

CHAPTER 17

The World Economy

Portuguese Exploration

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- Originally for fishing
- Land hunger
- Discovery of Azores, Madeiras Islands
- Acquisition of land to plant sugarcane

The Lure of Trade

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- Maritime routes to Asia
 - Spices, silk, porcelain
- Silk roads more dangerous since spread of Bubonic Plague
- Prices, profits increase
- Indian pepper, Chinese ginger increasingly essential to diet of European wealthy classes
- African gold, ivory, slaves

Missionary Efforts

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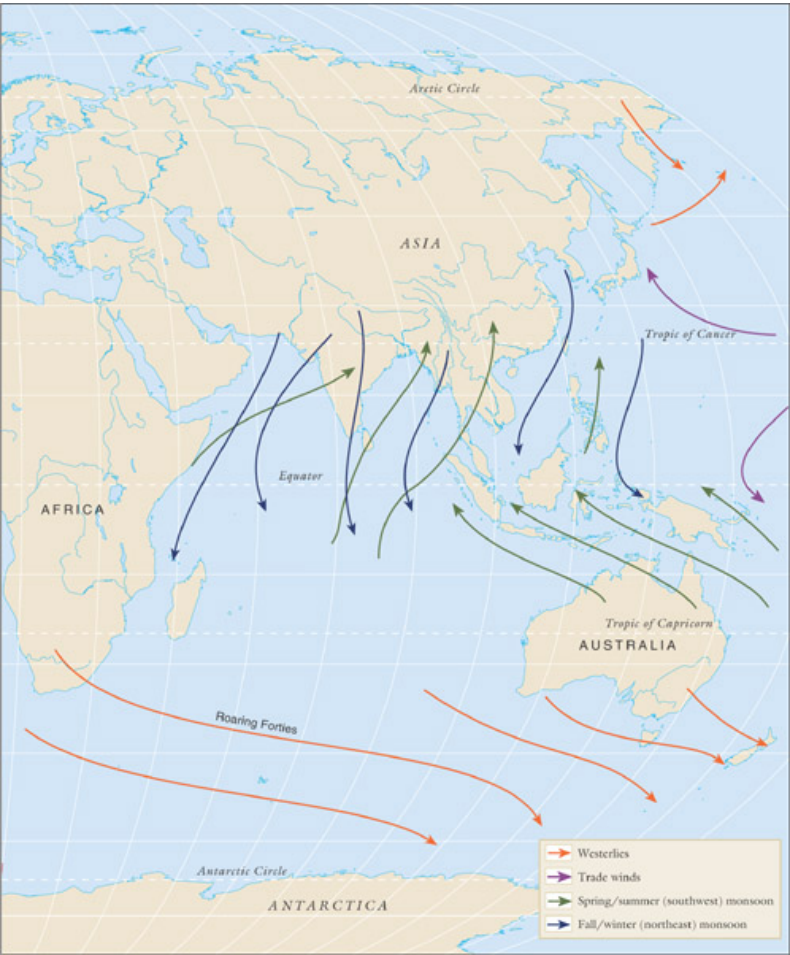
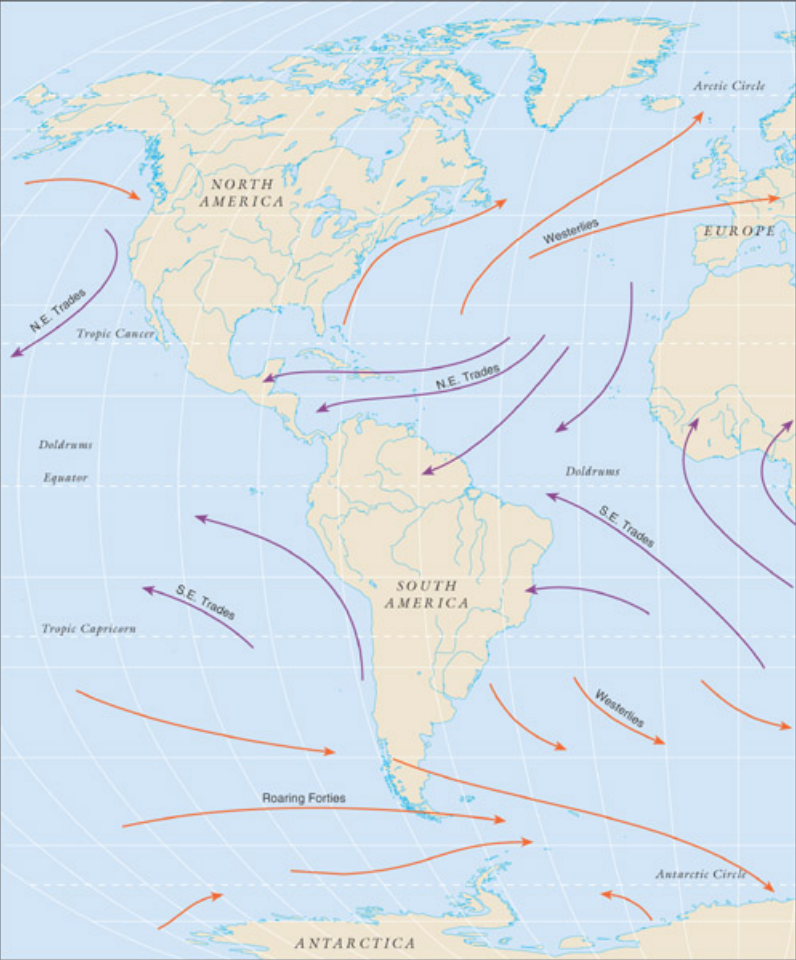
- Franciscan, Dominican missionaries to India, central Asia and China
- Violent efforts with Crusades, Reconquista

