

# Class 1 - World History

Era before mid 18<sup>th</sup> c

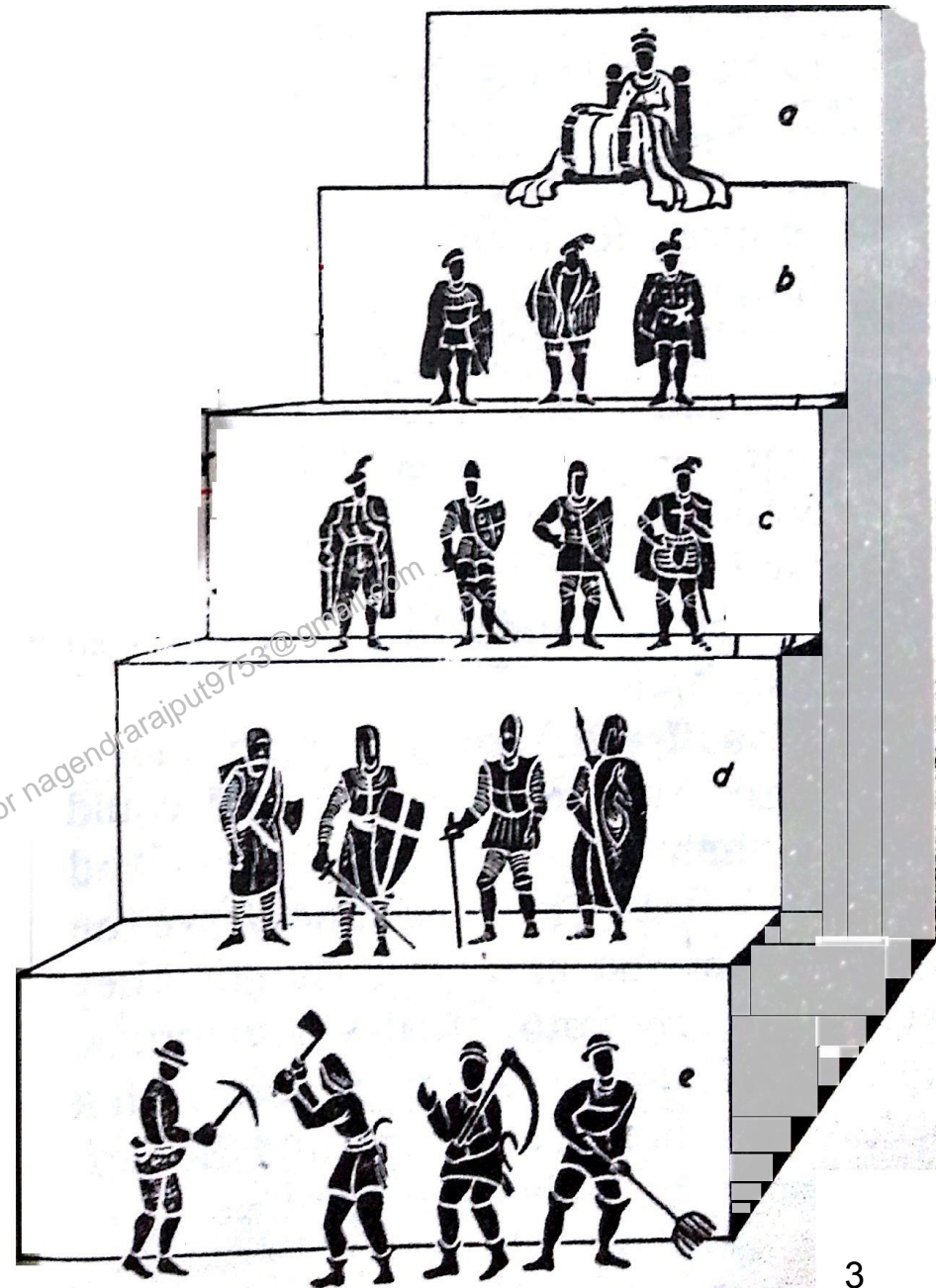
# Feudalism

## Medieval period (600-1500 AD)

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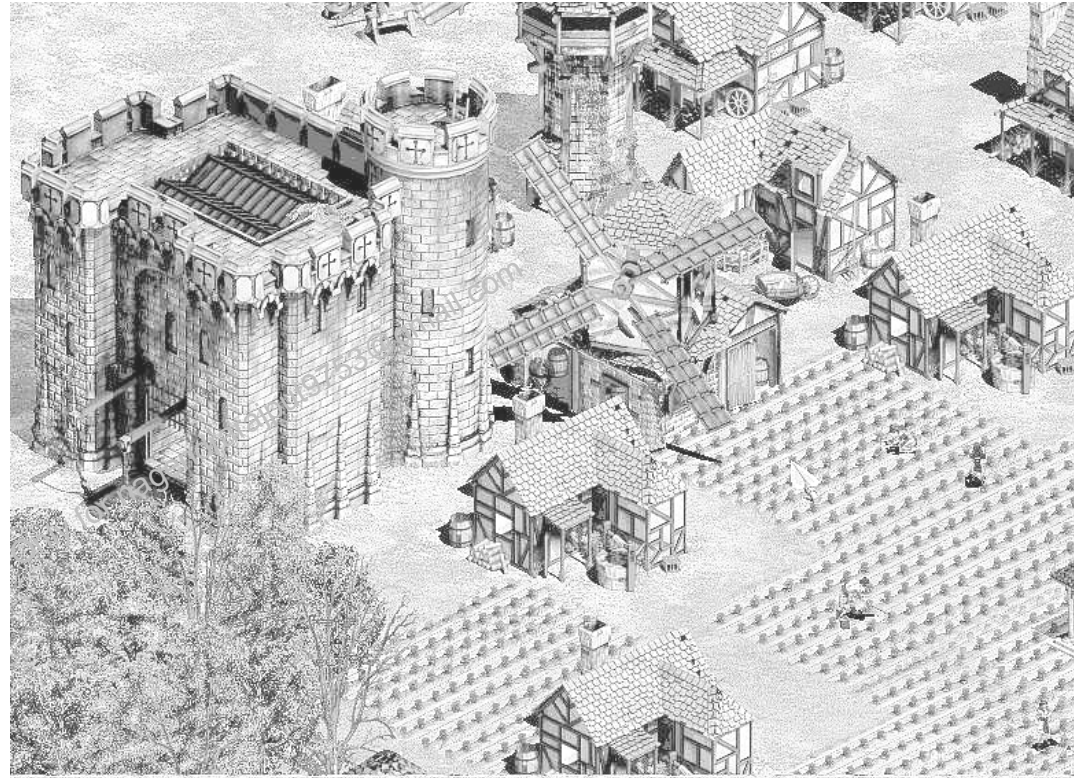
# "Social" and Economic System

- King, Noblemen
- System of Vassal
- Land in name of overlord
- Hierarchy became Hereditary
- Result
  - Rigid Classes
  - Economic & Social Stagnation
  - Masses tied to land
- **One feature that marks decline of Feudalism:** over time the Knights started 'paying' the Feudal Levy instead of actually fighting & raising army. Hence paid mercenaries made up the army as <> Lords.



# Social and “Economic” System :

- Land was source of power
- The Manor
  - Land owned by lord
  - Peasants were
    - Serfs
    - Freeholders
    - Villeins
    - Freeman



- Let us come to the term *feud*
- *Features:*
  - ***Exploitation of Peasants:***
    - *Serfdom & high taxes for Freeholder*
  - ***Economy:*** *Rural, Agrarian, Closed & not Cash Based*
  - ***Polity:*** *Lack of Central Political Authority*
  - *Real Power Centres: Church & Nobility*

## Church In the Middle Ages (600 AD to 1500 AD)

- Christianity was adopted by Roman Empire
- Pope more powerful than Kings by 6th Century
- Corruption in Monasteries
- Money for **posts**
- Money for **Rituals**
- Letters of **Indulgence**
- Rich Clergy
- Wandering Monks
- **Education** meant Lela & career meant Monkship
- Once a year confession compulsory else punishment
