

World History One DBQ:
Global Exploration & Expansion
What were the motivations?



The Following task is based on the accompanying documents 1-9. Some documents have been edited for this exercise. The task is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources and the purpose of the documents and the author's point of view.

Directions:

1. Read the Historical Context & Answer the corresponding worksheet questions
2. Read the Documents & Answer the corresponding worksheet questions
3. Create a Thesis to answer the question presented in the "Task"
4. Write an Essay to answer the question (**The essay requires an outline, Introduction paragraph, 3 supporting body paragraphs and a Conclusion**)
-or- Create a project which will present an answer to the question – (**The Project must still integrate a thesis & three items supporting the thesis & a Conclusion**)

TASK: Analyze the motives that helped start the “Age of Exploration”

Historical Context: The Age of Exploration

The discovery of new trade routes to East Asia and of the Americas widened the imagination and ambitions of Europeans. Exploration created the foundations of a global economy in which the European economy was tied to Asian spices, African slaves, and American silver. A wide variety of goods circulated all over the globe. From the West Indies and East Asia, sugar, rice, tea, cacao, and tobacco flowed into Europe. From the Americas, potatoes, corn, sweet potatoes, and manioc (from which tapioca is made) spread to the rest of the world. Europeans paid for Asian silks and spices with American silver.

The increasing demand for goods and a rise in prices produced more opportunities for the accumulation and investment of money by private individuals, which is the essence of capitalism. Governments also made policies designed to increase national wealth and power also stimulated the growth of capitalism. Governments chartered joint-stock companies to engage in overseas trade.

Improvements in banking, shipbuilding, mining, and manufacturing further stimulated economic growth.

Perry, Peden and Von Laue. *Sources of the Western Tradition*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 1999

*Important notes:

Sponsoring exploration was expensive, but those countries who had money and were willing to risk it were rewarded. The explorers were also rewarded with fame and glory for their conquests.

Since many rulers of European countries were influenced by the Catholic Church they often had an agenda of spreading Catholicism.

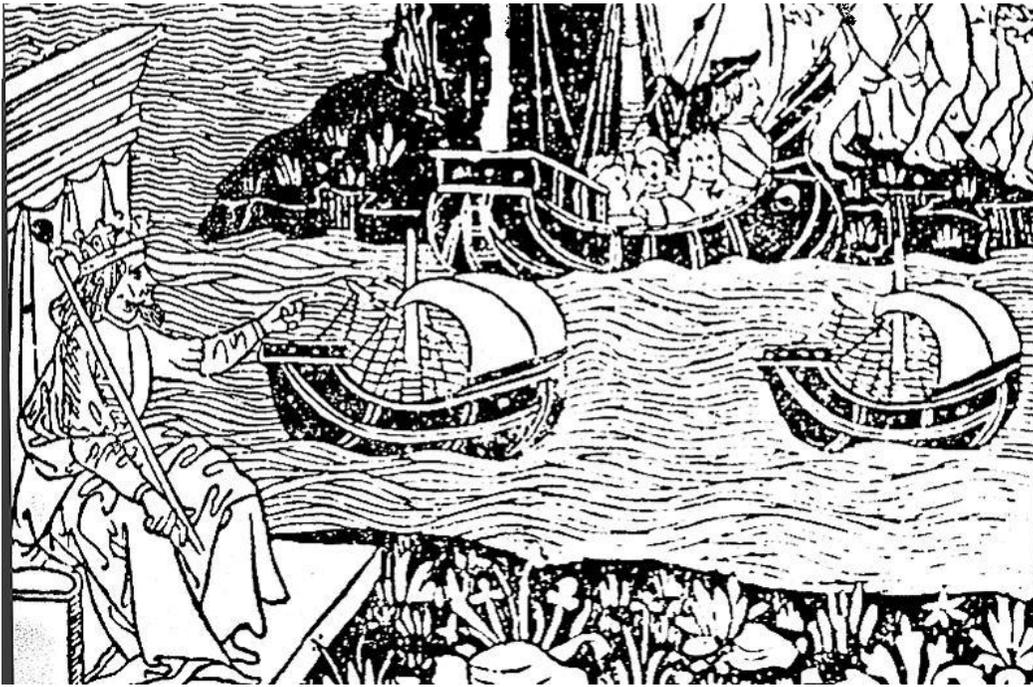
Document #1: Letter of Christopher Columbus to Luis de Saint Angel 1493

These lands had been imagined and talked of before they were seen; most men thought they were just an idle tale.