The Technology of Exploration

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- Chinese rudder introduced in 12th century
- Square sails replaced by triangular lateen sails
 - Work better with cross winds
- Navigational instruments
- Knowledge of winds, currents
- The Volta do Mar
 - “return through the sea”

Wind and current patterns in the world's oceans.



Portuguese Breakthroughs

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- Prince Henry of Portugal (1394-1460)
 - Promoted exploration of west African coast
 - Established fortified trading posts
- 1488 Barolomeo Dias rounds Cape of Good Hope, enters Indian Ocean basin
 - Storms, restless crew force return
- Vasco de Gama reaches India by this route, 1497
 - By 1500, a trading post at Calicut

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

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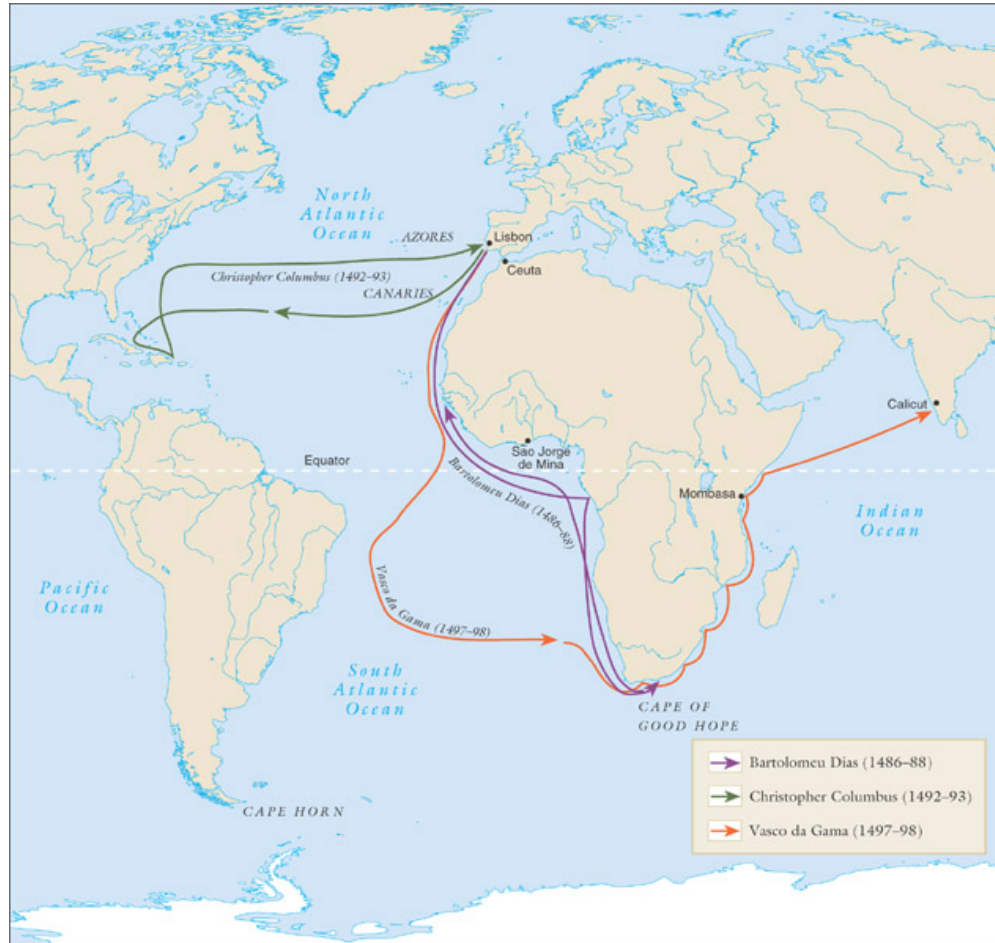
- Believed Earth was smaller
 - ▣ Estimated Japan approximately 2,500 miles west of Canaries (actually 10,000 miles)