- Church became **violent-Heresy** when its propagated principles to “glorify” God were challenged.



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# Emergence of Trade, Towns and Cities



Trade began due to:

- » Crusades of 7th Century exposed to luxury of East i.e. Arabs [7<sup>th</sup> ce Islam begins in Arabia & Quran documented. 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> proper crusades began]
- » Increase in agri productivity made peasants buyers of non-agri goods
- From 11th CE emergence of Towns (whr crafts were produced), Trade, Crafts
- Artisan class came into existence
- Merchants settled in Towns which expanded to Cities along land based trade routes or around ports. Italy saw maximum development (Genoa & Venice) due to location & natural harbors.



- **Guilds** came into existence to harness specialisation in crafts & high dmd.
- Emergence of **strong Merchant Class**
  - Towns freed themselves from Feudal control
  - Developed own Govt, Militia, + Money based Economy
  - Towns attracted hinterland peasantry that -> domestic demand in towns
- **Transition to Capitalist Economy** coz of Money based society in towns
  - Cash based economic system was introduced
  - Land now used for **Cash crops**- to provide RM for NonAgriGoods
  - Money came to symbolize wealth instead of gold/silver. Profits in money could be reinvested unlike idle gold/silver. Such wealth is called Capital.
  - Town became centre of economic activity as against village as now main economic activity shifted away from agriculture to trade.

