

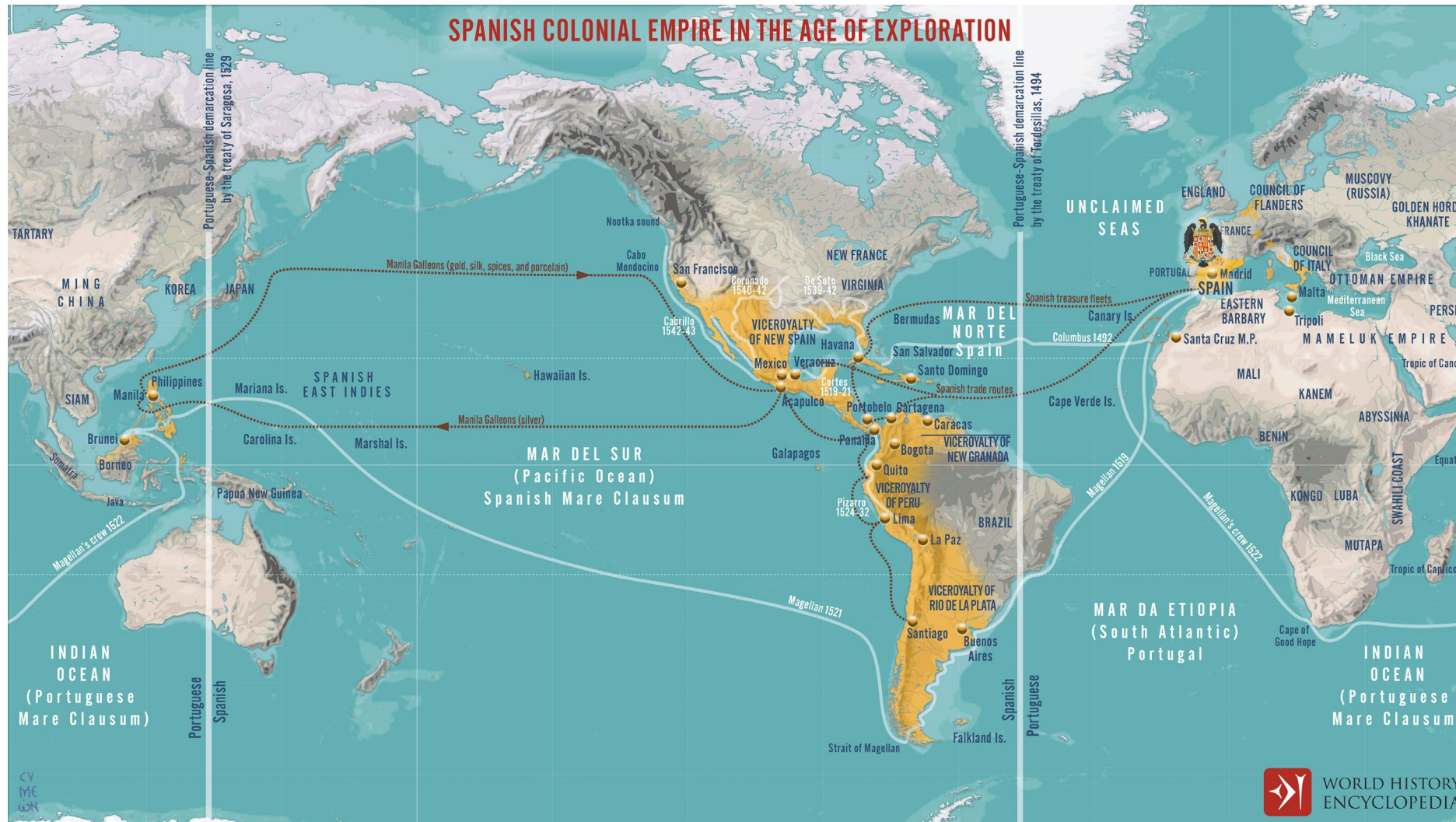
Europe and the World: Notes from the Iberian Peninsula



1492

- Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

- Sailed from Puerto de Palos Moguer, south of Spain.
- Arrived on one of the Islands of Bahamas in 1492.
- He thought he had arrived in India
- Named it San Salvador.
- Claimed it for the king and queen of Spain



King Ferdinand I of Aragón (1452-1516) and Queen Isabella I of Castile and León (1451-1504)



Relief with gilt and polychromy by Alonso de Mena, 1632; in the Capilla Real, Granada, Spain

- Monarchs of Spain.
- Sponsors of Christopher Columbus.
- They were at the forefront of the colonization and exploitation of Indigenous lands and people in the Americas.
- They completed what was known as the Reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula in 1492.
- They completed the Reconquest by defeating the last Moslem King, Boabdil and taking over his kingdom- Granada- in the south of Spain.

