RS Notes: Exploration- The Portuguese and Spanish Phase

Motives

* ***God, Glory, and Gold***:
  + God= Religious motives (spread Christianity)
  + Glory= Political motives (more power and land)
    - Adventure and myth- Fountain of Youth
  + Gold= Economic Motives (make money)
* ***Technology*** made exploration possible
  + Ships are faster and more maneuverable
  + Magnetic compass- find directions
  + Astrolabe- used to observe position of stars
  + Quadrant- measure altitude of heavenly bodies
  + Maps- map-making improved

Portuguese Exploration

* ***Prince Henry the Navigator***
  + Hoped to discover Prester John’s Christian empire by sailing around Africa (conducted research along the way)
* Early Explorations & Discoveries
  + As they moved down the coast of Africa, they brought back gold and slaves
  + Bartholomew Diaz- rounded ***Cape of Good Hope***
    - Opened the way for water voyages to Asia
  + ***Vasco Da Gama***- 1st European to reach India
    - Trading posts quickly established in India
    - 1st trip, Da Gama made 60x his initial investment
  + Discovery of Brazil-1500
    - Pedro Alvarez Cabral discovered it when his ship to India veered off course

Spanish Exploration

* ***Christopher Columbus***-1492
  + Wanted to prove that it was 3,000 miles to Japan (going west)
  + Queen Isabella of Spain sponsored him
  + Mid-October 1492- he landed on Hispaniola
    - Made 3 more voyages and found all of the islands of the Caribbean
* ***Treaty of Tordesillas***
  + 1493- To avoid fighting, the pope divided the “discoveries” between Spain and Portugal
  + 1494- Moved the line west (gave Portugal claim to Brazil)
* ***Magellan***
  + 1st to ***circumnavigate*** (travel around) the globe
  + Left Seville, Spain in Sept. 1519
  + Reach Straits of Magellan (Southern tip of S. America) that October
  + He and 40 crew members died in Philippines- March 1520
    - Rest of crew went to Spice Islands
  + Limped into Seville in 1522
    - Demonstrated that the voyage was possible
    - 1 single cargo of spices paid all the expenses of the entire 2½ year voyage

The “New World”

* Conquistadors
  + Most advanced & complex civilizations in Central & South America=***Aztecs*** & ***Mayas*** (Mexico) and the ***Incas*** (Peru)
  + ***Conquistadors*** = adventurers & soldiers of fortune on a quest for wealth conquered these civilizations
    - ***Hernan Cortéz*** = 1519: led 600 men, 17 horses, a cannon, & some muskets
      * Eventually took the city with 800 more Spaniards & 25,000 native allies; Aztecs surrendered in 1521
    - ***Francisco Pizarro*** & the Conquest of the Incas
      * Invaded Peru with only 180 men, 27 horses, & 2 cannons
      * Incas had 50,000 overconfident troops who thought the “white men’s” weapons were harmless
      * Incan ruler Atahualpá captured, then executed; many natives slaughtered
        + Empire fell apart without Atahualpá

Impact of Colonization

* Spain’s American Empire
  + ***mercantilism*** = idea that colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country
    - Colonies provided raw materials, food, gold, & silver; transported only on Spanish ships
    - Spain sold finished (manufactured) goods back to the natives
* Social & Economic Impact of Colonization
  + ***Changes in society***:
    - Indians placed under new forms of government
    - Required to speak a new language
    - Converted (usually by coercion) to a new religion
    - Culture practically destroyed
    - Exploited & brutalized by a new labor system
  + South American slaughter:
    - Death of millions of natives
    - Murder & carnage of conquest & subjugation
    - Work conditions = long hours in hot sun or below ground in dangerous mines
    - Disease = epidemics such as smallpox (no immunity to European diseases)
* African slavery:
  + 16th century = Africans captured & shipped to replace native populations who were dying off in mines & on plantations
* Economy of the empire:
  + Most important = gold & silver of Mexico & Bolivia
  + Other: sugar, tobacco, coffee, & cotton
* The Pacific trade:
  + Centered in Manila (link between Spanish America & Orient)
  + Main product: silk

