CHAPTER 2 – EXPLORING THE AMERICAS
EXPANDING HORIZONS

• FROM THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE (AD 500) PEOPLE OF WESTERN EUROPE WERE ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.
  • THEIR WORLD WAS DOMINATED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
  • DIVIDED INTO MANY SMALL KINGDOMS / CITY STATES

• AT THE SAME TIME PERIOD, ISLAM WAS SEEPING ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA
  • THEIR FOLLOWERS ARE KNOWN AS MUSLIMS
  • AS THEIR POWER GREW EUROPEANS GREW FEARFUL OF LOSING ACCESS TO THE HOLY LAND (ISRAEL)

• IN 1095, EUROPEANS BEGAN LAUNCHING A SERIES OF EXPEDITIONS, KNOWN AS THE CRUSADES TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE HOLY LAND.
  • THIS BROUGHT WESTERN EUROPEANS IN CONTACT WITH ARAB MERCHANTS (SPICES, SUGAR, SILK)
MARCO POLO

• IN 1271 SET OFF FROM VENICE ON A TREK ACROSS ASIA TO CHINA
• SPENT 3 YEARS TRAVELING TO ASIA ON CAMELS
  • MADE IT KUBLAI KHAN
  • LIVED FOR 17 YEARS WITH THE MONGOL EMPEROR OF CHINA
• WHEN HE RETURNED HE WROTE OF HIS TRAVELS IN A BOOK CALLED: TRAVELS
  • INSPIRED EUROPEAN EXPLORATION
EXPANDING HORIZONS

• MARCO POLO WROTE A BOOK CALLED TRAVELS, WHICH INSPIRED EUROPEAN TRAVEL (INCLUDING COLUMBUS)

• BUYING GOOD REQUIRED ARAB MERCHANTS TO HAUL THEM OVERLAND BY CARAVAN TO THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND THEN BY SHIP TO ITALIAN PORTS

• EUROPEANS BEGAN LOOKING FOR A ROUTE TO BYPASS THE ARAB MERCHANTS
PRODUCTS THAT WERE IN HIGH DEMAND
RENAISSANCE

• PERIOD OF INTELLECTUAL AND ARTISTIC CREATIVITY
• FRENCH WORD MEANING “REBIRTH”
  • REFERS TO THE RENEWED INTEREST IN CLASSICAL GREEK AND ROMAN LEARNING
• DRAMATICALLY CHANGED THE WAY THE EUROPEANS THOUGHT ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE WORLD
• ENCOURAGED THEM TO PURSUE NEW IDEAS AND SET NEW GOALS
  • EXPLORATION
  • DISCOVERY
POWERFUL NATIONS EMERGE

• EUROPEAN POPULATION WAS INCREASING

• THE SMALL STATES TURNED INTO NEWER CENTRALIZED MONARCHIES RAN BY KINGS AND QUEENS
  • SOUGHT WAYS TO INCREASE TRADE AND MAKE THEIR COUNTRIES STRONGER AND WEALTHIER
  • SPAIN, PORTUGAL, ENGLAND

• MERchants AND BANKERS WANTED TO EXPAND THEIR BUSINESS THROUGH FOREIGN TRADE
  • CUT OUT THE MIDDLE MAN (ARAB MERCHANTS)
BETTER TECHNOLOGY

- Technological advances helped navigators more accurately determine direction/location
  - Better maps
  - Astrolabe
  - Chinese compass
  - Caravel ship
- Enabled sailors to explore new routes (sea route) to Asia
- Also traveled the west coast of Africa
- Spain and Portugal became major exploration states
AFRICAN KINGDOMS

- 3 MAJOR KINGDOMS
  - GHANA, MALI, SONGHAI
  - FLOURISHED BETWEEN (400-1600)
- RICH IN NATURAL RESOURCES
  - GOLD, COPPER, IRON ORE, SALT, IVORY
- ISLAM SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE REGION
- EUROPEANS ALSO TRADED FOR SLAVES
EXPLORATION PROBLEMS OR MISUNDERSTANDINGS

• CURRENT MAPS DIDN’T INCLUDE THE AMERICAS
  • 3 CONTINENTS (EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA)
  • ALL MERGED IN ONE LARGE LAND MASS
• SOME THOUGHT THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEAN WAS ONE LARGE OCEAN CALLED OCEAN SEA
• DIDN’T REALIZE HOW LARGE THE OCEANS WERE
SEEKING NEW TRADE ROUTES

• PORTUGUESE WERE THE LEADERS OF EXPLORATION
  • ALL COUNTRIES SEEKING NEW ROUTE TO CHINA/INDIA
  • ALSO SEEKING DIRECT ROUTE TO WEST AFRICA
• PORTUGUESE PRINCE HENRY SET UP A SCHOOL FOR EXPLORATION
  • TRAIN SAILORS AND SHIPBUILDERS
• QUICKER ROUTE = LESS TIME = MORE TRIPS = MORE MONEY
AFRICAN TRADING

- WEST COAST OF AFRICA CALLED THE GOLD COAST
- EUROPEAN MERCHANTS TRADED FOR GOLD, IVORY, AND SLAVES
EARLY EXPLORERS

BARTHOLOMEU DIAS
• Explored the southernmost part of Africa
• Became known as the Cape of Good Hope

VASCO DA GAMA
• Sailed around the Cape of Good Hope
• Visited East African cities and reached India in 1498
• Reached the port of Calicut, India
NORTH AMERICA EXPLORATION

- Vikings reached North America first
- Established settlements in Iceland and Greenland in the 800-900s
- Leif Erikson explored land west of Greenland known as Vinland
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

- SPONSORED BY QUEEN ISABELLA OF SPAIN
  - AGREED TO SPREAD CHRISTIANITY TO ANY NEW LANDS
  - WOULD RECEIVE A SHARE OF THE WEALTH

- SAILED OFF WITH THREE SHIPS
  - NINA, PINTA, SANTA MARIA

- BELIEVED IN TRAVELING WEST INSTEAD OF AROUND AFRICA WOULD LEAD TO A QUICKER ROUTE TO ASIA
  - BELIEVED THE VOYAGE WOULD TAKE ABOUT 2 MONTHS
  - HIS CREW BECAME WEARY OF THE VOYAGE (TAKING TOO LONG)
  - COLUMBUS THEN ALTERED THE SHIPS LOG TO SHOW THEY HAD NOT TRAVELED TOO FAR FROM HOME
COLUMBUS

- On October 12, 1492 Columbus spotted land
  - We now know he landed in the Bahamas
- Named it San Salvador and claimed the island for Spain
- Didn’t realize he had not reached the West Indies
  - Called the people there Indians
- Made three more voyages and continued to explore the area
  - Hispaniola, Cuba, Jamaica
MORE EXPLORERS

AMERICO VESPUCCI

• MAPPED SOUTH AMERICA’S COASTLINE IN 1499
• HE WAS THE FIRST TO REALIZE THAT SOUTH AMERICA WAS A CONTINENT
• NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA IS NAMED AFTER HIM

FERDINAD MAGELLAN

• FOUND A PASSAGE TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN BY HEADING WEST
• KNOWN AS THE STRAIGHT OF MAGELLAN
• NAMED THE OCEAN – PACIFIC “PEACEFUL”
VESPUCCI’S ROUTE
MAGELLAN’S ROUTE

VOYAGE OF THE VICTORIA

- Magellan sets sail: Aug 10, 1519
- Elcano Returns: Sep 6, 1522
- Magellan killed, April 27, 1521

Map showing the route of Magellan's voyage around the world.