- **King Merchant Nexus** developed coz desired less interference from Church & reduced dependence on Lords.
  - King instead of relying on Lords, got paid mercenary army with merchant gold i.e. by taxing Urban centres.
- the **Peasant revolts** in hinterland (1300s) against Church & Lords.
  - Propagated religious doctrines at variance with Church
  - Reason in Br: **Wages fixed low** by law coz after **Black Death** killed half of population of Br, the labor was scarce. Thus peasants demanded higher wages to work in Manors and revolted.
- Thus began decline of Feudal system & beginning of **Renaissance**. Thus by end of Middle ages Feudalism began declining and completed its fall only by 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> c.

# Modern Era: 1500AD+

- **Renaissance**

- 14th to 17th-began in Italy. Term means **ReBirth**
- **What was it?** Movt to revisit old scriptures to achieve past glory because like today there was no SnT & old scriptures were the only road to happiness.
- **Goal?** Happiness on earth & not Peace after Death
- **Means?** Focus on **Humanism & REASON**
  - Study of Man & Nature & not Theology
  - Human Rights, dignity & potential of Man were focussed
  - Rationality & Reason was focussed
- **Impact?** : Rise of local European **languages** which were basically different dialects of Latin & this led to national consciousness
- Invention of **Printing Press** in 15th CE

- **Reformation** (16th CE)
  - **Protestant Reformation** (only faith is enough, no need for Rituals & Procedures)
    - Setting up of Protestant Churches- E.g. pioneer Martin Luther with support of King in Prussia.
    - **Principle**- Reason more important than Religion
    - **Nationalism** led to decline of Roman Church authority
    - Discarded Latin & used common **languages**
  - **Catholics Reformation**
    - Jesuits setup in Spain to win back followers & setup missions in India Africa China America
  - **Religious wars** started and in England they got merged into politics through English Civil War (1642-51)

- Voyages of Discovery (began at end of 15th CE)
- Colonialism began

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- Rise of Absolute Monarchies
- **English Civil War (1642-51)**
  - Against absolute rule of King Charles I
  - Against divine right of King
  - Against taxes by King w/o P approval
- **Result:**
  - King Charles I was executed
  - Monopoly of Church in England ended
  - Now King could not rule without consent of Parliament

### **Glorious Revolution of 1688**

established supremacy of Parliament as Parliament appointed King for 1st time

### **Magna Carta (1215)**

Commoners & Lords both were represented in P

## 1] Definition of Colonialism:

- Establishment, Exploitation, Maintenance, Acquisition, & Expansion of colonies in one territory by people from another territory.
- It is a set of unequal relationships
  - b/w Colonial Power & Colony
  - & b/w Settlers & Indigenous people

## 2] How did Colonialism happen?

### •2.1] Role of Explorations:

- Background: 13th CE Marco Polo discovered China
- **Huge Monetary Profits:** eg Venice became main port for Spice Trade with India
- **Role of Geog:** Monopoly of Sea Spice Route by Venice forced other EU powers to buy Spices at high prices
- **Ottoman blocked route in 1453** after defeating Byzantine->quest for new route

