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

