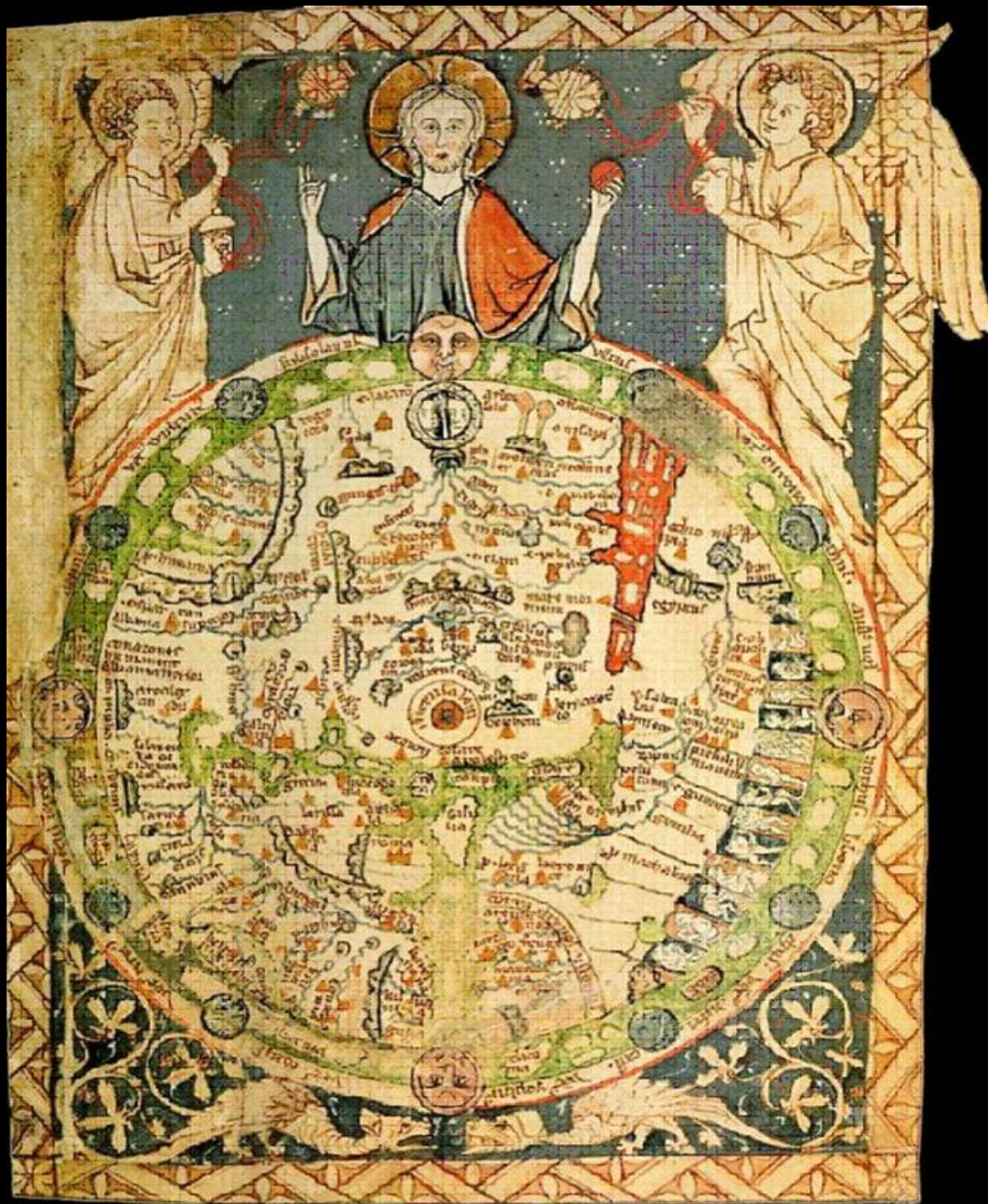
De Asia & eius partibus Ca. iii.

Oriens



ASia ex noie cuiusda mulieris est appellata. que apud antiquos imperiu orientis tenuit. Hec in tercia orbis parte disposita. ab oriente ortu solis. a meridie. oceano. ab occiduo nostro mari finitur. a septentrione meothide lacu & tanai fluuio terminatur. Habet autem prouincias multas et re

giones. quaru breuiter nomina et situs expediam. sumpto initio a paradiso **P**aradisus est locus in orientis partibus constitu



World Map in an English psalter (c. 1250)

The Age of Columbus



A. In 1492 . . .

3. Age of the Renaissance

1400-1600 C.E.

meaning: “rebirth . . .”

Question: rebirth of what?