- Portuguese kings do not fund proposed westward trip
- Fernando and Isabel of Spain underwrite voyage
- Discovers Bahamas, Cuba

Hemispheric Links

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- Columbus tries three times, never reaches Asia
- But by early 16th century, several powers follow
 - English, Spanish, French, Dutch
- Realization of value of newly discovered Americas

European exploration in the Atlantic Ocean, 1486-1498.



Circumnavigation of the Globe

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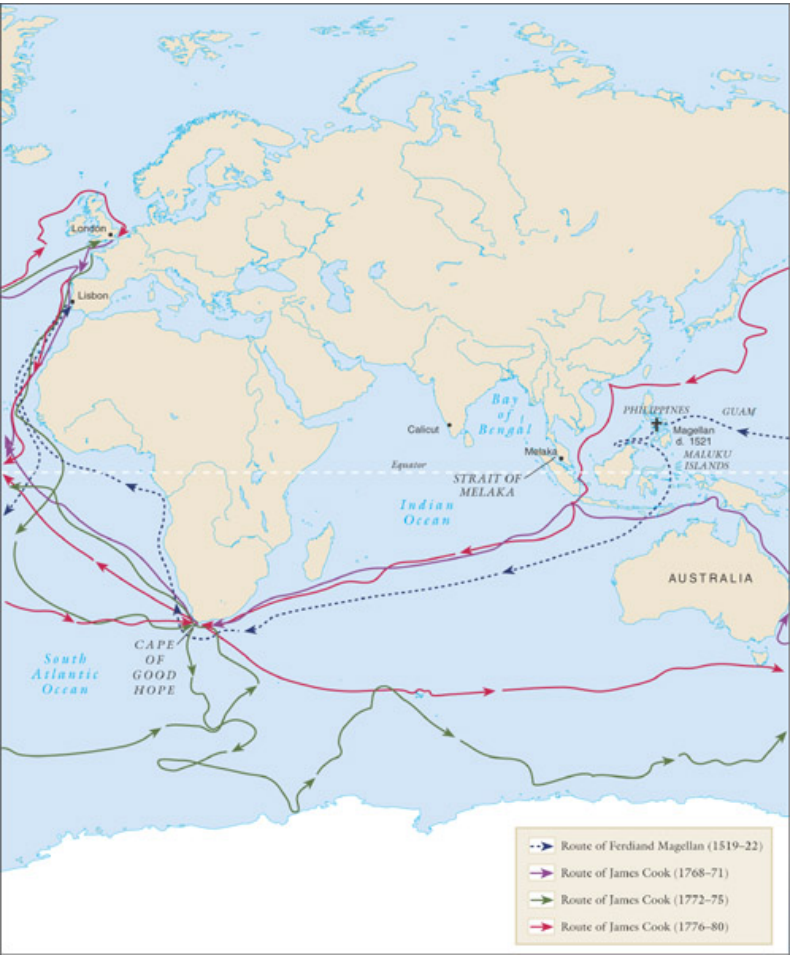
- Vasco de Balboa finds Pacific Ocean while searching for gold in Panama, 1513
 - ▣ Distance to Asia unknown
- Ferdinand Magellan (1480-1521) not supported by Portuguese, uses Spanish support to circumnavigate globe in 1519-1522
 - ▣ Sails through Strait of Magellan at southern tip of South America
 - ▣ Crew assailed by scurvy, only 35 of 250 sailors survive journey
 - ▣ Magellan killed in local political dispute in Philippine Islands

