

Causes & Effects of European Exploration

I. Renaissance (1400 – early 1600s)

- A. Medieval scholars began to read ancient writings from Greece & Rome
- B. Contact with Islamic culture in Spain brought Europeans greater knowledge of science, philosophy & medicine
- C. This was the beginning of the Renaissance period

II. New Sea Routes

- A. In the mid-1400s 2 Italian cities, Genoa & Venice, controlled The land routes used for trade with Eastern lands.
- B. Other countries in Europe, led by Prince Henry of Portugal, began to look for new routes to Asia in order to break the Italian trade monopoly. He also wanted to:
 - 1. Find an all-water route to Asia
 - 2. Create a powerful navy to help defeat Muslim forces in N. Africa
 - 3. Spread Christianity beyond Europe's borders
 - 4. Learn more about the ocean and the lands that lay beyond it
- C. This increased exploration led to a revolution in how business was done – the creation of the joint stock company

III. Causes of European exploration

- A. Renaissance spirit of curiosity
- B. Search for new trade routes
- C. Desire for adventure, glory & riches
- D. Search for converts to Christianity

IV. Effects of European exploration

- A. Europeans reach the Americas
- B. European settlement of the Americas
- C. Expanded knowledge of world geography
- D. Development of trade & growth of the middle class
- E. Conflict with Native Americans

V. Key Explorers

- A. Bartholomeu Dias – Portuguese explorer who found a route

around the tip of South Africa “the cape of Good Hope” that lead to a new route to India

- B. Vasco da Gama – Portuguese explorer who completed the first voyage east to India
- C. Christopher Columbus – discovered the “new world” during an attempt to sail west to India
- D. Ferdinand Magellan – his crew was the first to sail around the world

Summary: *God, Gold, & Glory were the main reasons for European exploration of the new world*