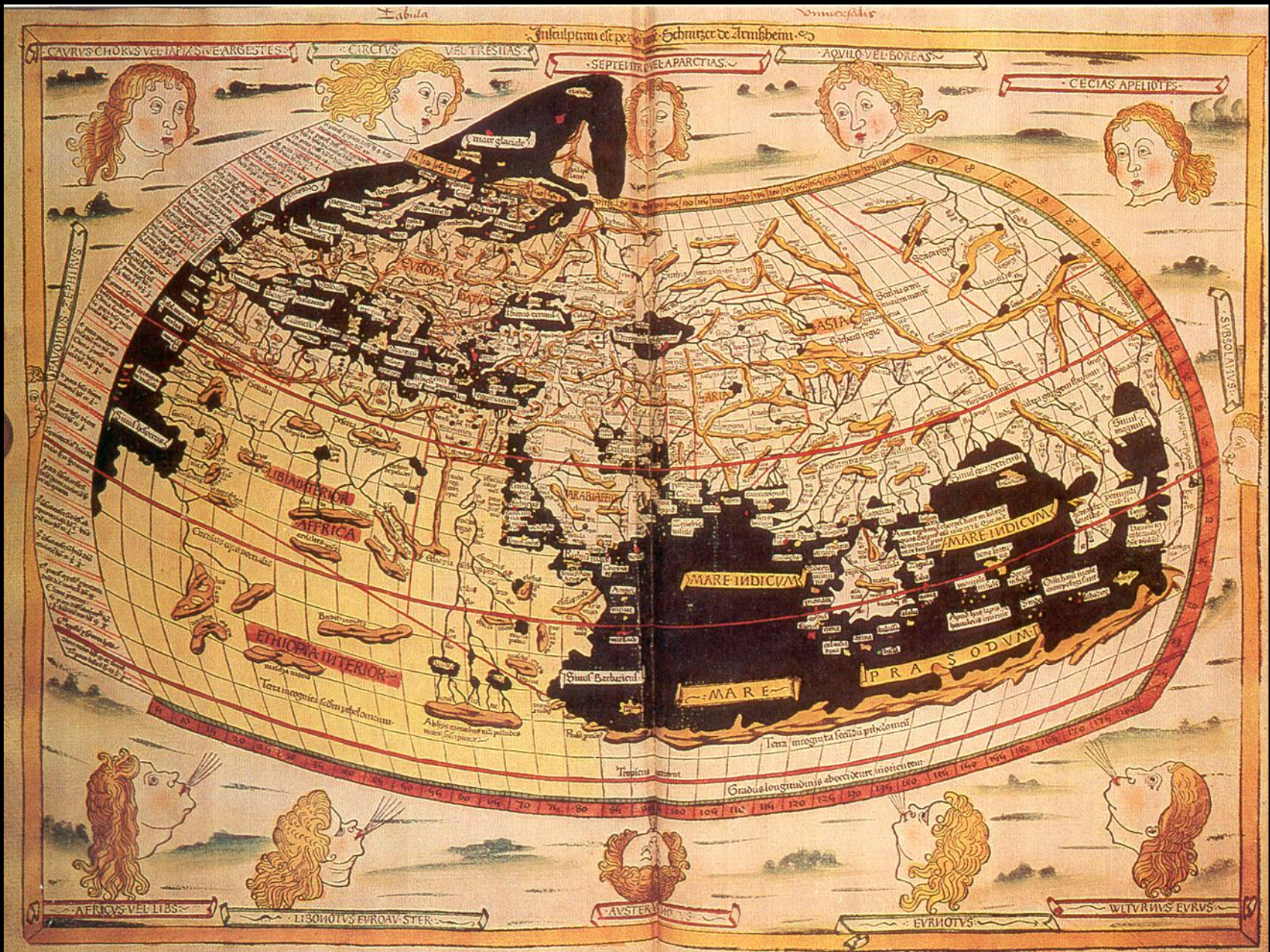
The Ptolemaic Tradition

Michelangelo (1475-1564)

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)



Plato and Aristotle, *The School of Athens*, by Raphael



Rediscovery of Ptolemaic Tradition

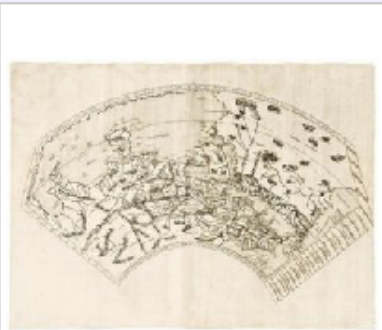
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83E: PTOLEMAEUS - PTOLEMY. World map. 1478 or 1490

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Ten Most Expensive Books of 2006

Each year, *Fine Books & Collections* magazine counts down the priciest books and autographs auctioned during the year. Here's the 2006 Fine Books Top Ten. All prices include the buyer's premium.

» See Beyond the Top Ten: Triumph of the Teenagers

The total value of the 2006 list is up 12 percent from 2005 and a whopping 130 percent over 2004. "Nearly every item in our Top Ten hits the trifecta of stellar provenance, extreme rarity, and stunning beauty, and collectors are willing to pay top dollar for terrific books," said Scott Brown, *Fine Books & Collections*' editor. "In many cases, these books had been stashed away for decades, and buyers opened their wallets, knowing full well that they might never get another opportunity," he continued.

"The great advantage to collecting books right now is that the rates of

#1 \$5.2 million

William Shakespeare's First Folio: *Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies*, 1623

Sold by Sotheby's London on July 13, lot 95, for £2,808,000.

[Right click image and "Save Image As" to download high-resolution image \(734k\)](#)

PHOTO CREDIT: SOTHEBY'S



#2 \$4.5 million

Pierre Antoine Poiteau and Pierre Jean François Turpin's illustrations for one of the greatest books on fruit trees, *Traité des arbres fruitiers* [Treatise on Fruit Trees] by Henri Louis Duhamel du Monceau. Bound in five volumes and painted between 1804 and 1809.

Sold by Pierre Bergé in Brussels on December 7, lot 1, for 3,360,000 euros.

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PHOTO CREDIT: PIERRE BERGÉ



#3 \$4.0 million

The first printed atlas, Ptolemy's *Cosmographia*, 1477

Sold by Sotheby's London on October 10, lot 394, for £2,136,000.

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A. In 1492 . . .



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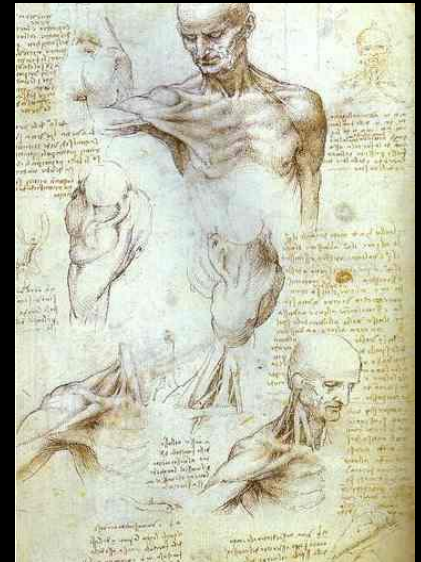
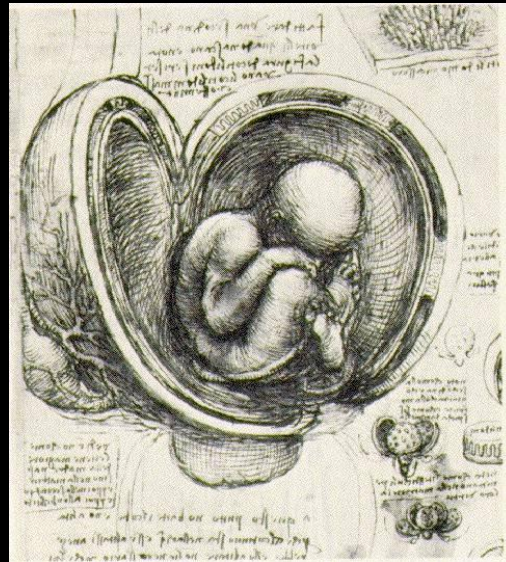
A. In 1492 . . .



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A. In 1492 ...



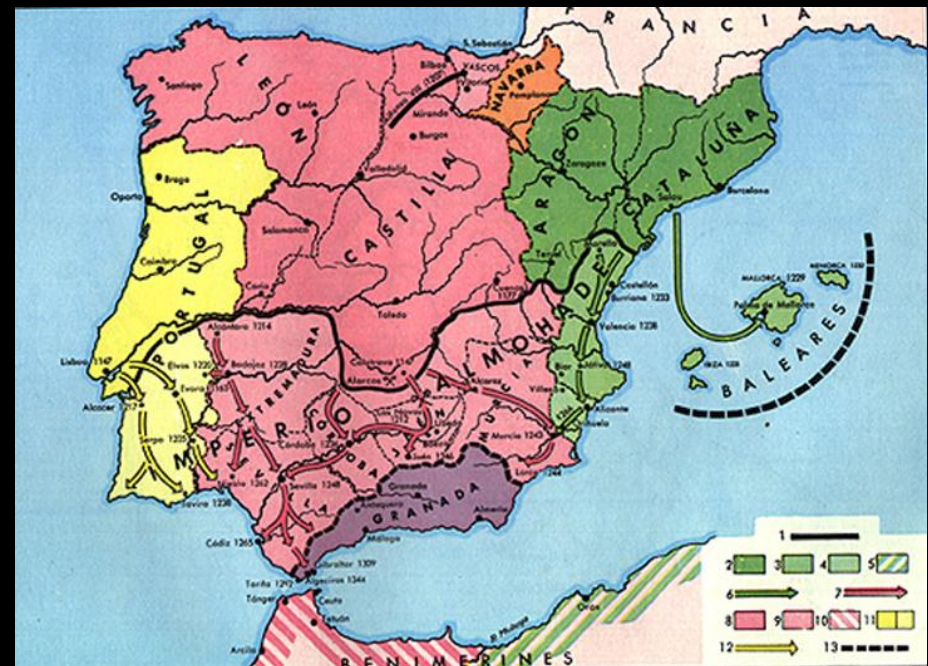
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A. In 1492 . . .