The Reconquest



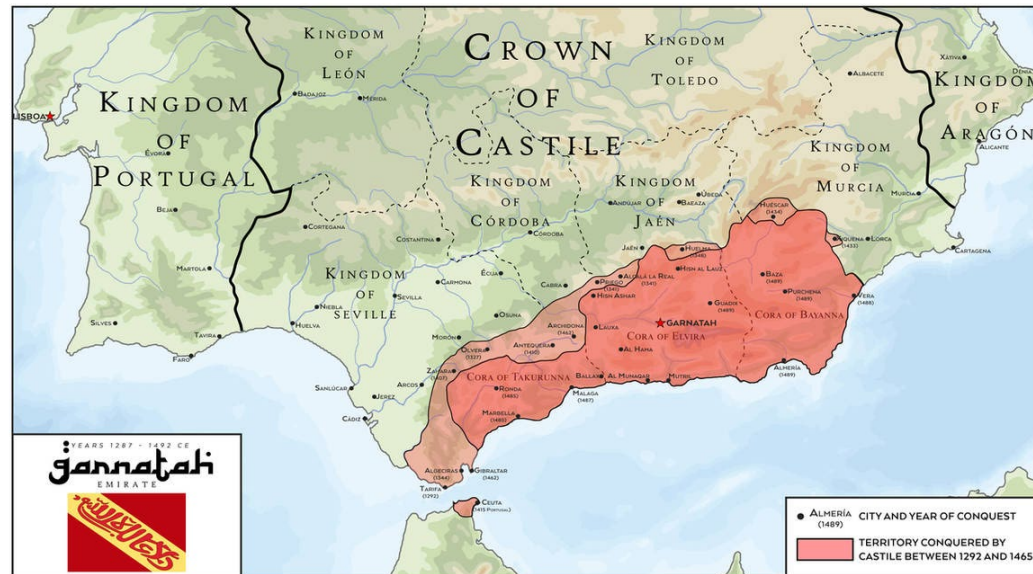
- The Iberian Peninsula in the 9th century.
- Almost completely taken over by Moslems who overrun the Peninsula from North Africa beginning in 711.
- The Reconquest refers to the series of battles that began in the northern part of the Peninsula between Christian and Moslem kingdoms for control in the Iberian Peninsula.
- It also came to be associated with the efforts of (Christian) Europe to take control over the Peninsula although for centuries the culture of the Peninsula was very diverse.

The Reconquest



Al- Andalus,
1000AD

- By the 15th Century the Reconquest had become part of the battle between Christianity and the expanding Ottoman Empire for control in Europe and beyond.
- What in some instances were simply conflicts for territorial control had become a part of a Crusade- religious wars between Catholic and Moslem kingdoms.
- The next slide shows a 19th Century painting of the last Moslem king , Boabdil, surrendering Granada to the Spanish monarchs, Isabella and Ferdinand.



Granada, 1492

- Observe the painting carefully.
- Comment on the animals
- Comment on entourage of Isabella and Ferdinand and that of King Boabdil.
- Comment on the emotions or the personality reflected in the body language of the figures in the painting.
- Comment on the background in the painting.



The Surrender of Granada
Francisco de Pradilla y Ortiz (1882)



Camilo Francisco 1615-1673

The Reconquest and the Iconography of St. James (Santiago)

- The religious ideology that framed the wars of the Reconquest is reflected in the invention of the legend of St. James (Santiago):
 - Legend: In a war between an Asturian King and Moslem troops, St. James the Apostle appeared mounted on a white horse and guaranteed the victory of the Christians who were outnumbered.

The Reconquest and the Iconography of St. James (Santiago)



Sculpture of Saint James in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain.

- The battle between the Asturian king and the Moslems supposedly took place in 844.
- However the legend flourished mostly during the crusades.
- St. James became the patron saint of the Christian Knights.
- The icon also reflects the increasing racialization of the non Catholic/non European in the Iberian Peninsula.

St. James (Santiago) in the Americas

- The image of St. James in triumphant pose over Moslems in Spain was transferred to the Americas in the 16th Century.
- It was used to legitimize the imposition of Catholicism over Indigenous people.
- In renditions of the iconography in Mexico and Peru, St. James is seen in combat with Aztec and Inca warriors.
- St. James in the Americas became the patron saint of conquistadores.



18th Century painting on oil on canvas, Cusco Cathedral, Peru.



Appropriation of the Iconography of St. James (Santiago) 19th –Century, Peru.

- In 19th –century Peru, militants against Spanish colonization transformed St. James into “Santiago Mataespañol” (Santiago Slayer of Spaniards)
- In this silver sculpture, held at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, the saint is shown to be galloping behind a fleeing Spanish man.

A 21st-Century Debate: A Santiago Statue is Removed from the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela



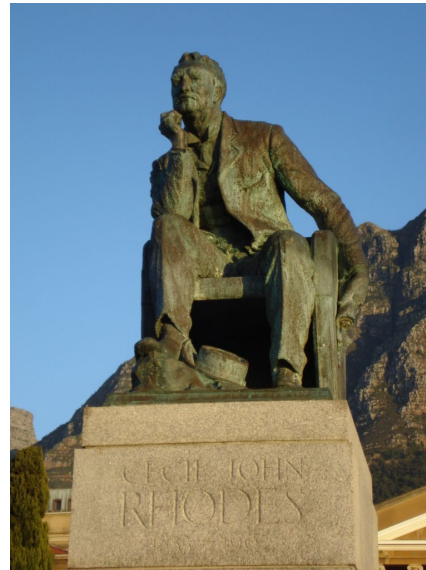
Fuente de la imagen: Periodista Digital

- In 2021 the statue of St. James at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, was removed from its place of prominence and placed in a more secluded place in the Cathedral.
- The statue had been previously removed in 2004 as it was considered “offensive to other ethnicities”.
- It was subsequently returned, but with the images of “Moslems” covered up.

A 21st-Century Debate: What do we do about historical and cultural monuments that are now considered to be offensive?



Leopold II



Cecil Rhodes



Egerton Ryerson