

Chapter 14 Glossary

Admiral Alfonso de Albuquerque: Portuguese who set up a port facility at Goa in 1510 signifying the more permanent presence of the Portuguese in the region.

Age of Exploration: 1500-1800 – crucial factor in the transition from Middle-Age agrarian economy to a capitalistic commercial and industrial economy.

Amerigo Vespucci: In 1500 this Florentine sailor was on many voyages to the New World and wrote a series of letters describing the geography. The publication of his letters led to the use of the name “America.”

ancestor worship: Syncretic religious practice whereby Jesuit missionaries allowed Chinese converts to Catholicism retain some of their traditional religious practices alongside Christianity.

astrolabe: An instrument formerly used to make astronomical measurements, typically of the altitudes of celestial bodies, and in navigation for calculating latitude.

audiencias: Advisory groups who helped the viceroys functioning as the supreme judicial bodies.

axial rudder: Primary control surface used to steer a ship.

Bartholomeu Dias: In 1488 this Portuguese explorer rounded the Cape of Good Hope, but fearing mutiny returned to Portugal.

Bartolome de Las Casas: A Dominican friar who championed the cause of the brutalized Indians whose writings helped abolish the *encomienda* system.

Batavia (Jakarta): Base from where the Dutch (who replaced the under-resourced Portuguese) began to assert their control, and control over inland areas to protect their trade position.

Battle of Plassey: 1757 battle where a smaller British force defeated a larger Mughal force which gave the British great economic and political control in India

Boer: Dutch and Afrikaans word for “farmer”. As used in South Africa, it was used to denote the descendants of the Dutch-speaking settlers of the eastern Cape frontier in Southern Africa during the 18th century.

Canton: First trading post established by the British in China in 1699, where initially the Chinese tried to confine European trade in China.

Christopher Columbus: Italian explorer (1451-1506) who sailed for Spain, who felt that Asia could be reached by sailing west instead of around Africa.

Columbian Exchange: The widespread transfer of plants, animals, culture, human populations, technology, and ideas between the Americas and the Old World in the 15th and 16th centuries.

conquistadors: Spanish conquerors who were motivated by a blend of glory, greed, and religious crusading zeal, who possessed superior weapons and organizational skills.

Dutch East India Company: Trading company founded in the Dutch Republic (present-day Netherlands) in 1602 to protect that state’s trade in the Indian Ocean. Prospered through most of the 17th century as the instrument of commercial empire in the East Indies (present-day Indonesia).

encomienda: Economic and social system of governance in the New World the permitted conquering Spaniards to collect tribute from the Indians and use them as laborers.

Fall of Constantinople: When the Ottoman Turks seized this important city in 1453, it closed overland trade routes from west to east, which fueled the desire for Europeans to find a sea route to Asia.

Ferdinand Magellan: Portuguese explorer who organized the Spanish expedition to the East Indies from 1519 to 1522, resulting in the first circumnavigation of the Earth.

Francisco Pizarro: Spanish conquistador who landed in South America who seized the Incan ruler Atahualpa and divided the Inca and easily conquered them with superior weapons and the Incan’s inability to withstand small pox.

“Geography”: Ptolemy’s world map that had been known to Arab geographers translated to Latin in the 15th century. While the map was helpful, it significantly underestimated the circumference of the earth.

Henry Hudson: English explorer hired by the Dutch who discovered rivers and lands around what became New Netherland, but was later taken by the English and renamed New York.

Hernan Cortes: Conquistador and conqueror of the Aztecs in Mexico who seemed to embody the zeal for not only discovery and money, but the desire to convert the “heathen” to Christianity as a motive for exploration.

Hispaniola: Present day Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which with the Bahamas and Cuba were the first lands that Columbus encountered in 1492.

Indians: Term that Columbus gave the native population of the Caribbean, because he was convinced that he had found the Indies in Asia.

Jacob Fugger: A major merchant, mining entrepreneur and family banker of Europe in the 16th century.

Jacques Cartier: French explorer who discovered the St. Lawrence River and laid claim to Canada as a French possession.

John Cabot: Venetian seaman who explored the New England coastline under a license from King Henry VII of England in 1497.

joint-stock company: Occurring in the 16th and 17th centuries, individuals would buy shares in a company in return for dividends on their investments.

lateen sail: A triangular sail on a long yard at an angle of 45° to the mast, which allowed ships to sail against the wind.