4. Age of the Nation State

- centralization of political power
- Spain, unified 1479
- Isabella of Castile
- Ferdinand of Aragon, married 1469
- Jointly succeeded to throne of Castile, 1474
- Ferdinand, King of Aragon, 1479.
- Union of the two main Spanish kingdoms
- Initiated the Inquisition in 1478
- Reconquest of Spain from the Moors



The Age of Columbus

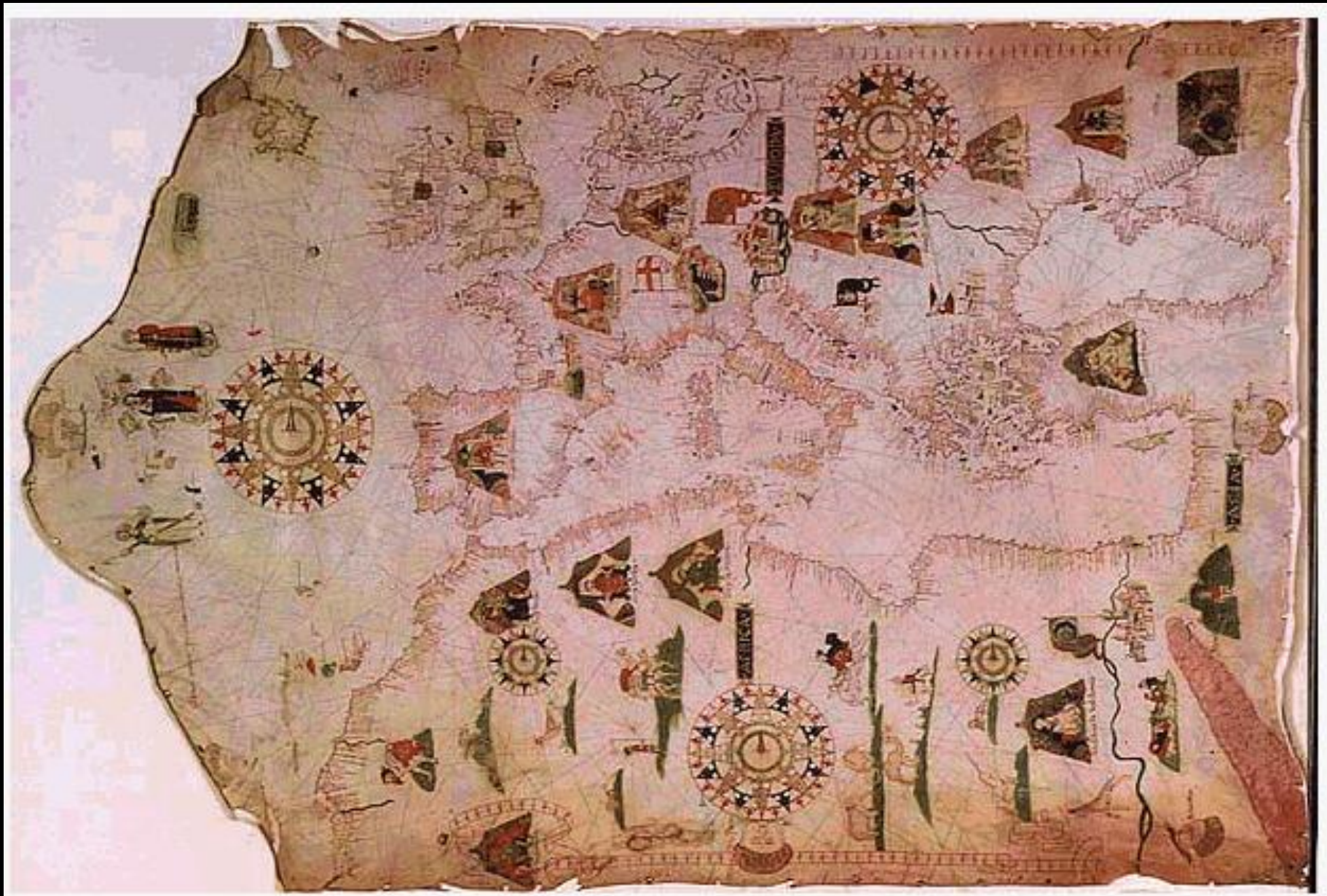


A. In 1492 . . .

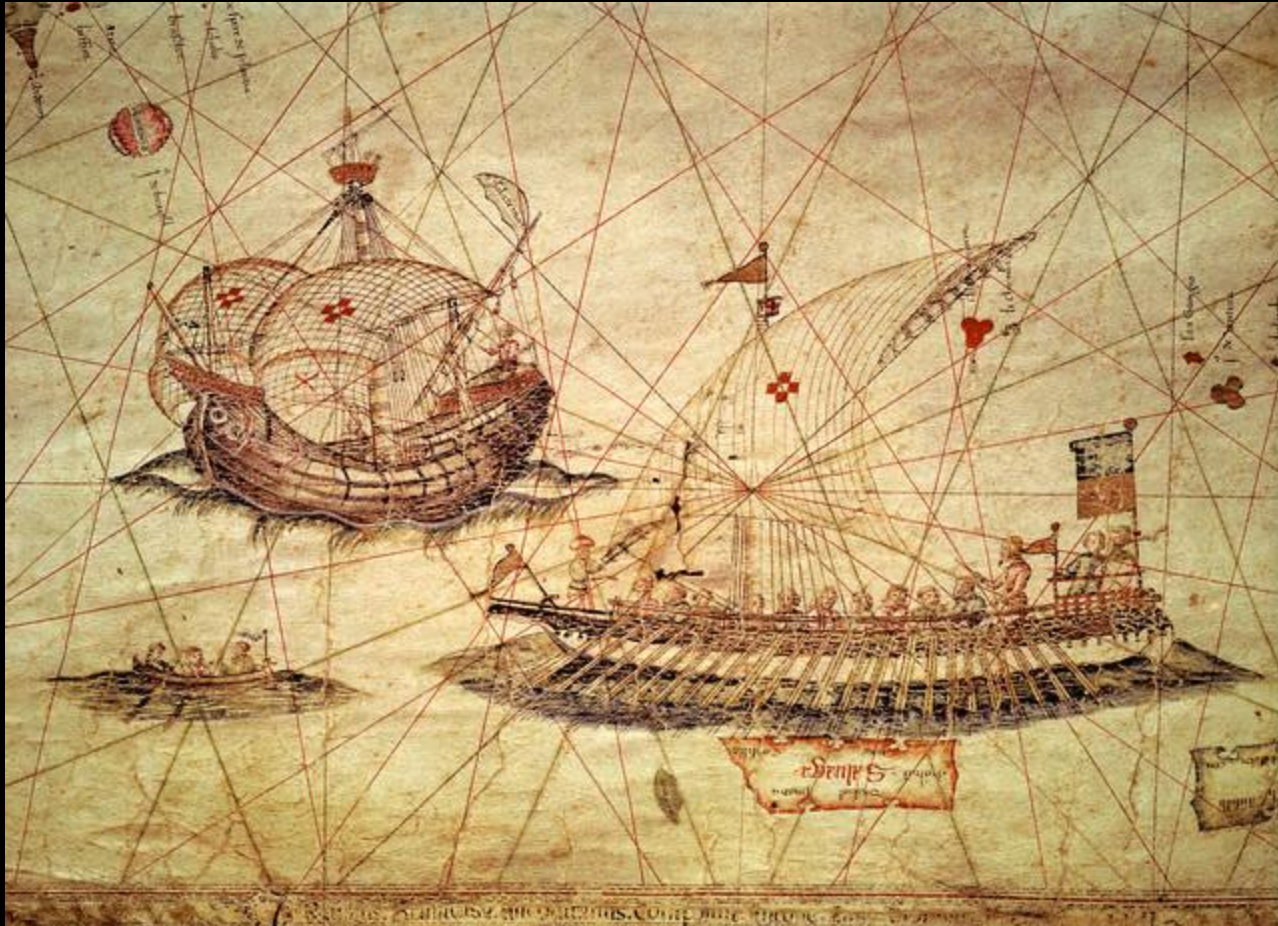
5. Age of Exploration

- Portugal led Europe
- Henry the Navigator, 1394-1460
- Sagres (post 1418)
- Accomplishments Henry's men
See the next four slides





Development of Portolan Chart



Development of Caravel



Rediscovery of the Azores, Madeira, and Canary Islands – 1420 to 1440



MAP 3-2 EUROPEAN EXPLORATION, 1420–1580

Portuguese explorers focused on traveling around Africa to reach China.



Portuguese explorers and other Europeans wanted to reach East Asia for:

Sugar, Silk, Silver, Spices, Tea, and other goods.

MAP 3-1 TRADE AND PRODUCTION IN MING CHINA



MAP 3-2 EUROPEAN EXPLORATION, 1420–1580

