

# History 134: History of Latin America

## History and Latin America

### Colonial Legacies

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# Today's objectives

- Identify some of the key pre-Columbian cultures of Latin America
- Explore what facilitated European expansion into the Atlantic
- Explore the contributions of Africa to Atlantic World
- Explain the factor that have influenced Latin American Demographics

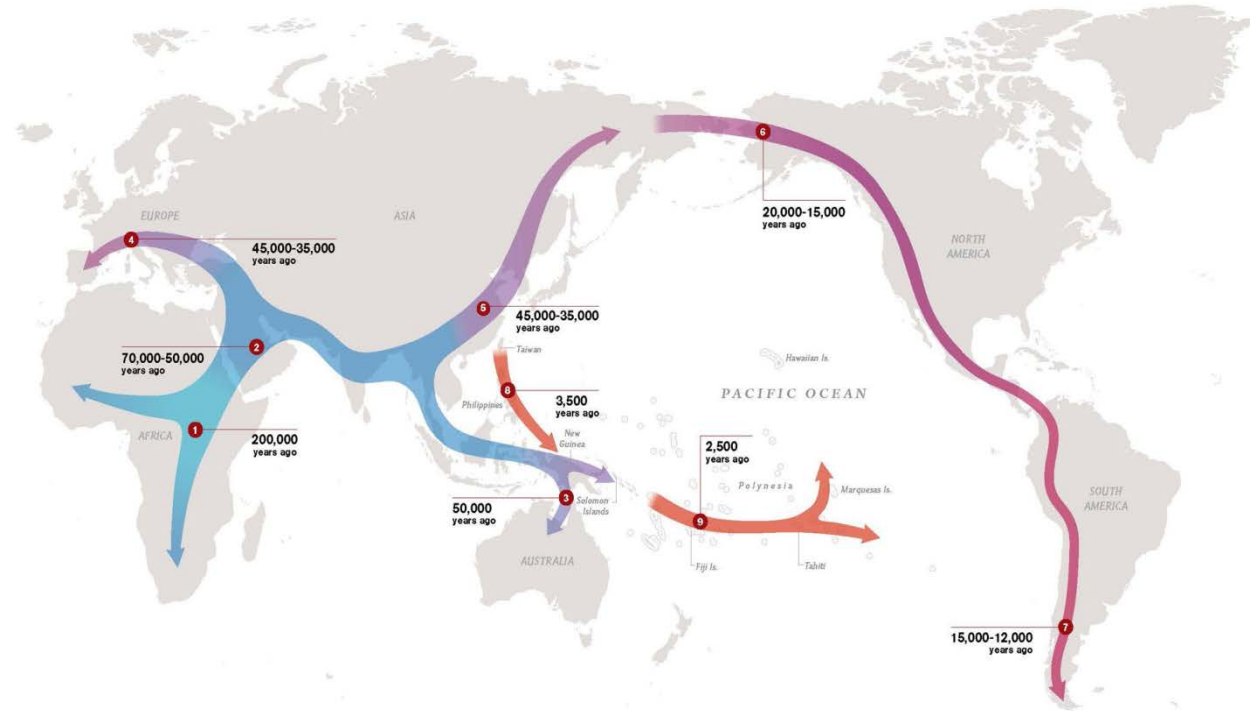




# Early human migration to the Americas

Migrations are estimated to have occurred at about **c. 15,000 B.C.E.**

**Extensification** along with changes in the environment produce a wide range of Native American **cultural areas** and **languages**.





# The transformation of the Americas







# The Taino

The first people Columbus encountered in the Americas were the **Taino**.

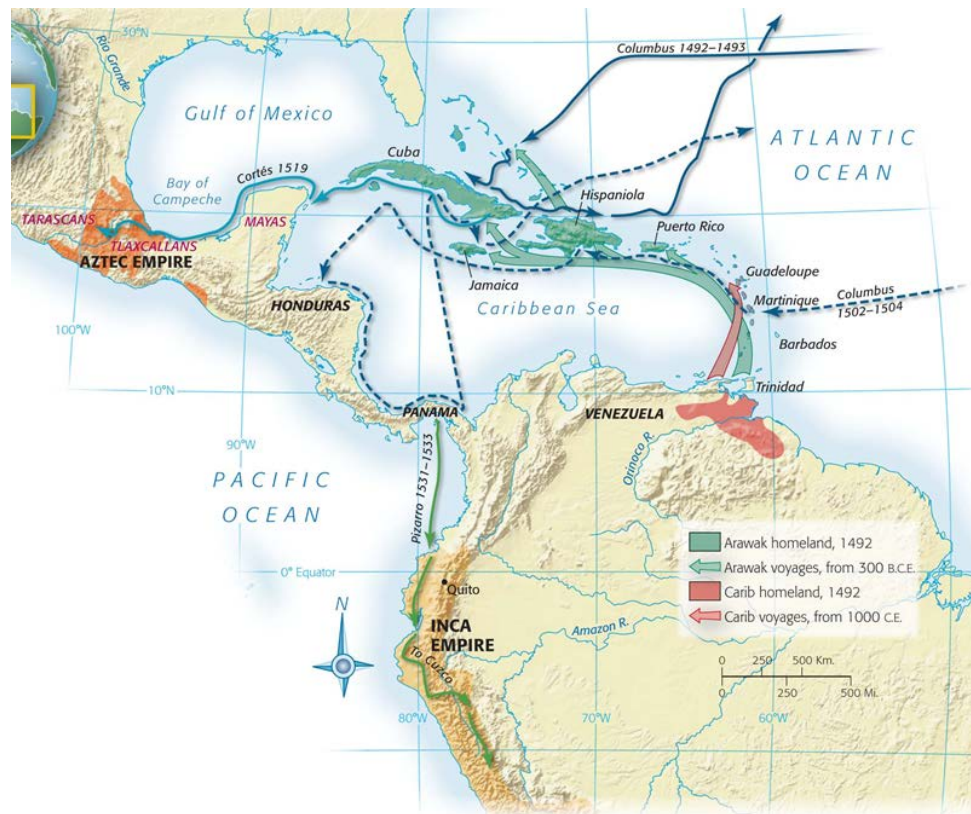
The Taino were a group of related tribes speaking **Arawakan languages**.

