

Exploration and Conquest

1000 - 1607



by Joe Burton

Exploration and Conquest

In the 1400s, Europeans in search of a new trade routes began a great age of *Sea Exploration*. Improved designs and better instruments helped captains sail far from their home shores. Portugal led the way, its ships sailing east to reach Asia. Christopher Columbus dared to sail west for Asia, instead, he found the Americas by accident... where Spain would eventually conquer two empires.



Terrifying Tales...

...of sea monsters, such as the serpent in this later engraving kept many would-be explorers from sailing far from land.

Portugal's Pioneering Voyages

- ❖ In the mid-1400s, Portugal led the rest of Europe in its search for sea routes to Asia and other, unknown lands.
- ❖ Portugal's *Prince Henry* created a navigational school...
- ❖ ...where captains and crew learned how to sail ships expertly and plot voyages with the latest equipment.
- ❖ Henry sent expeditions down the West African Coast, trading gold, ivory, and slaves.
- ❖ In 1488, Portuguese explorer *Bartholomeau Diaz* sailed all the way around the southern tip of Africa...
- ❖ ...called the Cape of Good Hope...
- ❖ ...before his terrified crew - fearing sea monsters, or worse, forced him to turn back.

The Mariner's Astrolabe



The Mariners Astrolabe...

...was an invention of the *Portuguese*, modified from an Islamic navigating tool of the Mediterranean. It measured the altitude of stars in the night sky to help work out a ship's distance from the equator.