The overland route which had once been available was now blocked by the Ottoman Empire, a rising Islamic state in the Middle East.

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A. In 1492 ...



Fall of Constantinople to Ottoman Turks under Mehmet II (1453)



MAP 2-2 THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 1300–1566

The Rise of the Ottoman Empire.

The Age of Columbus



A. In 1492 ...



**The Ottoman takeover meant that Christian rule was replaced by Muslim rule.
Example: Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey.**



Suleymaniye Mosque, 1551-1558, Istanbul Turkey.



MAP 3-2 EUROPEAN EXPLORATION, 1420-1580

What is important for us: The overland route to Asia had largely been cut off, and European powers were competing to find a water route.

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B. Columbus . . .

Christopher Columbus

Cristóbal Colón, Spanish
Cristoforo Colombo, Italian

Born 1451 in Genoa
Died 1506 in Valladolid, Spain.





MAP 3-2 EUROPEAN EXPLORATION, 1420-1580

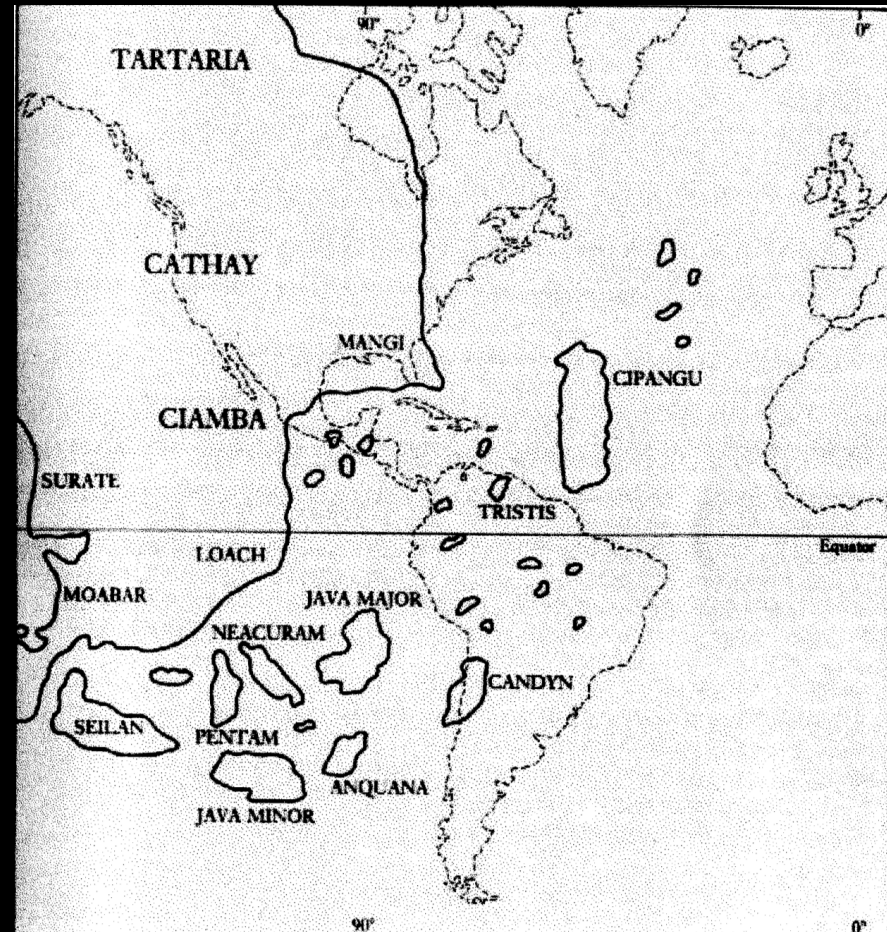
Columbus's idea: Travel East by Going West