Peripheral people to the Taino included the **Island-Carib** and **Guanahatabey**.

The Taino did not have a **writing system**. What writing we do have about the Taino comes from European sources such as **Fray Ramón Pané**: *Account of the Antiquities of the Indians*.

The Taino lived in permanent villages made up of **caney**s (round structures) and **bohios** (rectangular structures).

The population density in larger Taino villages averaged between **1,000** to about **2,000** individuals.



## Taino village





## Taino decline

The highest concentration of Taino population was located on the island of **Hispañiola** (Dominican Republic/Haiti).

European chroniclers estimated that Taino population size in Hispañiola varied from **100,000** to more than **1,000,000**.

We believe that by 1530, the Taino population experienced a demographic crisis: **disease and compelled servitude**.

**Nikolaus Federmann** (1506-1542), a German explorer traveling in the Americas, documented this crisis in his writings.







# The Inca Empire

The Empire of the Inca (1438-1532) was **the largest Native American** state with its political center located in **Cuzco**.

The Inca had complex **social organization**.

The elite sector of society was composed of **lords** who formed the foundation of the Inca state.

They also had administrators such as **Inca Rantin** (inspectors of regions) who were in charge of road construction, bridges, and tambos.

The commoners were made up of **artisans** (weavers, silversmiths, potter), and **hatun runa** (peasant farmers).





## Mita and quipu

Tribute was provided in the form of labor and labor was organized around the **mita**, a system of rotational service.

The Inca did not have a writing system, however, they did have a method of **recording numbers** and **quantities** using a device called the **quipu**.

Some scholars believe that the **quipu** may have also served as a method of recording narratives.

Historians rely on post-conquest accounts for details about the Empire of the Inca. One of these sources includes **Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala's** *New Chronicle and Good Government* (1613).







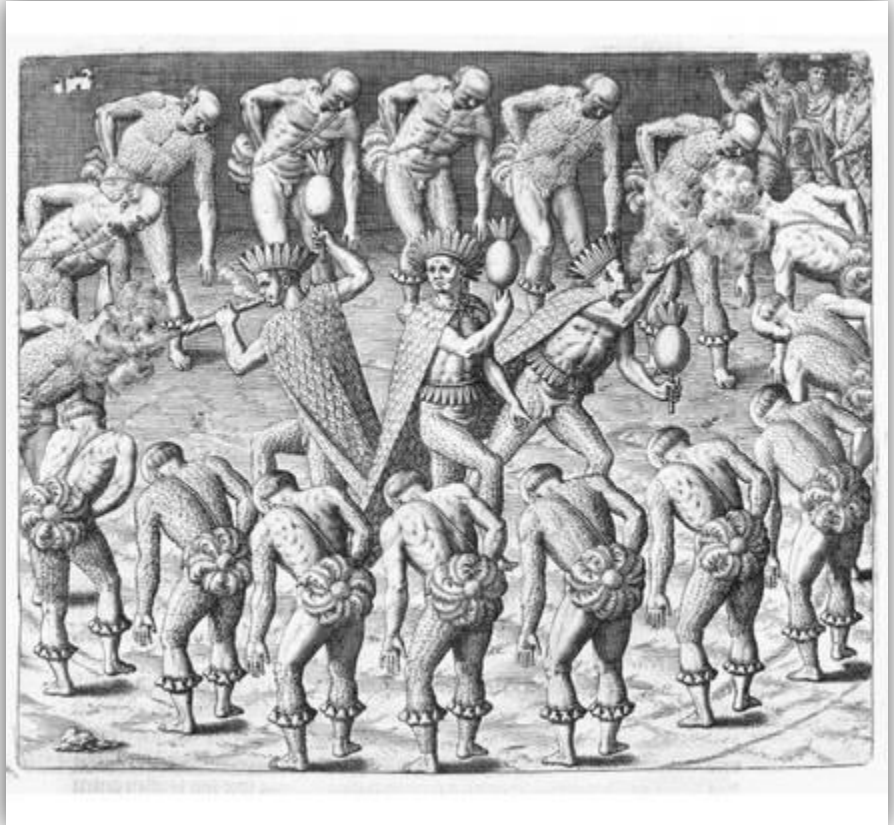


# The Tupínambá

The Portuguese came into early contact with the speakers of *Tupí-Guaraní* in Brazil. The major Tupí-speaking group were the **Tupinambá**.

The Tupinambá practiced agriculture and lived in villages that ranged from **400** to eight **800** inhabitants in size.

The Tunpinambá primary crop was **manioc**, but beans, squash and maize were also grown and consumed. Agricultural practices were combined with hunting and gathering.







## Hans Staden

The Tupinamba economy was **auto-consumption centered** - use as opposed to exchange and profit orientation.

It appears that the Tupinambá may have practiced **ritual cannibalism** and perhaps was a driving force for warfare in the region.

Historians are forced to rely on the written works of Europeans who described the Tupinambá. Once such source is **Hans Staden's** *The True History of his Captivity*. It was first published in Marburg in 1557

Hans Staden was a German soldier who served as a gunner in a Portuguese fort on the coast of Brazil. In 1552, he was captured and was held in captivity for nine months.





