DISCOVERY, RECONNAISSANCE, AND EXPANSION
INTRO TO THE AGE OF DISCOVERY (1450-1650)

- **Age of Discovery**
  - Advances in geographical knowledge and technology

- **Age of Reconnaissance**
  - Preliminary exploration of the world

- **Age of Expansion**
  - European migrations
    - Economic exploitation
    - Religious domination
    - Spread of European lifestyle
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

- Provides the transition from a medieval agrarian economy to a modern commercial and industrial capitalistic economy.
- Transfers the commercial activity in Europe from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic seaboard.
THE MOTIVES FOR EXPLORATION

- Turkish dominance of Mediterranean
  - Shifted trade to the Atlantic
- Renaissance curiosity about the unknown!
  - Ethiopian kingdom of Prester John
- “God, Glory, and Gold”
  - “Religion supplies the pretext and gold the motive”
THE MEANS OF EXPANSION

- Centralized monarchies
  - Had the revenue to finance overseas exploration

- Technology
  - Caravel
    - Triangular lateen sails and the sternpost rudder
  - Cannon
  - Magnetic compass
  - Astrolabe

- Advances in learning
  - Cartography
    - Ptolemy’s Geography
    - Portulans
  - Atlantic wind patterns
PORTUGUESE EXPLORATION – “EASTWARD”

- Prince Henry the Navigator
  - Exploration of the West African coastline
  - 1500 – Controlled the flow of Gold to Europe
- 1488 – Bartholomew Diaz rounds the Cape of Good Hope
- 1498 – Vasco da Gama arrives at Calicut, India
  - “Christians and spices”
BATTLE FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN

- End to the Arab domination of Spice trade
  + Blockaded the Red Sea
  + Established a headquarters at Goa
  + 1511 – Seizure of Malacca in Malaysia
    - From here, expeditions launched to Spice Islands and China
    - “Christ was borne on cannon balls”
- Lisbon becomes the European gateway for Asian spices
Christopher Columbus
- Why not just sail west?
- Landed in the Caribbean in 1492
  - Spain soon learned that they did not yield GOLD!

1503 – Mundus Novus
- Amerigo Vespucci is the first to characterize Columbus’ discovery as the “New World”

1519 – Magellan
- Proves the world is round
- Proves the world is a lot bigger than expected
TREATY OF TORDESILLAS (1494)
WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

- Spanish Conquest
  - Its administration
  - Its impact on the conquered and the conquerors
- Northern European Exploration and Colonization
  - Impact of the Commercial Revolution