Exploration of the Pacific

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- Spanish build Philippines-Mexico trade route
- English, Russians look for Northwest Passage to Asia
 - ▣ Most of route clogged by ice in Arctic circle
 - Norwegian Roald Amundsen completes route only in 20th century
- Sir Frances Drake (England) explores west coast of North America
- Vitus Bering (Russia) sails through Bering Strait
- James Cook (England) explores southern Pacific

European exploration in the Pacific Ocean, 1519-1780.



Establishment of Trading-Post Empires

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- Portuguese first to set up trading posts
 - ▣ 50 by mid-16th century
- Not to establish trade monopolies, rather to charge duties
- Alfonso d'Albuquerque major naval commander
 - ▣ Architect of trade duties policy; violators would have hands amputated
- Yet Arab traders continue to operate
- Portuguese control declines by end of 16th c.

English and Dutch Trading Posts

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- Rival, parallel trading networks
- English concentrate on Indian trade
- Dutch in Cape Town, Colombo, southern Pacific

European trading posts in Africa and Asia, about 1700



The Trading Companies

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- Advantage of Dutch and English over Portuguese
- English East India Trading Company, established 1600
- Dutch United East India Company (VOC), established 1602
- Privately owned ships, government support
- Empowered with right to engage in trade, build posts, even make war
- Exceptionally profitable

European Conquests in Southeast Asia

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- Spanish conquer Philippines, name them after King Philip II
- Manila becomes major port city
 - ▣ Influx of Chinese traders, highly resented by Spanish, Filipinos
 - ▣ Frequent massacres throughout 17th, up to 19th century
 - ▣ Significant missionary activity
- Dutch concentrate on spice trade in Indonesia
 - ▣ Establish Batavia, trading post in Java
 - ▣ Less missionary activity

Russian Expansion in Asia

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- Russians take over Mongol khanates, 16th c.
- Astrakhan becomes major trading city
- Caucasus absorbed in 18th century
- Siberian expansions in 16th-17th centuries
- Trade with indigenous Siberian peoples
 - ▣ Little success with missionary efforts
 - ▣ Some local rebellions

Russian Occupation of Siberia

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- Criminals, prisoners of war exiled to Siberia
- Disgruntled peasants migrate east
- Trading posts develop
- Russian population expands dramatically
 - ▣ 1763: 420,000 Russians in Siberia, outnumber indigenous peoples 2:1

Russian Convict Village in Siberia

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A convict village in Siberia.