## Mesoamerican civilizations





## Undeciphered

- ♦ Quichean
- ♦ Teotihuacano (iconography)
- ♦ Xochicalco
- ♦ Nuiñe



Xochicalco



Teotihuacan

## Lexigraphic

- ♦ Maya
- ♦ Epi-Olmec/Isthmian
- ♦ Zapotec



Codex Dresden



Stela 12 Monte Albán

## Semasiographic

- ♦ Mixtec
- ♦ Aztec



Codex Nuttall-Zouche - Folio 50 enthroned Mixtec ruler, Eight Deer Jaguar-Claw.



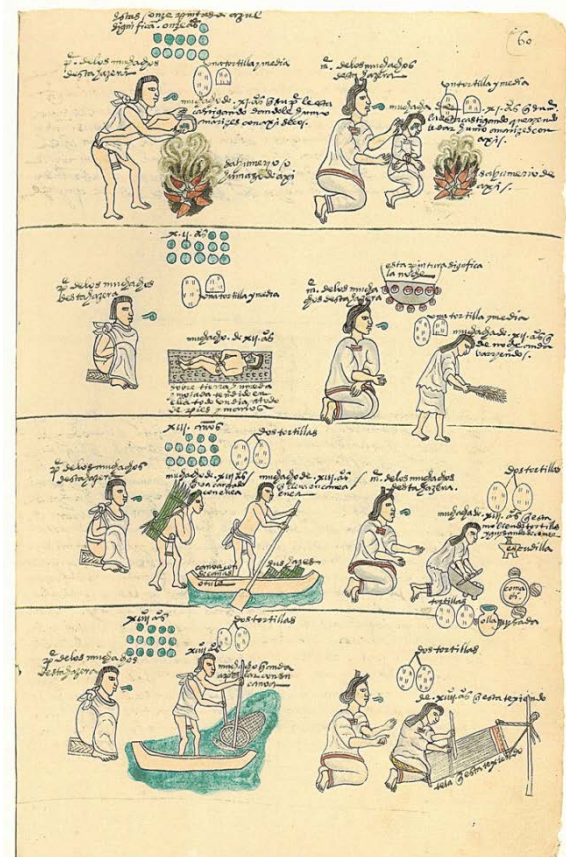
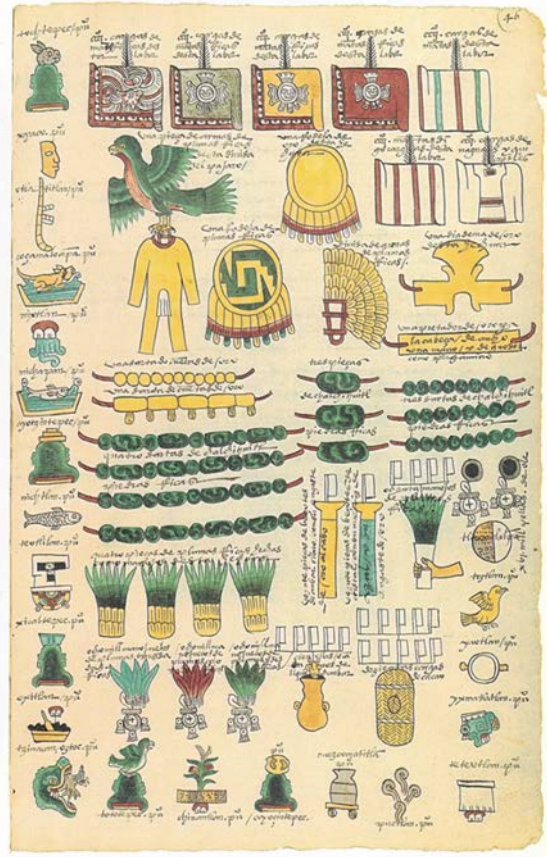
Codex Mendoza - Folio 2r Tenoch