Because of this voyage their Highnesses will see how I can give them as much gold, spices, cotton, and as many Indian slaves as they choose to send for, if they will give me a little assistance.

The eternal and almighty God, our Lord, gives to all who walk in His way, victory over things apparently impossible. Our God has given victory to our most illustrious King and Queen, and to their kingdoms rendered famous by this glorious event.

Document #2 Woodcut showing King Ferdinand sending off ships



Document #3 Patent given to John Cabot by England's King Henry VII 1492

To find, discover and investigate whatsoever islands, countries, regions or provinces of heathens and infidels, in whatsoever part of the world placed, which before this time were unknown to all Christians.

John and his sons or their heirs and deputies may conquer, occupy and possess whatsoever such towns, castles, cities and islands discovered by them, but, they must pay to us, either in goods or money, the fifth part of the whole capital gained.

Document #4 Writing of Sir Walter Raleigh 1509

The Discovery of the new Western World followed, as an incidental consequence, from the long struggle of the nations of Europe for commercial supremacy and control of the traffic with the East. In all these dreams of the politicians and merchants, sailors and geographers, who pushed back the limits of the unknown world, there is the same glitter of gold and precious stones, the same odor of far-fetched spices.

Document #5 Law of Burgos, 1512 Regulation of the Spanish Crown

Whereas, the King, my Lord and Father, and the Queen, my Mistress and Mother (may she rest in glory!), always desired that the chiefs and Indians of the Island of Española be brought to a knowledge of our Holy Catholic Faith, ... it has become evident that nothing can be done to bring them to a knowledge of our Faith (necessary for their salvation).

Document #6 Amerigo Vespucci meets “America” Theodor Galle, 1575



Document #7 Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico

At the request of the Aztec Prince Ixtlilxochitl, Cortes and his men ate the gifts of food that had been brought to them. They walked into the city, and all the people came to cheer and welcome them. They knelt down and adored them as sons of the Sun, their gods.

Cortez was very grateful; he wished to repay their kindness by teaching them the law of God. He told them the emperor of the Christians had sent him here to teach them in the law of Christ. He explained them the mysteries of Christianity.

He concluded the lesson by telling them how they were not in God's grace, and they were here only to save their souls.

Document #8 Description of Spain's interaction with the colonies in 1559

From New Spain are obtained gold and silver, insects that can be turned into crimson dye, leather, cotton, sugar and other things; but from Peru nothing is obtained except minerals. The fifth part of all that is produced goes to the king. Great quantities of gold and silver used to be out in the open; since all of that is gone gold and silver now have to be mined. The work is hard and the Spaniards are not willing to do the work, Natives who have become Christians are not allowed to be forced to do the work because the Emperor freed them.

So now it is necessary to acquire negro slaves who are brought from the coasts of Africa. Their masters are making them work too hard and giving them too little to eat, they fall sick and the greater part of them die.

Merrick Whitcomb, ed., "The Gold of the Indies — 1559," Translations and Reprints from the Original Sources of European History, The Department of History of the University of Pennsylvania

Document #9 Quote from *Seeds of Change* by Henry Hobhouse

The starting point for the European expansion of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic continental shelf had nothing to do with, say, religion or the rise of capitalism-but it had a great deal to do with pepper...[Pepper] compromised more than half of all the spice imports into Italy over a period of more than a century. No other single spice came within one-tenth of the value of pepper... However, since about 1470 the Turks had been impeding the overland trade routes east from the Mediterranean. As a result the great Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish explorers all sailed west or south in order to reach the Orient. The Americas were discovered as a by-product in the search for pepper."