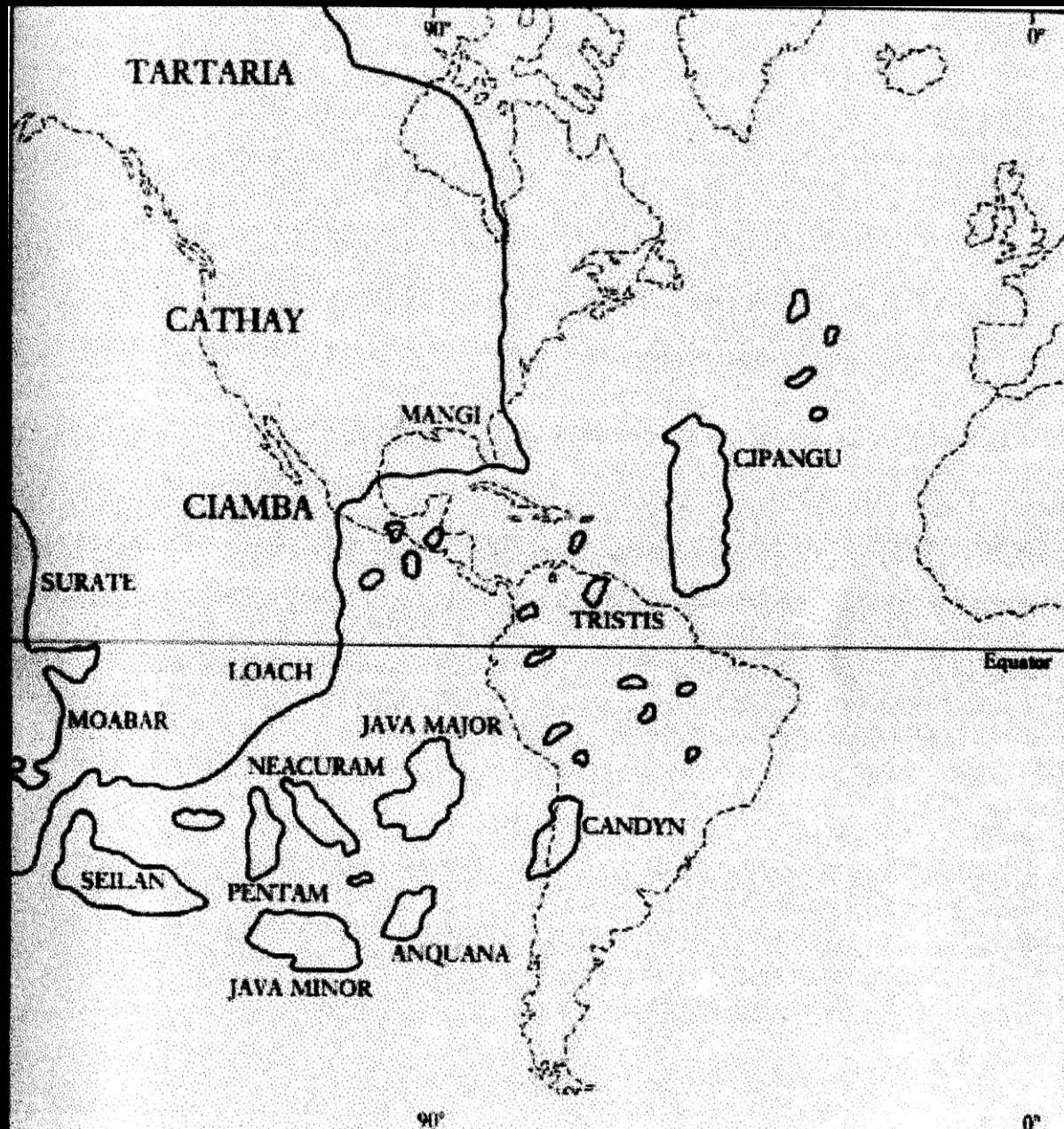
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B. Columbus . . .