# Mesoamerican civilizations

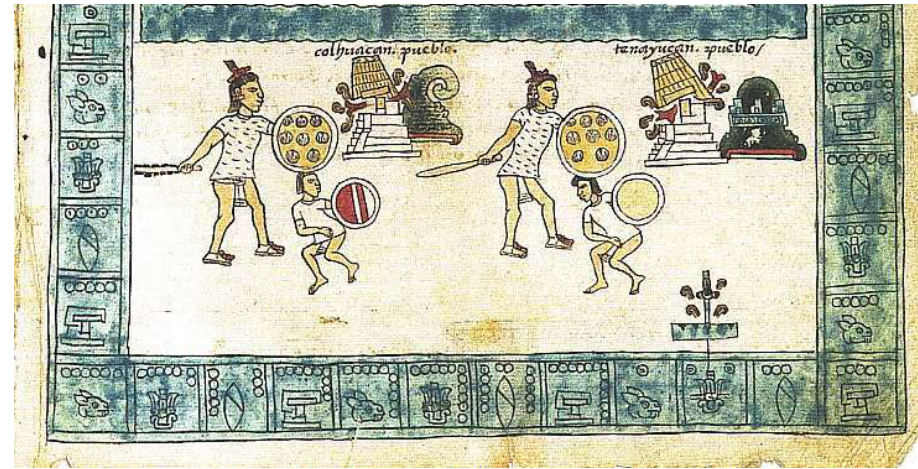
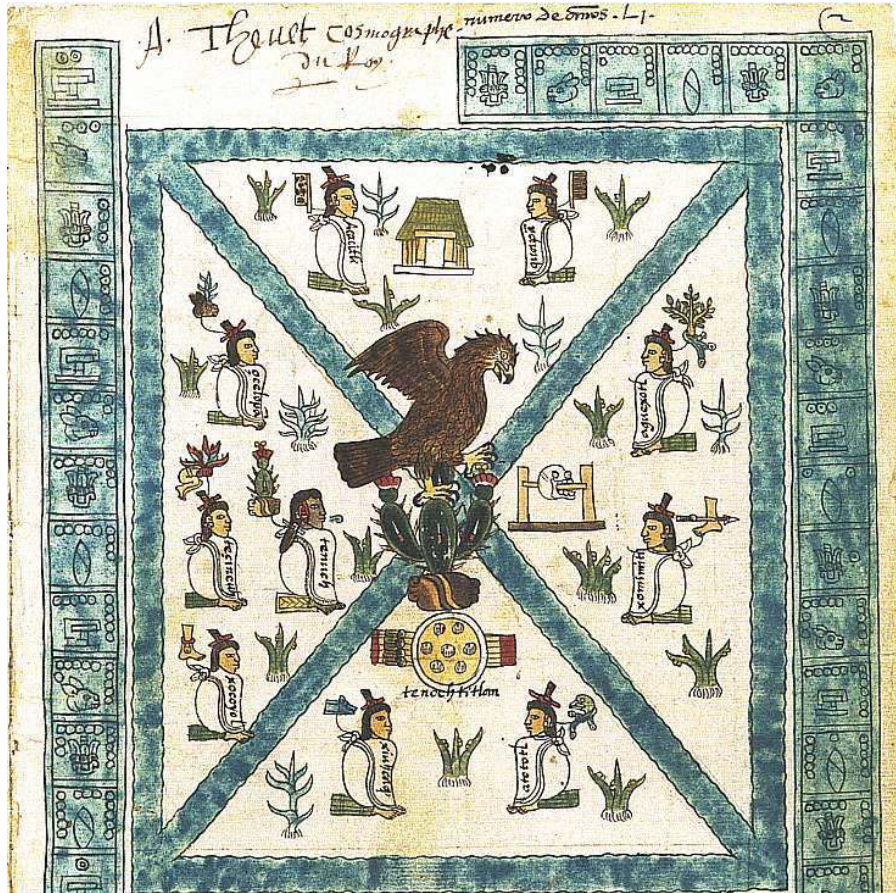




# Empire of the Triple Alliance











# Europe

By the 13th century, Europe had experienced an economic revival created by

The rapid growth of **trade, markets and towns**

The acceleration of **agriculture and craft production**

The evolution of **specialized commercial enterprises and production**

The penetration of **monetary and commercial values into social life**

What facilitated these changes were **innovations in European agriculture**, the political stability brought to Europe by the **Church and secular rulers**, and Europe's **re-establishment of international trade** routes such as those reaching the Levant.