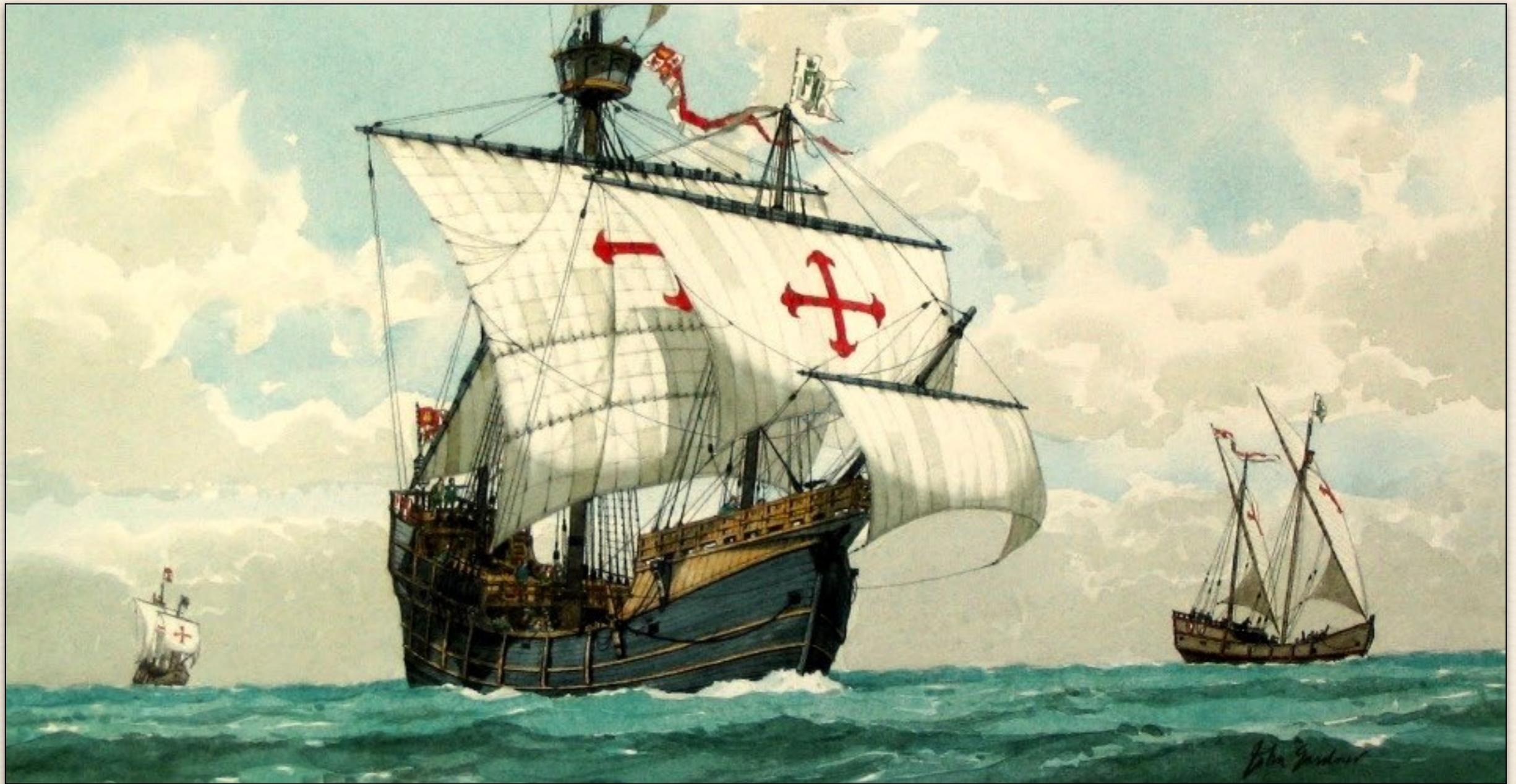
The Portuguese Caravel



The Portuguese Caravel, seen in the model above, combined both triangular and square sails, enabling ships to sail into the wind as well as with the wind. The caravel's innovative design helped Portugal to rule the waves in the 1400s.

The Voyages of Columbus

- ❖ Italian sea Captain *Christopher Columbus* believed he could find a shorter...
- ❖ ...safer passage to the trading centers of Asia by sailing west...
- ❖ ...instead of using *Da Gama's* eastern route.
- ❖ Columbus persuaded Spain's Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand to pay for an expedition...
- ❖ ...in 1492, he set out with 90 crew and three ships...
- ❖ ...*The Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria*...
- ❖ ...on his first voyage across the Atlantic.