Columbus's vision
of the World







Martin Behaim

Globe

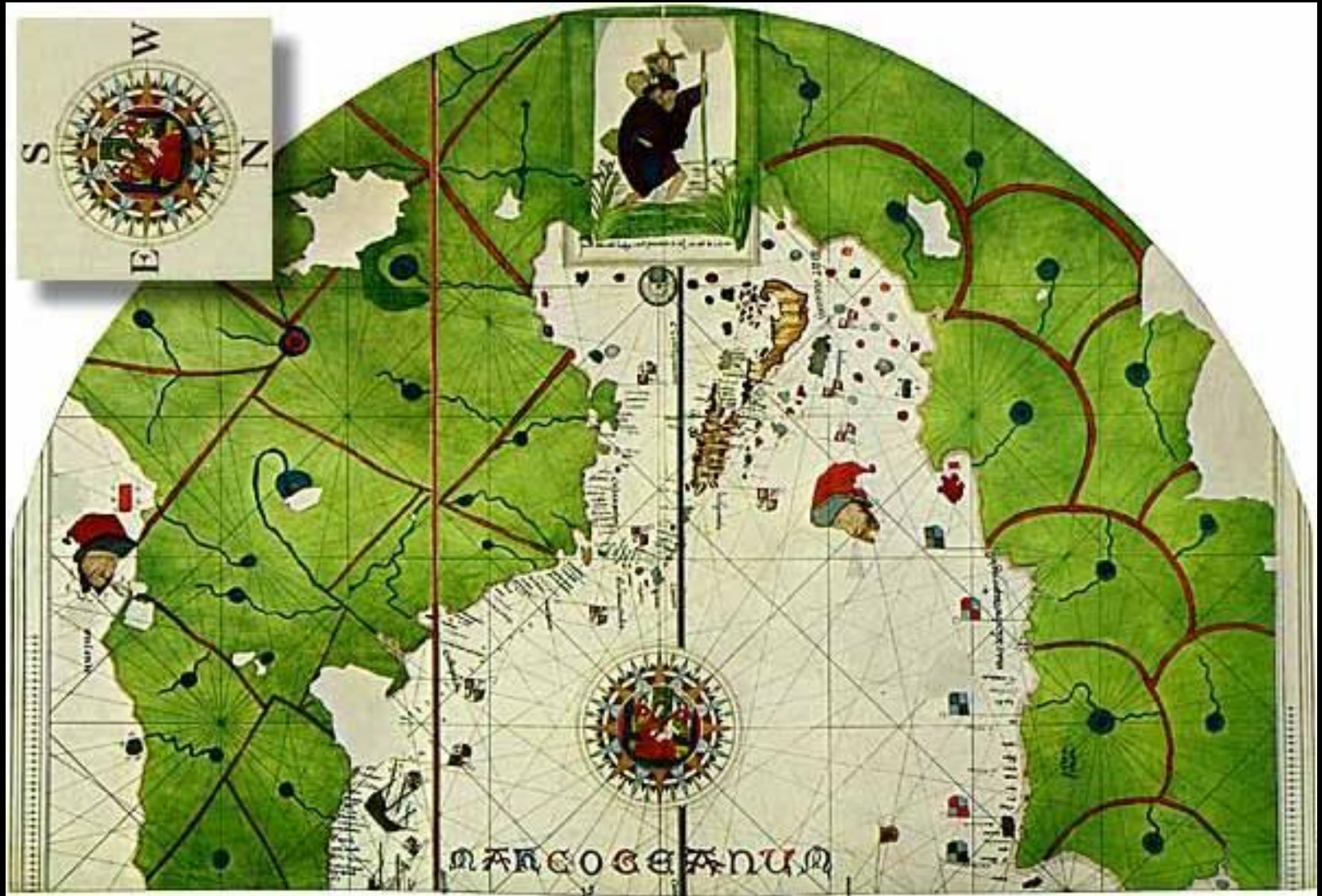
1492

·s. ·s.
·s. A ·s.
X M Y

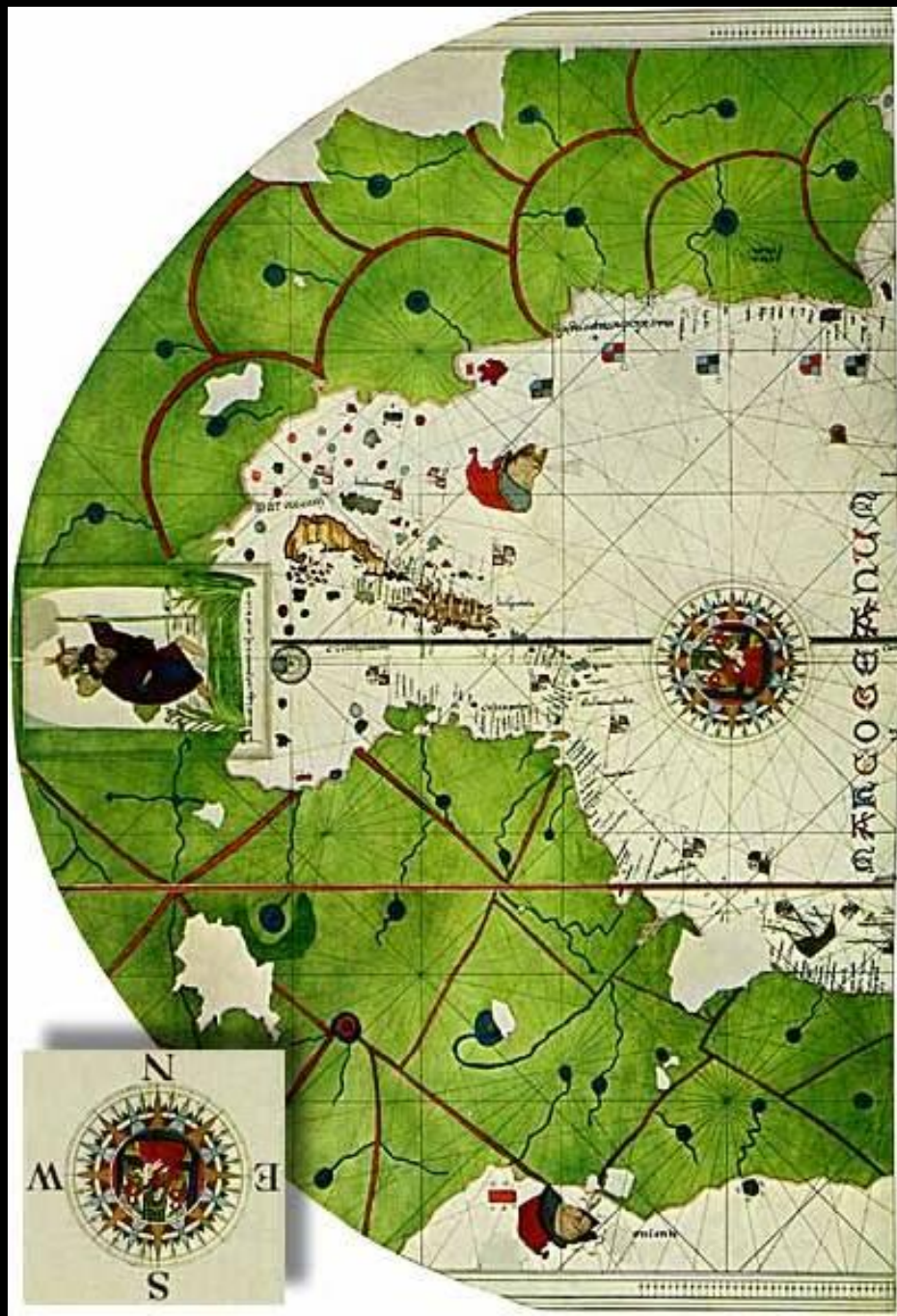
—
X̄p̄o FERENS



***St. Christopher Carrying the Christ Child,
Hieronymus Bosch (c. 1485)***



***Mappa Mundi* by Juan de la Cosa, ca. 1500. La Cosa, a Spanish pilot and cosmographer, drew this map shortly after 1500. As owner of the *Santa Maria*, la Cosa accompanied Columbus on his first two voyages. He continued to survey the American coast until 1504.**



The Age of Columbus



C. Sailed . . .

Three Ships:

