European Exploration

God, Gold, and Glory
European Exploration

The Mentality

**Mercantilism** - The more money, gold, etc., the better! (ideas about how governments should maintain economies)

**Zero-sum gain** - There is a fixed sum of wealth in the world, and for every winner there is a loser...
Motivations for Exploration

Motivations:

1) Europeans were also looking for new trade routes to India, China, and other places... Why?

2) Europeans were also looking to spread Christianity...
Motivations for Exploration

1) The 3 G’s - God, Gold, and Glory

2) Capabilities (Technology)
1) 3 G’s- God

1-God: Spread the good word!

1492 - Christopher Columbus set out to find new Trade routes to India and China to cut out the middle-men (the Ottomans)

The Ottomans were Muslims...

Every time Europeans wanted to trade with China or India they had to pass through Ottoman trading posts; this meant that they had to give money to the Muslims.

*If money = power, who was getting powerful in this deal?*
3 G’s-God

God:

By Columbus’ time (1492) the last of the Muslim Strongholds in Spain had been defeated, this led to a Shift in European focus...

Pre 1517 - The focus of Europe was fighting the Muslims

After 1517 - Their focus is on spreading Christianity to new lands... you can’t let the heretics get to them first!
3- **G’s- Gold**

2-Gold: They wanted money of their own!

*(Originally they got their money by cutting out the Ottomans from trade.)*

Later, Europeans start looking for resources from the Americas and Africa… not good for the people of either continent!

- **Spain** = South America for silver and gold.
- **England** = North America for natural resources & Africa for manual labor
- **France** = Also North America
3-G’s- **Glory**

3-Glory: For the glory of the king!

A country’s power is directly related to their wealth

If you didn’t get the wealth someone else would!
They would win and you would lose!

(Mercantilism and Zero-Sum Gain)

More Wealth = more power in war!
Victory over your enemies was everything!
2) **Capabilities (technology)**

Capabilities: What allowed the Euros to cross oceans?

By the 1400s Portugal is building good ships, and making accurate sea charts.

Combining old designs together the Portuguese were able to make a small, fast, and maneuverable ship design...

With the use of the compass “borrowed” from the Chinese, the Portuguese are able to navigate well.
Ship Technology

Early Chinese ships had triangle sails, allowing them to cut through wind currents...

Viking ships had square sails to capture the wind...
The Portuguese combined the 2 sail designs to come up with their own design.

This design was later modified by the Spanish... The Galleon...
Europeans set sail

The Portuguese sail down the African west coast, as they do they set up trading stations along Africa’s West coast... these trading stations would later become the origins of the African slave trade.

1492 - Christopher Columbus lands in San Salvador and calls the locals Indians; thinking that he had arrived in India (he thought the earth was 8,000 miles around)...
To the Americas

America Exploration:

American exploration takes place during the 1500s, primarily the teens to 20s.

The Europeans (even with their cannon ships that the Chinese don’t have) don’t have land power, so they can’t conquer the Chinese... yet...

The Americas change all of this!
Colonies for Wealth

America Exploration: The Colonies

Colonies were needed to strengthen the mother country!

A – To produce a valuable commodity, like sugar and tobacco… (tobacco would become the first main export of the Americas)

B – For raw materials to build items back in the mother country.

C – To produce commodities that the mother country can’t make. This will mean that they don’t have to rely on trade or imports.
   - America has tall trees – LUMBER for ship masts!
   - Now Europeans won’t have to rely on Russian lumber.

ALL goods and materials went to the mother country
The Caribbean and Slavery

America Exploration: The Caribbean and Slavery

The Spanish and Portuguese have the ability for colonies first, so they are the first to the Caribbean, primarily for sugar.

The Europeans brought diseases with them that the Native Americans did not have immunities against... this resulted in a genocide...

With no Native Americans to work the sugar fields, where do you find workers?... Their answer was Africa.
Slavery: America Exploration: The Caribbean and Slavery

By 1550 the Portuguese were sending 15,000 slaves per year to the Americas and Europe.

The English, French, and Dutch see profit in this, so they join in...

The west coast populations of Africa act as capturers, they go inland and get slaves to sell.

The central African nations provided the slaves.
  - Wars between tribes resulted in slaves.
  - European guns provided more...
Slavery
America Exploration: The Caribbean and Slavery

The Africans were packed onto ships. The Europeans knew that “X” number of the slaves were going to die, so that packed them in tighter to compensate…
- They planned on losing 20% en route
- Some of these were suicides.

The slaves were first brought to the West Indies in the Caribbean for “seasoning”. Those that survived the tough sugar plantation life were sent to North America.

The average lifespan for an African in the Caribbean was 3 years…
4 Corners Model
The 4 Corners Model

- Provides Resources like lumber, sugar, tobacco...

#4 - North America

- Provides sugar, rum, coffee, indigo, cotton.

Profits from these products drive the system...

#1 - Europe

- Need Resources
- Manufacture goods
- Provide slave ships

- ALL of the profits went to Europe...

#2 - West Africa

- Provides the human labor (slaves).
- Provides gold, silver, ivory, cotton, grain...

#3 - Caribbean