Madras: Indian port claimed by the British used to transport Indian-made cotton to the East Indies where they were bartered for spices, and shipped back to England.

Malacca: An important Muslim trading port on the Malay peninsula that the Portuguese attacked and subdued in 1511 – massacred local Arab population

Marco Polo: 13th century traveler who followed the Mongol trade routes to visit Khublai Khan in 1271. His accounts in the “Travels” excited the imagination of westerners.

mercantilism: Economic theory that trade generates wealth and is stimulated by the accumulation of profitable balances, which a government should encourage by means of protectionism. Also based on the accumulation of gold and silver.

Mercator Projection: A mathematical cylindrical projection of the meridians that are equally spaced, parallel vertical lines, and the parallels of latitude are parallel, horizontal straight lines, spaced farther and farther apart as their distance from the Equator increases.

Mesoamerica: What Europeans called the “New World,” modern day Mexico and Central America already hosted a number of flourishing civilizations, such as the Maya, Aztecs, and Incas.

mestizos: The offspring of Europeans and native American Indians.

Middle Passage: The middle leg of the triangular trade route where African slaves were crammed into slave ships and transported from Africa to the New World.

mit'a: A system of forced labor to make natives work in the silver mines.

Moctezuma: Aztec ruler who welcomed Hernán Cortés, mistakenly believing he was an agent of the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl.

Moluccas: “Spice Islands” located in Indonesia.

Motive for Exploration: God, Glory, and Gold.

Mughal Empire: Indian empire founded by Babur in the 16th century temporarily unifying most of India. Came to its greatest height under Babur’s grandson Akbar.

mulattos: The offspring of Europeans and Africans.

Pachakuti: Incan ruler who established strong centralized control of South America in Peru in their capital city of Cuzco.

Pedro Cabral: Portuguese nobleman, military commander, navigator and explorer regarded as the discoverer of Brazil. Cabral conducted the first substantial exploration of the northeast coast of South America and claimed it for Portugal (1500).

pepper plantations: Established by the Dutch in Java and Sumatra which soon became a massive source of profits for merchants in Amsterdam.

portolani: Charts made by medieval navigators and mathematicians in the 13th and 14th centuries that helped make exploration possible.

Price Revolution: A series of economic events from the second half of the 15th century to the first half of the 17th century. Most specifically it pertains to the high rate of inflation that occurred during this period across Western Europe.

Prince Henry the Navigator: Portuguese (1394-1460) who founded a school for navigation that helped give Portugal a significant lead in sea exploration.

Quakers: Known as the Society of Friends, this religious group began to criticize slavery in the 1770s.

Robert Clive: Aggressive British empire-builder who eventually became the chief representative of the British East India Company.

Samuel de Champlain: Established a French settlement at Quebec that started a concerted effort by the French to make Canada a colony.

sea route: To have better access to Asian spices this continued to be the primary goal early on in exploration for Portugal.

Seven Years' War: 1756-1763: Britain's victory in this engagement forced the French out of India for good.

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz: Poet, dramatist, scholar, and nun, an outstanding writer in the Latin American 17th century.

State Monarchies: Large, well organized governments begun with the "New Monarchs" whose centralization of power created the necessary support structure for exploration.

Sugar (sugarcane): Agricultural product of South America and the Caribbean that drastically changed labor needs and helped create demand for African slavery.

"sugar factories": Part of the plantations economies developed by the English and the French in the Caribbean based on African slavery.

Tenochtitlán: Aztec capital (modern Mexico City), developed sometime in the early 12th century.

The Travels of John Mandeville: Medieval fantasy literature that talked about other realms filled with precious stones and gold.

triangular trade: 16th to early 19th centuries, carrying slaves, cash crops, and manufactured goods between West Africa, Caribbean or American colonies and the European colonial powers, with the northern colonies of British North America

Vasco da Gama: Portuguese explorer who rounded the Cape of Good Hope in 1497 and stopped at several ports controlled by Muslims merchants along the east coast of Africa, eventually sailing to India.

Vasco Nunez de Balboa: Spanish explorer who led an expedition across the Isthmus of Panama and reached the Pacific in 1513.

Viceroy: Spanish administrators who oversaw the governance of the Spanish colonies – New Spain and Peru. They were the king's chief civil and military officer.