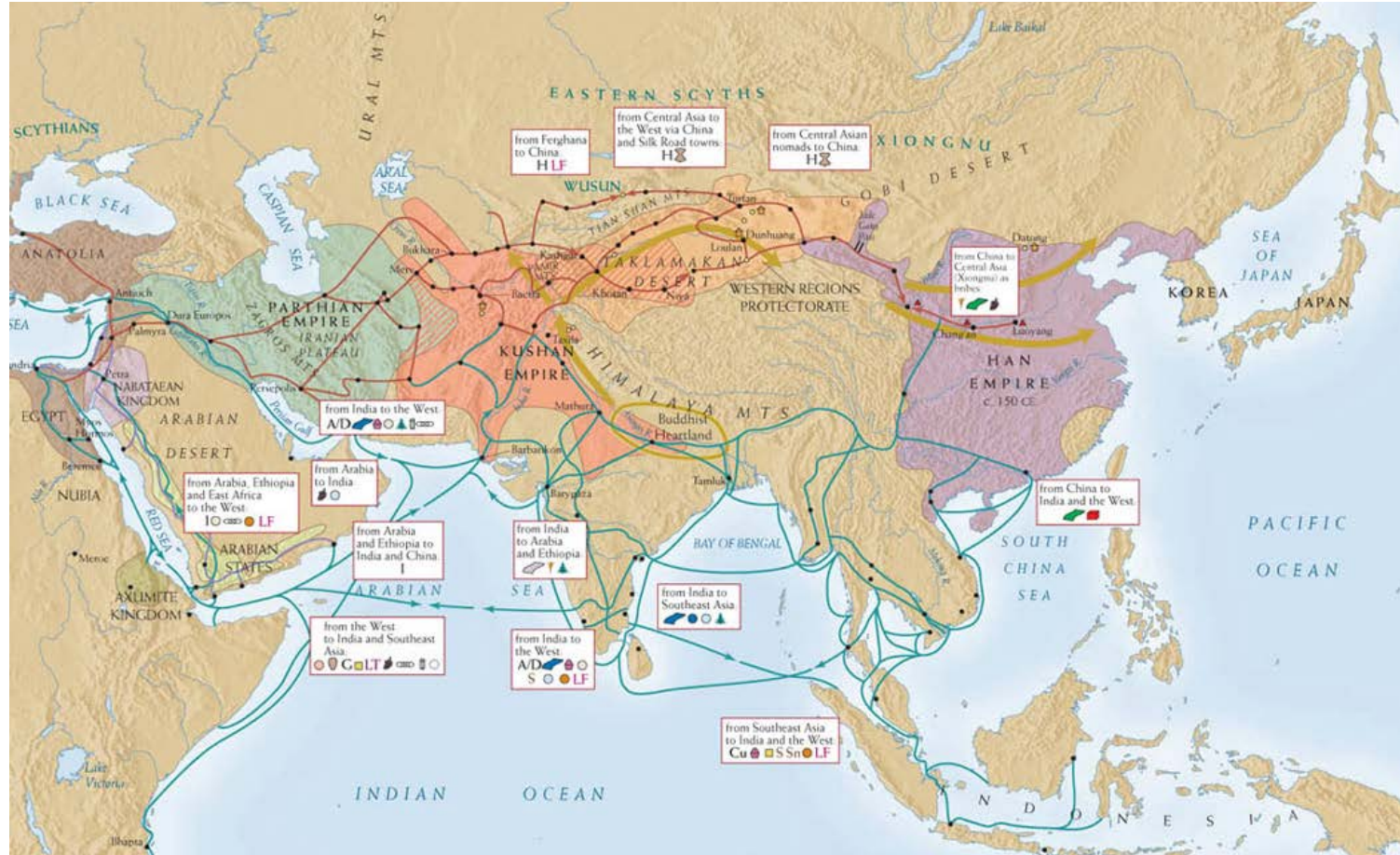


# The transformation of Europe





# The Silk Road



# Europe over time







## 1492 – a year of decision

By 1492, Europe had gone through some major political, economic, and intellectual transformations. These transformations placed Europe in a position to begin the **initiative of expanding** into the Atlantic and creating seaborne empires.

**Politically**, Europe witnessed the rise of **sovereign states**. Rulers who headed these states encouraged the search for resources.

**Economically**, Europe experienced a **commercial revolution** that monetized it. In this economic environment, trade and the **search for markets were crucial**.

**Intellectually**, Europe inherited **Greek and Arabic knowledge** that encouraged observation of the world, that provided the foundations for science, and that opened the door for exploration.



# Europe over time







## The worlds of Columbus

Perhaps it is the person of Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), who according to many historians, is representative of many of the changes noted above. He sought to reach the East in the quest for resources, he secured the backing of one of the **new rising sovereign states** (Spain), and he made extensive use of the new knowledge to formulate his ideas.

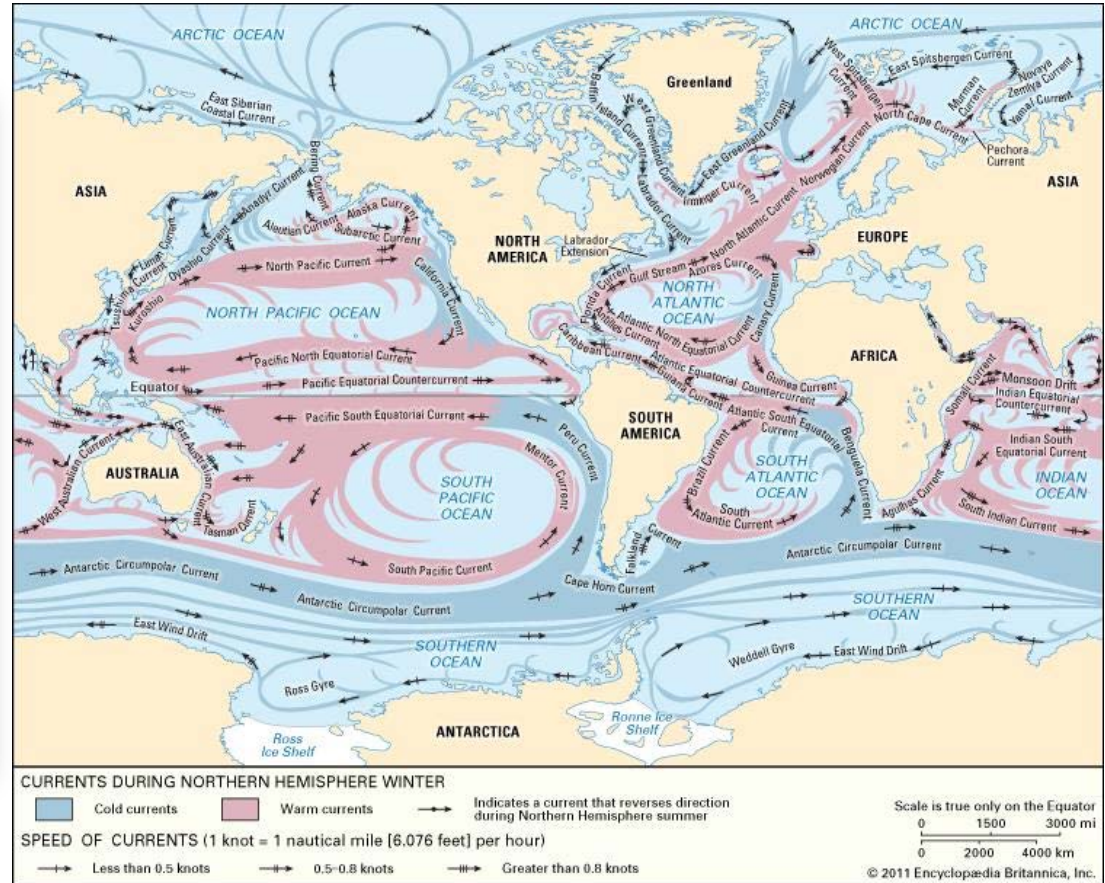
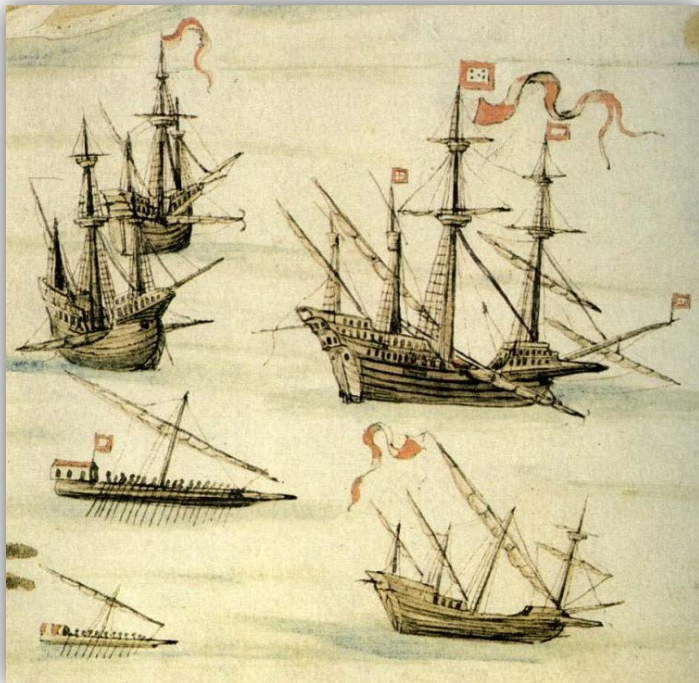
In *The History of the Admiral* (1537-1539), Hernando Columbus noted that his father, like many others in his day, simply **observed nature**.