Nina

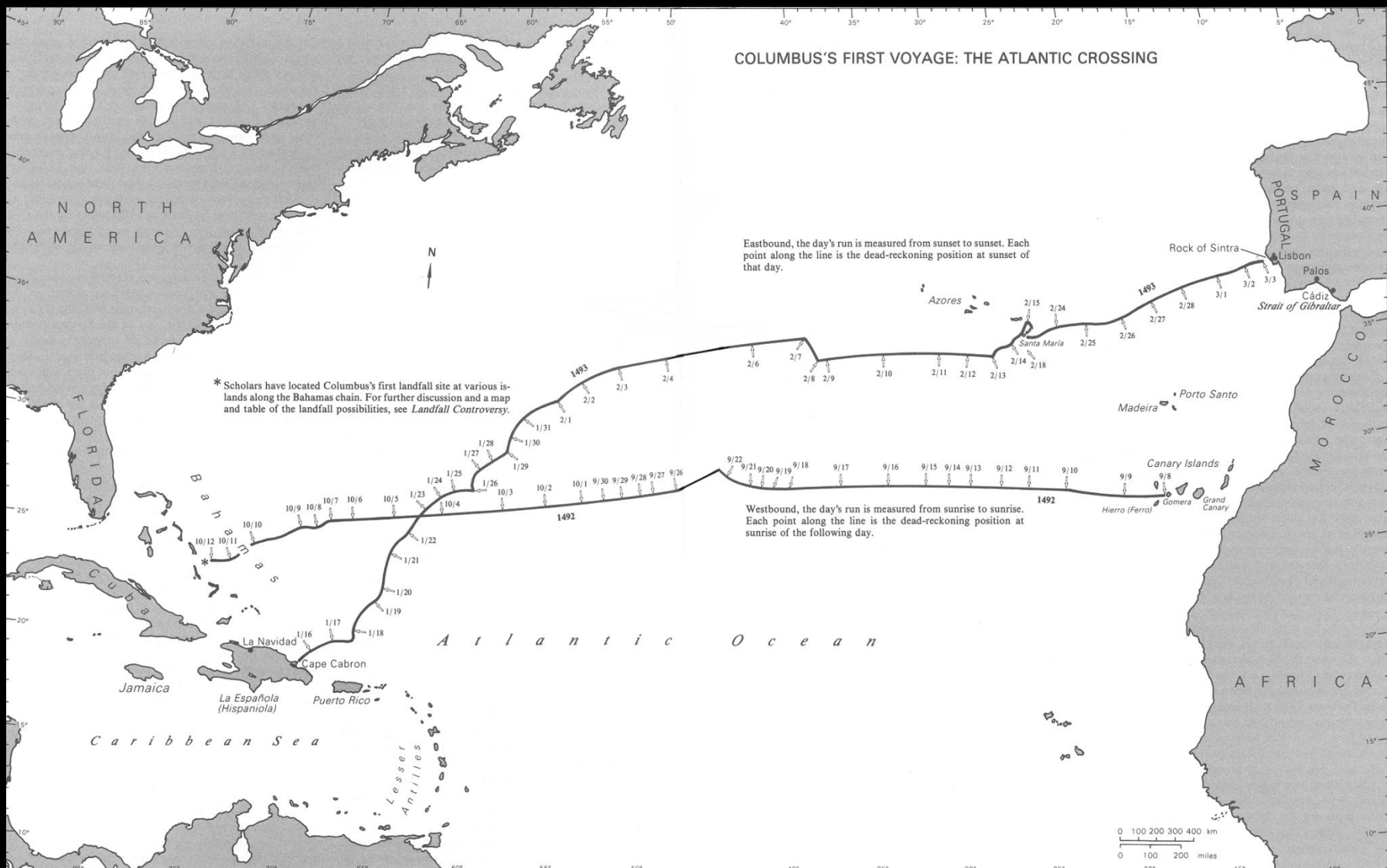
Pinta

Santa Maria

Dead Reckoning



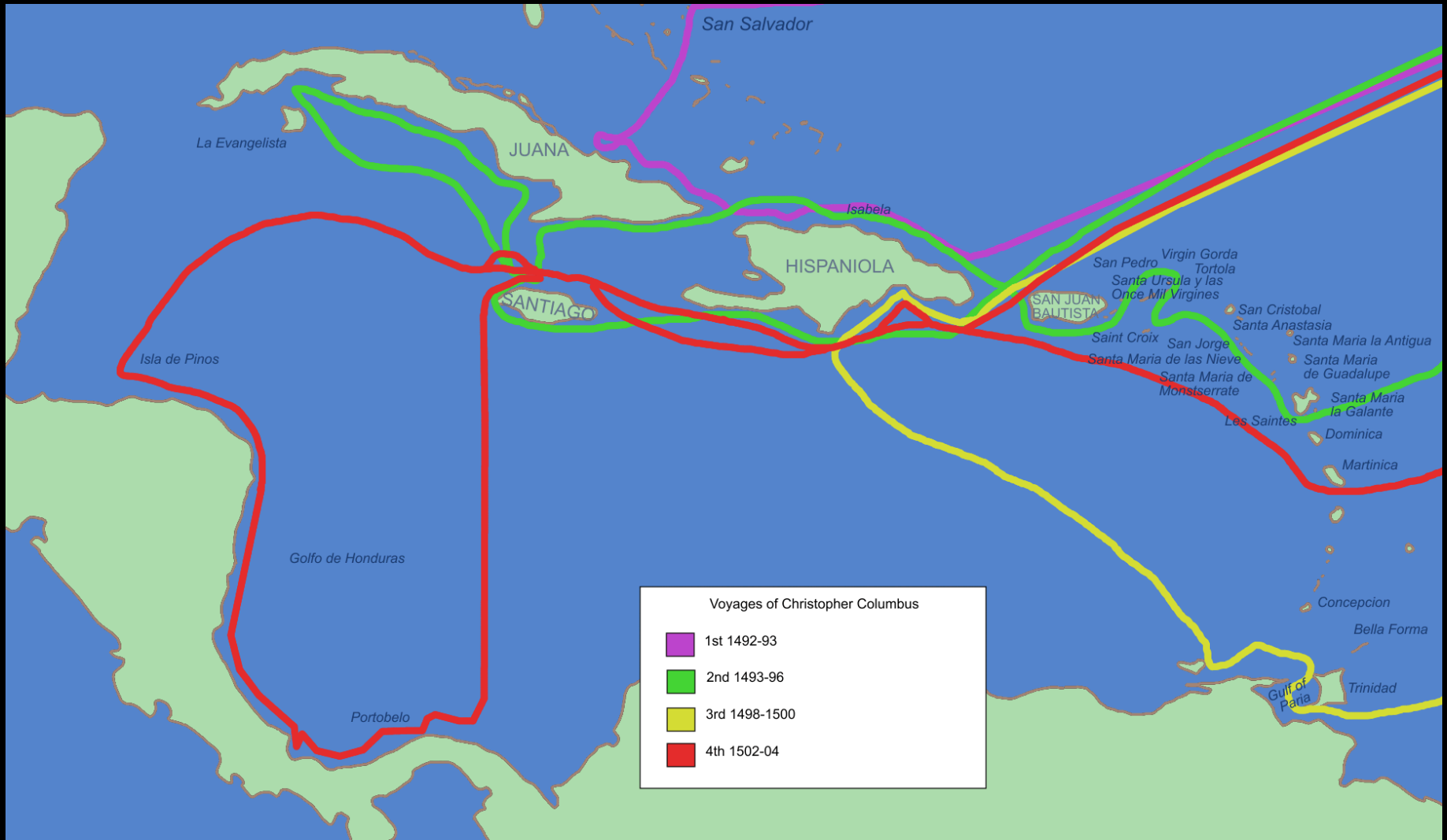
COLUMBUS'S FIRST VOYAGE: THE ATLANTIC CROSSING



* Scholars have located Columbus's first landfall site at various islands along the Bahamas chain. For further discussion and a map and table of the landfall possibilities, see *Landfall Controversy*.

Eastbound, the day's run is measured from sunset to sunset. Each point along the line is the dead-reckoning position at sunset of that day.

Westbound, the day's run is measured from sunrise to sunrise. Each point along the line is the dead-reckoning position at sunrise of the following day.



The Age of Columbus



D. The Ocean . . .

The real “discovery”

Wind and water patterns of the northern Atlantic.

“Discovered” a course out and back.



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E. Red, White, and Black . . . The Spanish Colonial System

Columbus subjugated the peoples of the Caribbean and established the Spanish Colonial System at Santo Domingo in 1496.

Why important?

- A. First European Atlantic Empire
- B. Biggest European Atlantic Empire
- C. Wealthiest European Atlantic Empire
- D. Made Spain greatest power of 16th century





MAP 3-3 THE SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE EMPIRES IN THE AMERICAS, 1492-1750

The Age of Columbus



E. Red, White, and Black . . . The Conquest of the Americas

A. First, subjugation of the Caribbean islands and coastal areas

1. Columbus (1492-1504) in the Caribbean
2. Balboa's penetration of Panama and his discovery of the Pacific
3. Ponce de Leon's discovery of the Florida mainland.

B. Second wave stimulated by rumors of vast treasures in interior

1. Hernan Cortes conquered the Aztec empire in Mexico (1519-21).
2. Cabeza de Vaca circled the northern Gulf of Mexico (1528-36).
3. Hernando de Soto discovered the Mississippi River (1539-41).
4. Coronado traveled through Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma (1540-42).

C. Third wave focused on Andes Mountains in South America

Led by Francisco Pizarro, who conquered the Incan empire by murdering their leader, after extracting a ransom of over twenty tons of pure gold and silver, and destroying their army and nobility. In 1535, he began the new central city of Lima.