The Seven Years' War (1756-1763)

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- Commercial rivalries between empires at sea
- Global conflict erupts: multiple theatres in Europe, India, Caribbean, North America
 - ▣ North America: merges with French and Indian War, 1754-1763
- British emerge victorious, establish primacy in India, Canada

The Columbian Exchange

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- Named for Christopher Columbus
- Global diffusion:
 - ▣ Plants and crops
 - ▣ Animals
 - ▣ Human populations
 - ▣ Disease pathogens
- Links between previously independent biological zones
- Permanently alters human geography, natural environment

Epidemic Diseases and Population Decline

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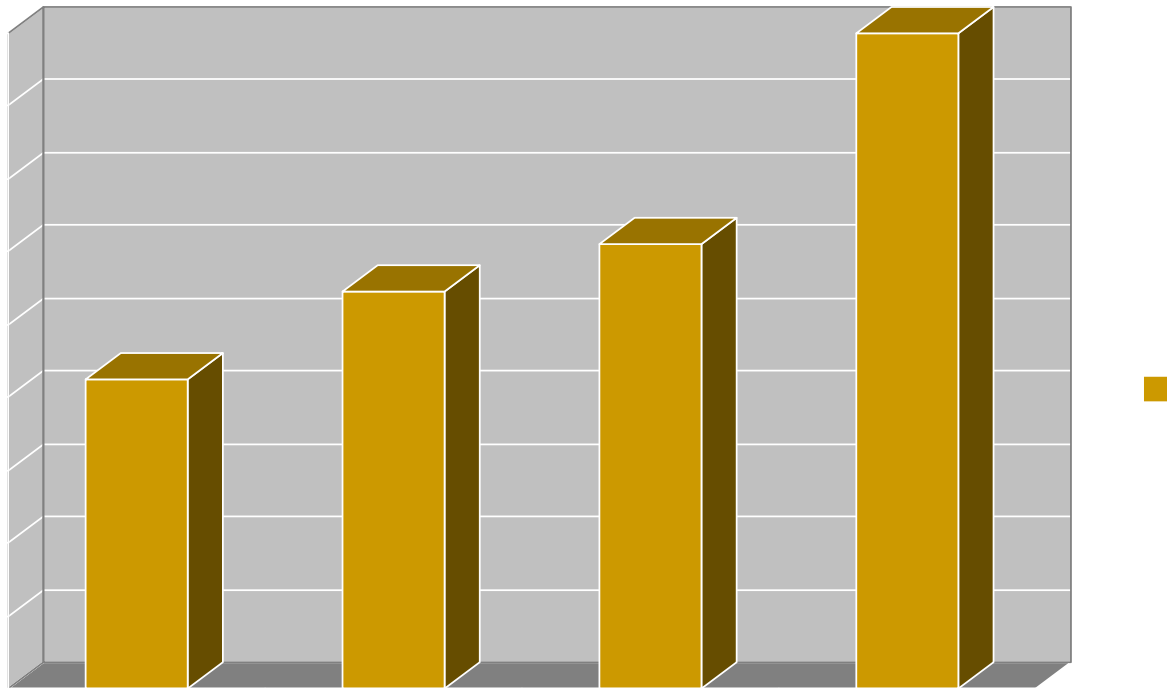
- Smallpox
 - ▣ Also measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, influenza
- No prior exposure to these diseases in western hemisphere or Oceania
 - ▣ No inherited, acquired immunities
- 1519 smallpox in Aztec Empire
 - ▣ Population declines 90% within 100 years (17 million to 1.3 million)

Food Crops and Animals

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- Columbian exchange also increases overall food supply
- Introduction to European animals to Americas
 - ▣ Horses, cattle, pigs, chickens, etc.
- Introduction of American foods to Europe, Asia, Africa
 - ▣ Maize, potatoes, beans, etc.

World Population Growth, 1500-1800 CE



Human Population Movements

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- Enslaved Africans
 - ▣ To South America, North America, Caribbean
- European pioneers

Origins of Global Trade

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- Transoceanic trade in Atlantic Ocean basin
 - ▣ Manufactured goods from Europe
 - ▣ Raw goods from Americas
- The Manila Galleons
 - ▣ 1565-1815 Spanish galleons dominate Pacific Ocean trade
 - ▣ Chinese luxury goods for American raw materials, esp. silver

Environmental Effects of Global Trade

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- Fur-bearing animals hunted to extinction or near-extinction
 - ▣ Also whales, codfish, other animals with industrial uses
- Relentless human exploitation of the natural environment