Hernando also wrote that the authority of past writers also influenced Columbus. These authors included Aristotle, Ptolemy, and Cardinal Pierre d'Ailly (1350-1420) who synthesized a wealth of **geographical knowledge** in a work entitled *Imago Mundi*.

Finally he explained that Columbus gathered information from **seafarers**.

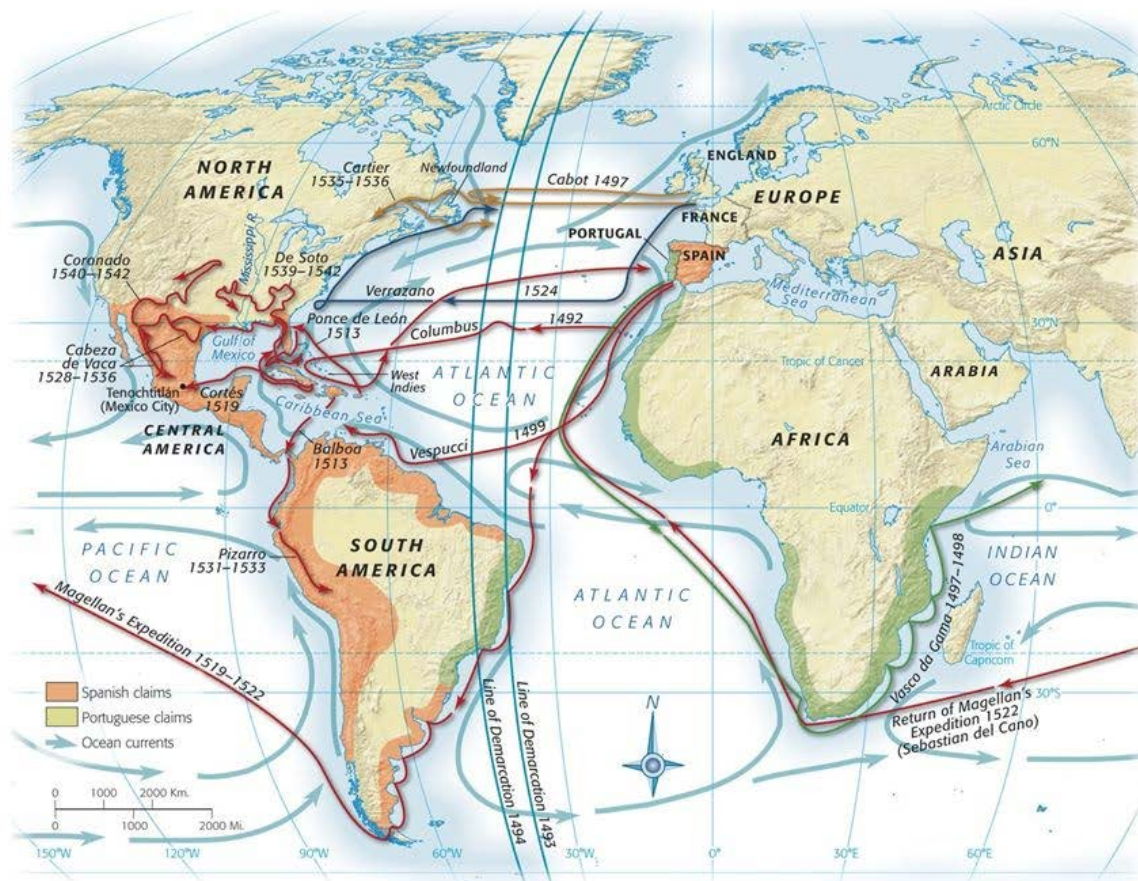


# Crossing the Atlantic





# The two waves of expansion



# Africa

Africa has historically been **conduit for trade**. In the Middle Ages, the focus of trade shifted from the east to the west as sub-Saharan Africa became this region's primary focus of trade.

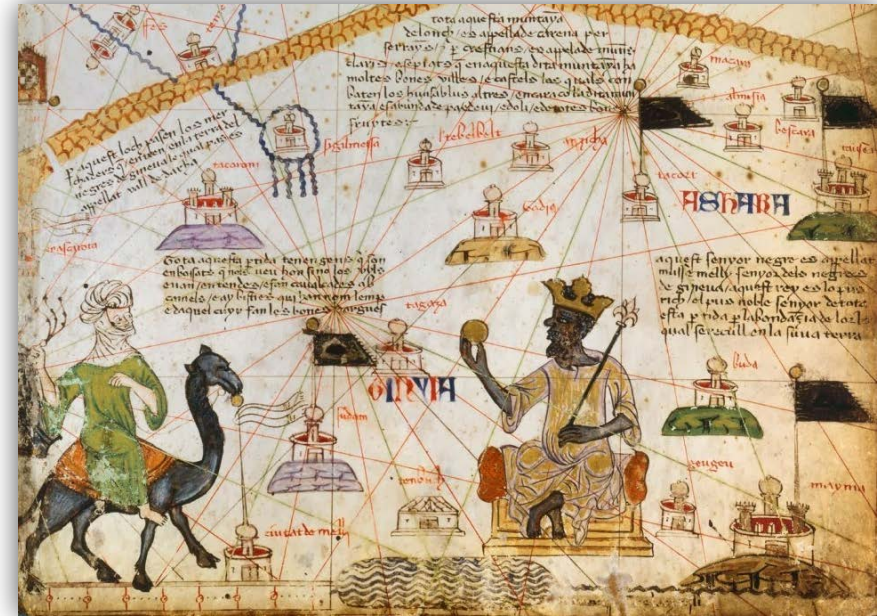
Three principal features influenced the development of Africa between the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries.