- English explorations
- French explorations
- Spanish explorations
- English settlements
- French settlements
- Spanish settlements
- Spanish Empire
- Aztec Empire

The Age of Columbus



E. Red, White, and Black . . . The Transatlantic Slave Trade

A. 12 million forced migrants from 1440s-1860s

B. Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal c. 1443

1444, Africans taken to work sugar plantations of Madeira.

C. Carlos I of Spain (1504-1556)

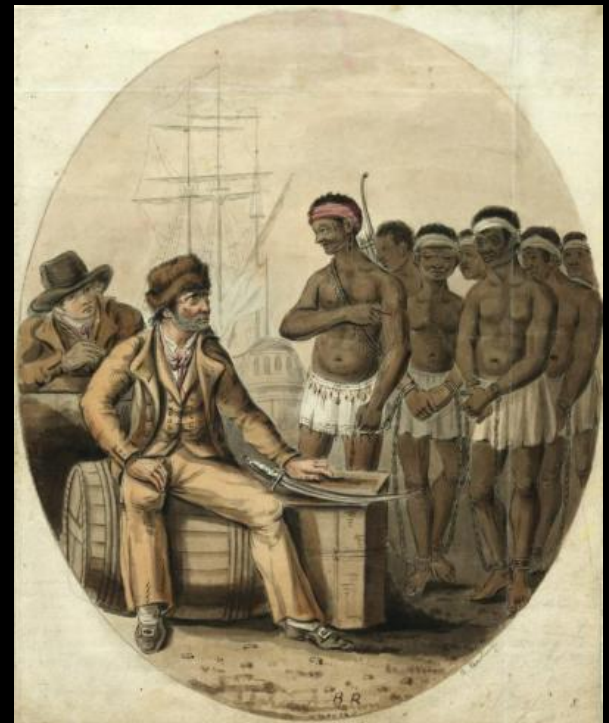
1516, Africans taken to the Caribbean for the first time.

D. Elizabeth I of England (1558-1603)

Elizabeth sponsored John Hawkins to bring slaves from Africa to sell to the Spanish colonies.

E. Louis XIV of France (1643-1715)

Louis XIV supplied nearly half of the finances needed by the French Guinea Company to commence its African trade.





MAP 4-4 THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE, 1440–1867

The Age of Columbus



E. Red, White, and Black . . . Triangular Trade



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E. Red, White, and Black . . . Columbian Exchange

New World crops

maize (corn)
white potatoes
sweet potatoes
peanuts
tomatoes
squash
pumpkin
pineapples
papaya
avocados
manioc (cassava)
cocoa - chocolate

Old World crops

rice
wheat
barley
oats
rye
turnips
onions
cabbage
lettuce
peaches
pears
sugar

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E. Red, White, and Black . . . Columbian Exchange

New World domesticated animals

dogs
llamas
guinea pigs
fowl (a few species)

Old World domesticated animals

dogs
horses
donkeys
pigs
cattle
goats
sheep
barnyard fowl

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E. Red, White, and Black . . . Columbian Exchange

New World domesticated diseases

syphilis

possibly tuberculosis

Old World diseases

smallpox

malaria

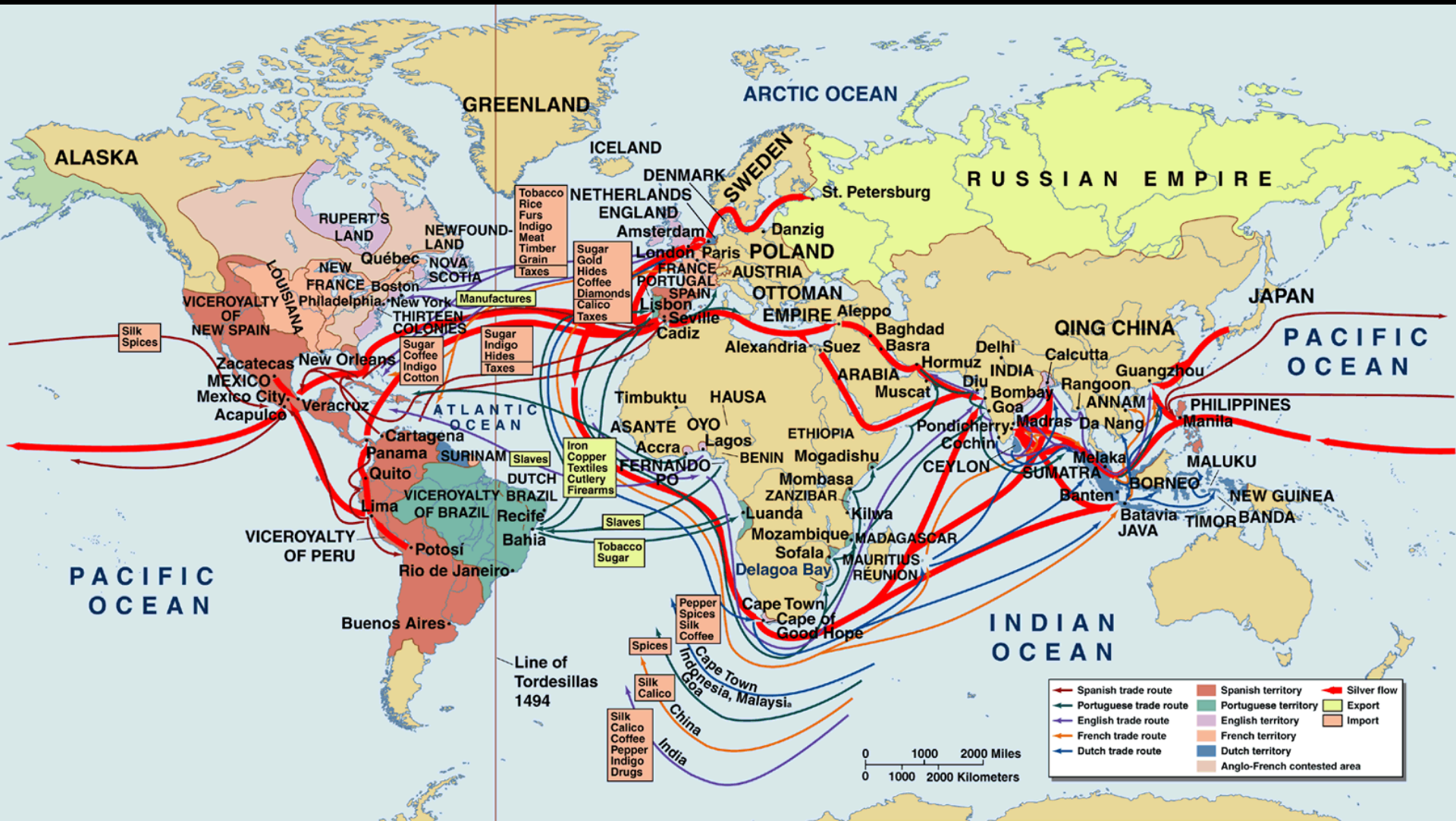
yellow fever

measles

cholera

typhoid

bubonic plague



MAP 4-1 TRADE IN SILVER AND OTHER COMMODITIES, 1650–1750