# Silk & Spice Trade Routes







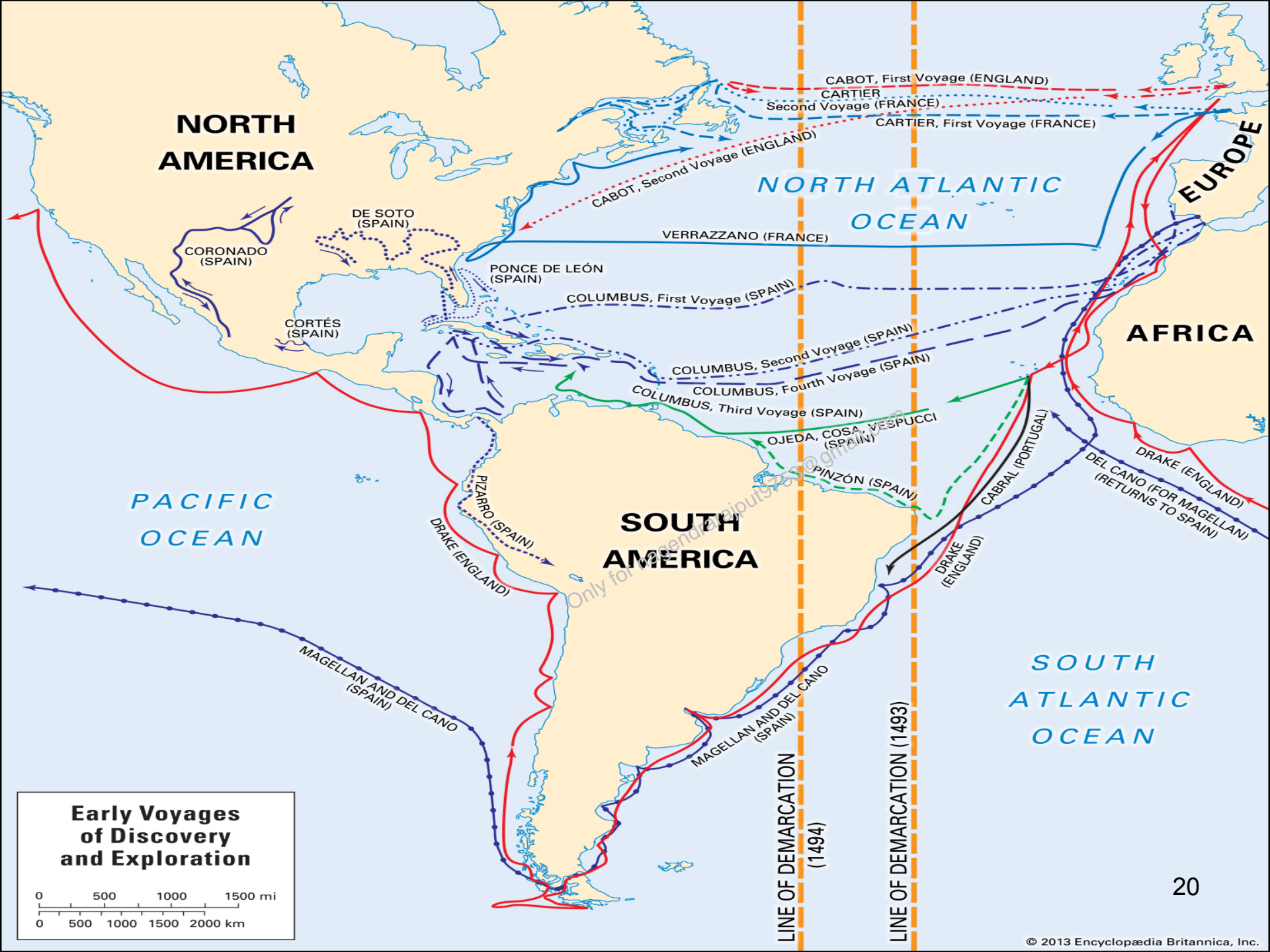
## 2] How did Colonialism happen?

### 2.2] The technical innovations:

- Compass (direction)
- Astrolabe (location)
- Art of Mapping
- Better Ships

All this led to better knowledge of sea (weather patterns, route maps)

- » 1492: Columbus: Haiti/ Americas
- » 1498: Vasco Da Gama- India
- » 1500: Amerigo(Sp) South America
- » Portuguese discovered Philippines & China



**NORTH  
AMERICA**

**NORTH ATLANTIC  
OCEAN**

**EUROPE**

**AFRICA**

**PACIFIC  
OCEAN**

**SOUTH  
AMERICA**

**SOUTH  
ATLANTIC  
OCEAN**

**Early Voyages  
of Discovery  
and Exploration**

0 500 1000 1500 mi  
0 500 1000 1500 2000 km

LINE OF DEMARCATION  
(1494)

LINE OF DEMARCATION (1493)

## 3] Spread of Colonialism

- Profits led to race for exploration & Sp,  
Portugal were joined by Dutch, Br, Fr
- **Determinants of success in Colonial era**
  - **Sea Power:** Merchant fleet, Navy,  
Domination of sea routes, Ports of Call
  - thus Pr and Sp replaced Italy but later  
Dutch, Fr, Br

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# 3] Spread of Colonialism

## 3G, Loot & Plantation Systems

- (Sp looted Incas (Peru) & Aztecs (Mexico)
- Plantation System introduced in Brazil by Pr)

**New commodities in EU:** Tobacco (Cuba),  
Potato, Maize, Spices

## Era of Mercantile Capitalism:

- Establishing of Trading Posts,
- attacking merchant vessels,
- trade barriers,
- blocking trade routes,
- special trading rights

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## 4] Slave Trade:

**Slave trade** was started by the Portugal in Brazil, Sp in Haiti, Florida, Mexico, Chile & other Coastal South America

- For labour on Plantation Systems for Sugar, Tobacco, Cotton
- Trans-Atlantic/Triangular in nature.
- From Individual Merchants in late 15th to Cos by end of 16th CE

• **Did Industrial Revolution increase Slave Trade?**

• **Slavery Abolishment**-Fr (1789), Br(1833), US(1865).