First, there was the **spread of Islam**.

Second, the expansion of **trade relations** closely linked to Islam.

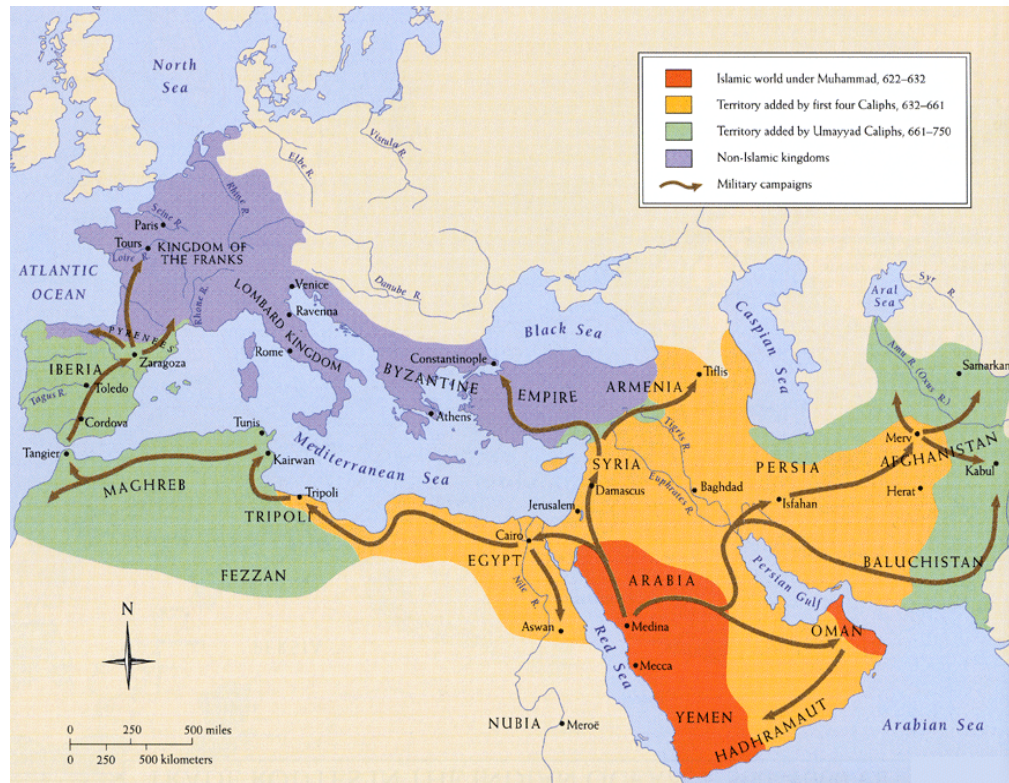
Third, the rise of **kingdoms and empires** throughout the region.

One the most important trading empires to develop in this region was **Mali**.