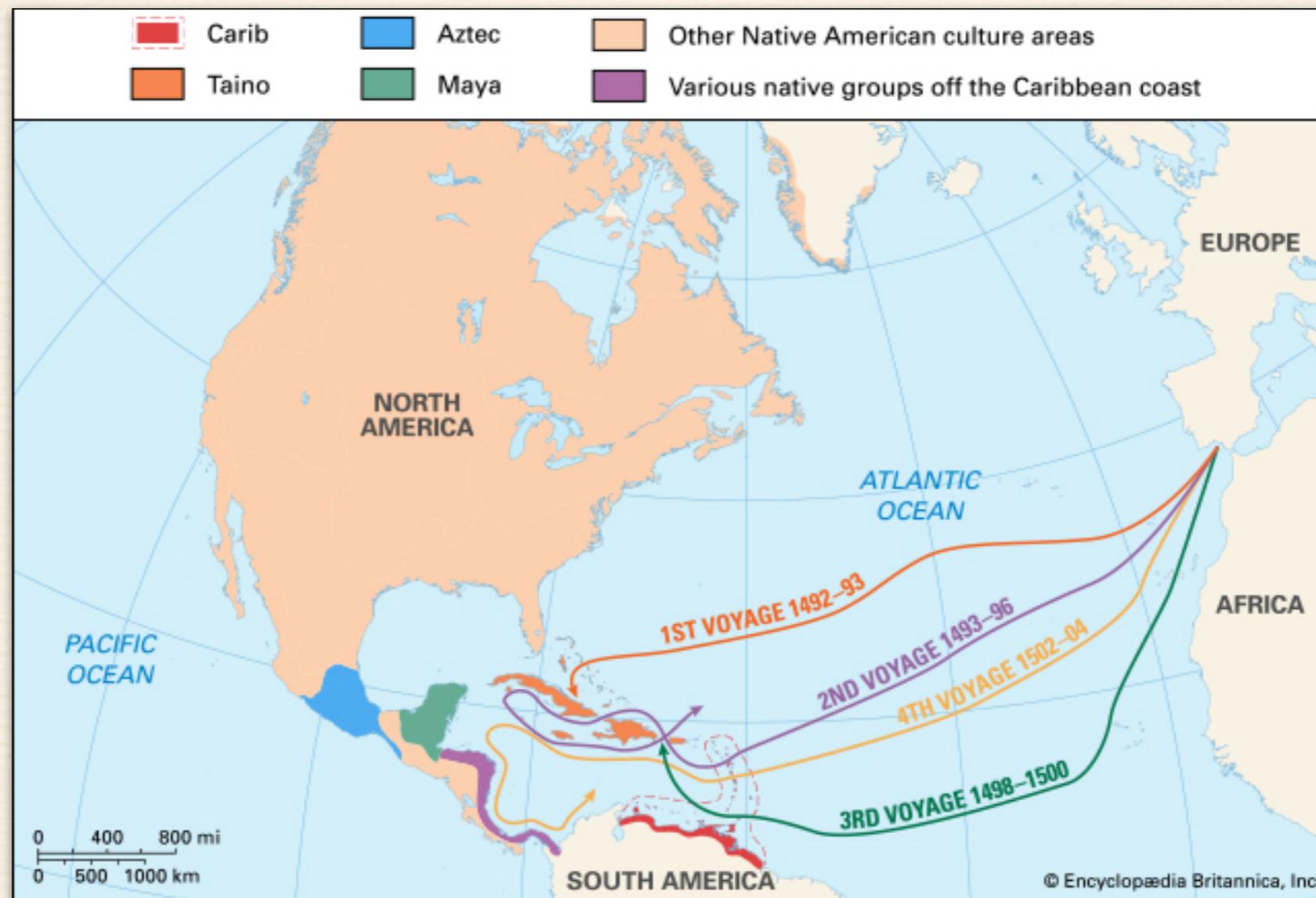


Three Ships (*Nina, Pinta, and The Santa Maria*), **Columbus, and His Crew...**
claimed new lands for Spain, where he was hailed as a hero.

The Voyages of Columbus

- ❖ After more than two perilous months at sea...
- ❖ ...a lookout spotted land...
- ❖ ...what would later be named the Caribbean Islands.
- ❖ Columbus was so sure he had reached the Indies that he called the islanders he met there “*Indians.*”
- ❖ Columbus made three more voyages.
- ❖ Although he never reached Asia, he did pave the way for later European settlement of the Americas.

Voyages of Christopher Columbus



Voyages of Christopher Columbus, at the time of Christopher Columbus's voyages, millions of people already lived in the America's. When Columbus reached the Bahamas, he thought he had reached the East Indies. We think that the ancestors of those peoples had arrived in *The Western Hemisphere* thousands of years before the Europeans began to explore the Americas.



The above painting depicts Christopher Columbus and members of his crew on a beach in the West Indies, newly landed from his flagship *Santa Maria* on October 12, 1492. The island landing was the first landfall of their expedition to find a westward route from Europe to China, Japan and perhaps unknown lands.

American neoclassicist painter *John Vanderlyn* was commissioned by Congress in June 1836 to paint the *Landing of Columbus* for the Capitol Rotunda. It was installed in the Rotunda by early January 1847.

Spain's Conquest

- ❖ Many Spanish adventurers followed Columbus's route west, hungry for gold, silver, and land.
- ❖ These soldiers, known as *Conquistadores*, or *conquerors*, eventually took over two great empires...
- ❖ ...finding treasures far greater than Columbus had envisioned.
- ❖ In 1519, the Spanish soldier *Hernando Cortes* led the conquest of the Aztecs in Mexico.
- ❖ After looting valuable items made of gold, silver, and precious stones and then loading them onto Spanish ships...
- ❖ ...Cortes destroyed the Aztec Capital city...
- ❖ ...and... after a fierce fight... wiped out its people, too.

Encomienda



‘In-kah-mee-inda’

