

# Ch. 14 Europe and the World: New Encounters 1500-1800



FQ: Why did Europeans begin to embark on voyages of discovery and expansion at the end of the fifteenth century?

# God, glory and gold!

What were Spain's goals in the  
"New World"?



- Religious zeal: desire to “convert the heathen to Christianity”
- Fantastic lands: literature in the Middle Ages glorified adventure and risk.
- Economic motives:
  - closing of overland trade routes by the Ottomans led to the search for new areas of trade
  - gold and silver mining

# Maps



- Navigation was based off of Ptolemy's map found in his 2<sup>nd</sup> century work, the Geography
- Arab geographers had it in the 8<sup>th</sup> century.
- Latin translation of the map wasn't found in Europe until the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

# Ships & Sailing



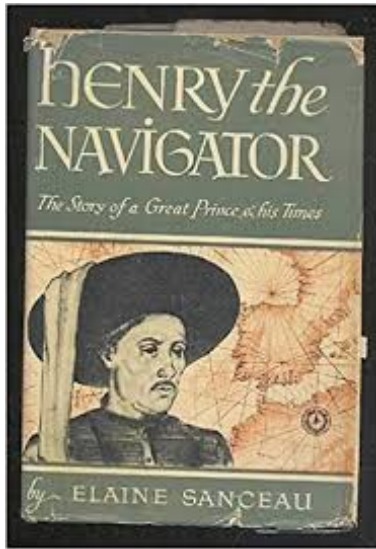
- New navigational techniques
  - axial rudder (from China)
- Mobile enough to sail against the wind and conduct warfare.
- Used the Pole Star to measure their latitude. Below the equator this was useless.
- Knowledge of wind patterns

# Portugal and Spain



- FQ: How did Portugal and Spain acquire their overseas empires, and how did their empires differ?

# Portuguese



- Started with the coast of Africa under Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460) with the following motives:
  - find a Christian kingdom to ally against Muslims
  - trade opportunities
  - spread Christianity
- Gold, ivory and slaves were shipped back to Lisbon.



# Portuguese in India



- Vasco De Gama was the first to round the Cape of Africa
- Admiral Alfonso Albuquerque (1462-1515) established port facilities at Goa and seized the city of Malacca, massacring the Arab population.
- Portuguese took control of the spice trade from the Muslim traders with the help of superior fire power and seamanship.

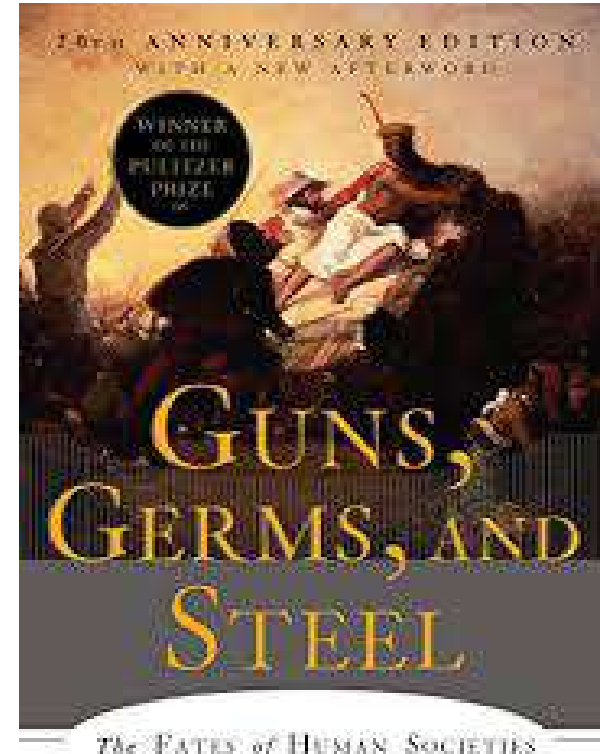
# The Voyages of Columbus



- Columbus (1451-1506)
  - Italian rejected by Portugal
  - Persuaded Queen Isabella of Spain into financing the expedition
- Reached the Bahamas, Cuba and island of Hispanola along with parts of central America.
- “America” – named after Amerigo Vespucci (Florentine explorer)



# The Spanish Empire in the New World

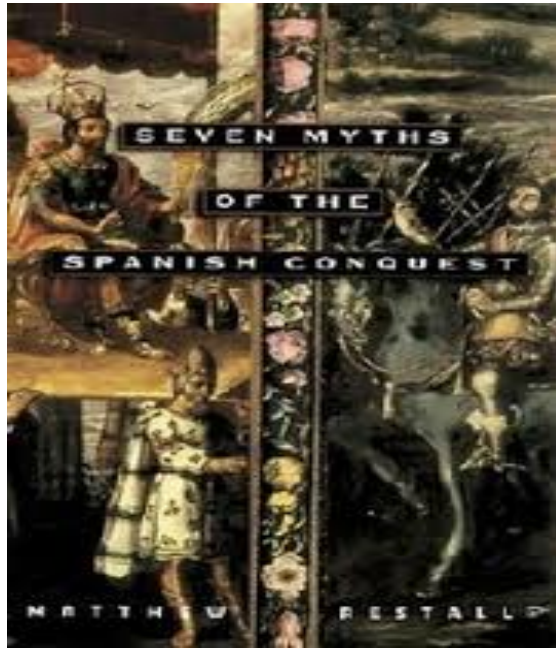


JARED DIAMOND

- European disease
- Superior weapons (steel sword)/fire power
- Rivalries among native peoples