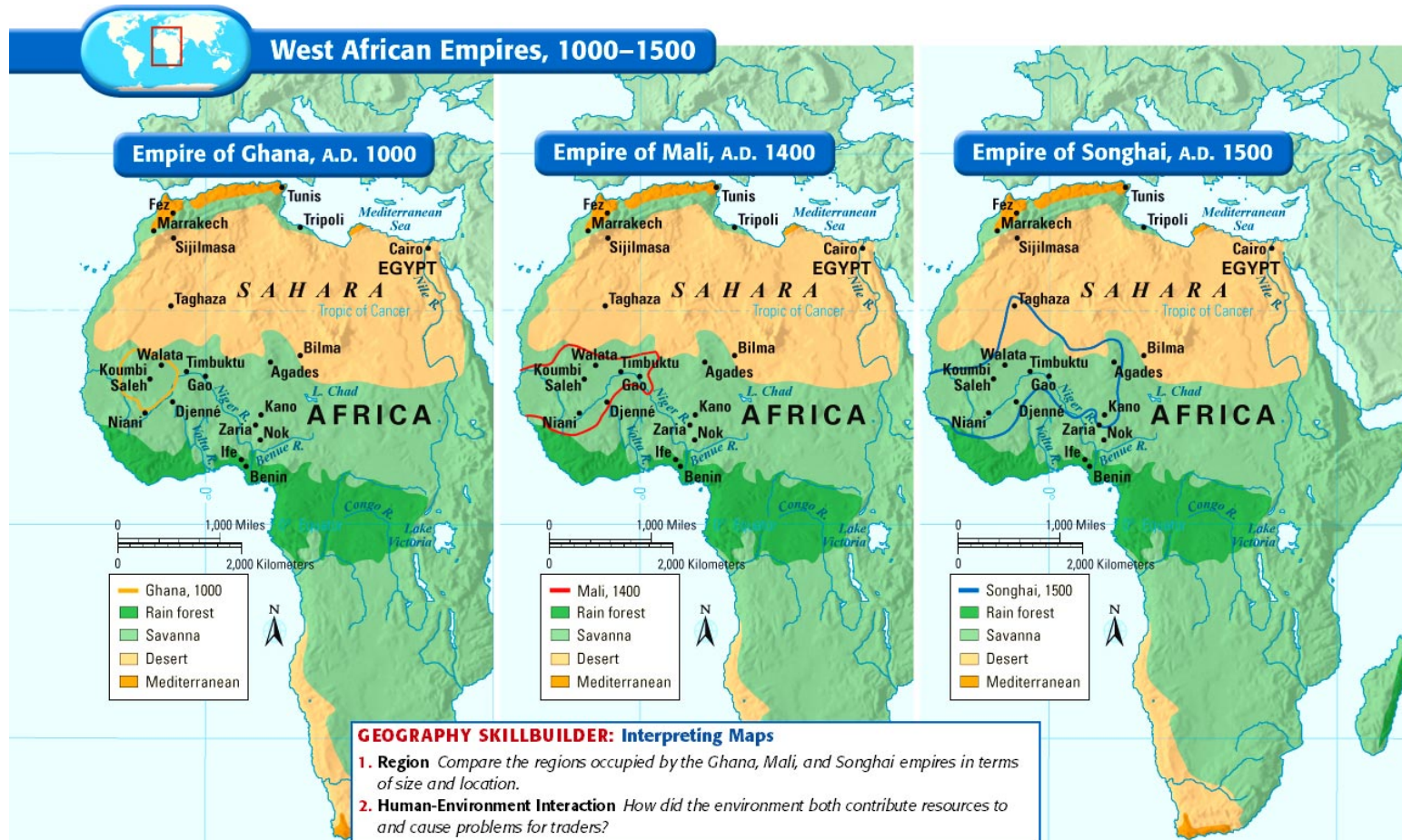




# The spread of Islam



# The trading empires of Africa







## The lure of Africa

By the 1300s Europeans were very interested in reaching sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, it was the Geonese, Catalans, Castilians, and Portuguese who sought to tap into the **gold trade** leaving this region.

Under the leadership of **Prince Henry the Navigator** (1394-1460), the Portuguese began to probe into the Atlantic and to explore the coast of Africa.

What facilitated Portuguese exploration of this region was the **intellectual revolution** experienced by Europe and **innovations in ship technology**.

The naval encounters between Portuguese and Africans dictated that **trade relations, and not conquest and colonization**, were to be pursued.

These encounters moved the Portuguese to establish **trading forts** (*feitorias*) along the west coast of Africa.





## The rise of the Plantation Complex

The plantation complex is defined as an "**economic and political order centering on slave plantations.**" It dominated the Caribbean, parts of North America, and Brazil.

The origins of the plantation complex can be traced to the **Middle Ages**. The plantations that evolved from the fledgling sugarcane industry in the Middle Ages served as precedent for plantations established in the Americas.

Muslim merchants were the first to introduce sugarcane from **Southeast Asia** into the Mediterranean world.

Attempts to grow sugarcane were made in **Palestine** in the 12th century, and in **Cyprus** and in **Malaga** by the 14th century.







## The fusion of slavery and sugar

The **Atlantic Islands** (Madeira, Cape Verde) occupied by the Portuguese also served as a **testing ground** for growing sugarcane.

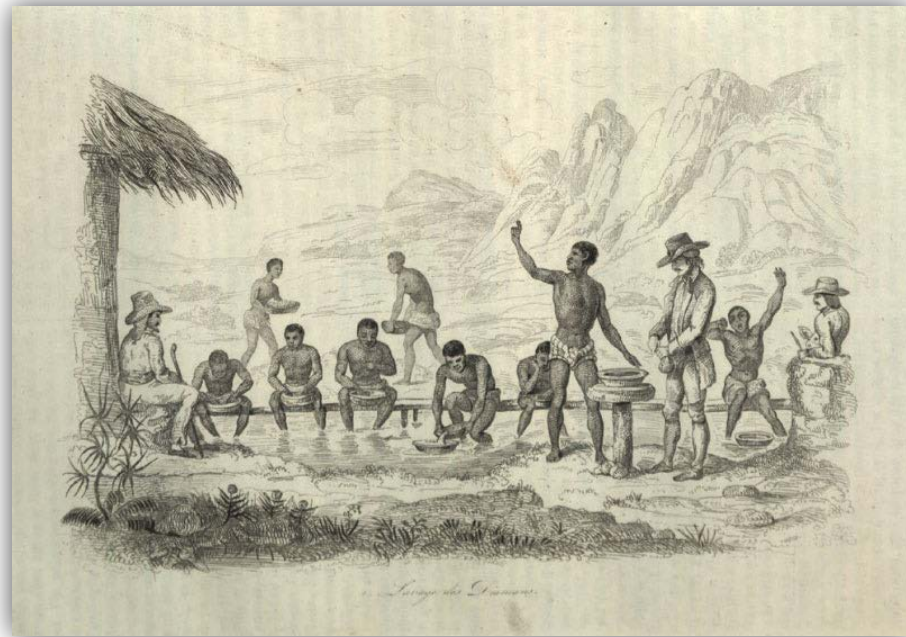
A second set of islands administered to by the Portuguese served as a testing ground for the **union of sugarcane production and African slavery**. Keep in mind that sugarcane production was labor intensive.

The Portuguese had the land, however, they did not have the labor. Africa would be their source for labor.

The island of **Sao Tomé** (1471) in particular served as an ideal testing ground for this union.

In 1516, **4,000** slaves were brought to Sao Tomé to work on plantations.

By 1550, it is estimated that **50,000** slaves had been brought to this island.



# Changing demographics in the Americas