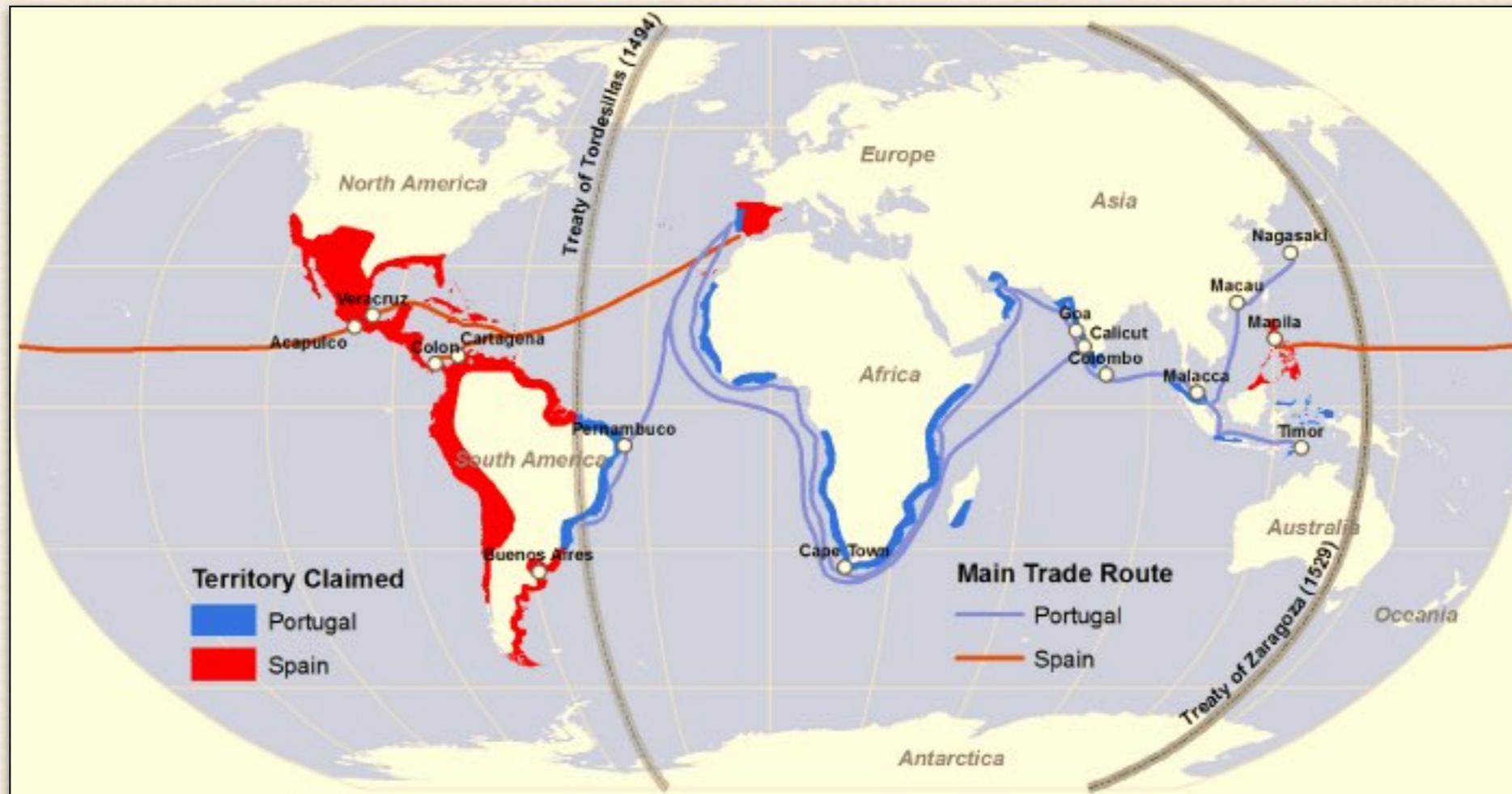
Noun: **Encomienda**; Plural Noun: **Encomiendas**

A grant by the Spanish Crown to Colonists in America conferring the right to demand tribute and forced labor from the Native Inhabitants.

Spain's Conquest

- ❖ In the Andes Mountains of South America...
- ❖ ...conquistador *Francisco Pizarro* seized the Inca Empire in 1532.
- ❖ After plundering the cities...
- ❖ ...Pizarro enslaved the natives to work in gold and silver mines.
- ❖ Ships laden with treasure sailed back to Spain...
- ❖ ...making its empire the envy of all Europe.

Dividing the World



To prevent disputes over land...

...claims between Spain and Portugal, the two countries signed The *Treaty of Tordesillas* in 1494, which was approved by Pope Julius II in 1506.

The treaty set up imaginary north-south line through the Atlantic Ocean; Spain had the right to claim lands west of the line, and Portugal could claim lands to the east. Brazil became a Portuguese Colony in 1500 because it was east of the line, while Spain claimed the rest of South America.