# *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest*

by Matthew Restall



1. A handful of Adventurers

The myth of exceptional men

# Early Civilizations in Mesoamerica



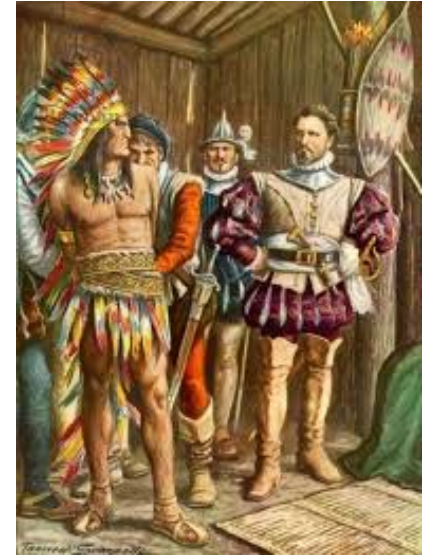
- Around 300 C.E., the Yucatan peninsula was occupied by the Mayan civilization.
  - sophisticated calendar, temples and pyramids
  - most of Central America and southern Mexico
  - collapsed for unknown reasons around 900 C.E.

# Aztec Empire



- Capital city of Tenochtitlan established between 1325 and 1345.
- Advanced aqueduct systems helped develop growth of over 80,000 people from the Pacific to the Atlantic.
- Collection of semi-independent territories governed by local lords.

# Spanish Conquest of the Aztec Empire



- Between 1519 and 1522, Hernan Cortez landed in Veracruz (Gulf of Mexico) and formed alliances with city-states that were tired of oppressive rule of the Aztecs.
- Aztec monarch, Moctezuma (Montezuma) believed Cortez was a God and offered the foreigners gold along with his palace.
- Spanish were forced out after the first year. However, Aztecs were devastated by European disease, leading to the Spanish gaining control between 1531 and 1550.



# The Inca



- Late 14<sup>th</sup> century – started as a small community in Cuzco (southern Peru – 10,000 ft. in altitude)
- Empire was divided into four quarters, each ruled by a governor. Each province held around 10,000 residents.
- Advanced network of mountainous roads – 24,800 miles



# Spanish Conquest of the Inca Empire



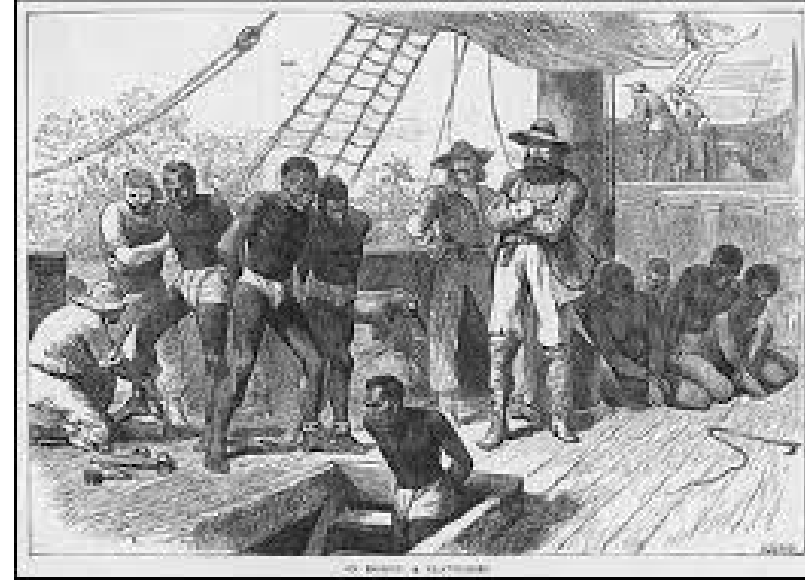
- 1530 – Pizarro landed on the Pacific coast of South America with about 180 men with steal weapons, gun powder, and horses.
- Small pox killed the emperor which led to civil war.
- 1535 – With the help of their Incan allies, Pizarro established the new capital in Lima.

# Administration of the Spanish Empire



- *encomienda* – permitted the Spaniards to collect tribute from indigenous populations and use them as labor.
- Viceroy – leader of the province.
- *audiencias* – advisory groups or supreme judicial bodies.

# Disease and Religion



- Mass conversion of the native population brought organization and institutions of Catholicism to the Americas.
- High mortality rates among the native population from European disease. Spaniards turned to Africa for labor as a result.