

Unedited manuscript, with author queries	Edited manuscript, with queries resolved	
<p>Portuguese historians do not usually gave Magellan the credit given to sailors like Dias or Gama, due to the fact that he navigated for the Spanish king. Spanish historians, by other hand, prefer to emphazise the role of the Spanish (Basque) navigator El Cano. However, Magellan did what Columbus, John Cabot, and Amerigo Vespucci did: not having the opportunity to pursue their goals under the sponsorship of their own country, they looked for support elsewhere. This was a common attitude in the 15th and 16th centuries, when nationalities where not felt as today, and men served those who supported their purposes, in search of fortune and fame, nationality being more an issue for present day historians.</p> <p>Magellan was however one of the most skilled sailors at the time, and gave a decisive contribution to the age of the great maritime discoveries, and moreover a new world vision. His complex character, the circumstances of his life and extreme difficulty of the voyage itself fueled the imagination from then on, and contemporary authors (like Stefan Zweig) have portrayed him as a symbol of the human capacity and willpower to win against all odds. It is usual to compare Magellan's voyage with the space exploration of today (or to consider it as a symbol of previous explorations), however they have almost nothing in common, as the maritime voyages in the 16th centuries were much more dangerous and unforeseeable than modern computer-assisted voyages to space.</p> <p>Magellan's accomplishment lies in his bold conception and masterly direction of the enterprise that achieved the first circumnavigation of the globe. The first navigator to cross the Pacific from east to west, he disproved the prevailing idea that a mere few days westward sailing from the New World would bring ships to the East Indies.</p>	<p>Magellan was undoubtedly one of the most skilled sailors of the great age of European maritime discoveries. Yet because he sailed in the service of the king of Spain, Portuguese historians have tended not to grant him the credit given to other eminent Portuguese navigators, such as Bartolomeu Dias and Vasco da Gama. Spanish historians, on the other hand, have preferred to emphasize the role of the Spanish (actually Basque) navigator Cano. However, Magellan did only what his predecessors Christopher Columbus, John Cabot, and Amerigo Vespucci had done: lacking the opportunity to pursue their goals under the sponsorship of their own country, they looked for support elsewhere. This was a common attitude in the 15th and 16th centuries, a time before the age of nationalism and a time when men pledged allegiance not to the place where they were born but to a king. The early explorers served the monarch who supported their goals of fortune and fame, and the monarch in turn accepted the fealty of men who would enhance the wealth and power of the crown.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the neglect of Iberian historians, Magellan's complex character, the circumstances of his life, and the extreme difficulty of the voyage itself have fueled imaginations ever since the first account of the expedition—recorded by one of its few survivors, Antonio Pigafetta—appeared in the 16th century. Later biographers, such as the 20th-century writer Stefan Zweig, have portrayed Magellan as a symbol of the human capacity to succeed against all odds. Other contemporary authors have attempted to illustrate the magnitude of his accomplishment by likening his voyage through unknown waters to the first explorations of space.</p> <p>Such a comparison might even be said to underestimate Magellan's feat—a 16th-century maritime expedition was arguably much more unpredictable, and hence far more perilous, than computer-assisted space travel—but in any case, the achievements of Magellan were of profound importance. His supreme accomplishment was the discovery and crossing of the South American strait that bears his name—a major navigational task, considering the knowledge of the period. Moreover, being the first to traverse the “Sea of the South” from east to west, he demonstrated the immensity of the Pacific Ocean and the challenges it posed to navigation. Finally, the idea of the voyage itself had relied on the not-undisputed idea of a spherical Earth. The circumnavigation completed by Magellan's expedition thus confirmed the conception of the world as a globe.</p>	<p>Comment [HC1]: Because this section is an assessment of Magellan's accomplishments, please add an introductory sentence that refers to his achievements. (This addition also would help to mitigate the Portuguese and Spanish historians' underestimation of Magellan.)</p> <p>Comment [HMC2]: Do you mean “as strongly as”? If so, why did the Spanish seafaring community resist Magellan's proposal? Please expand the discussion of nationality to explain this apparent contradiction.</p> <p>Comment [HC3]: This sentence could work as the introduction to the initial paragraph. If you move it, please add an appropriate transition.</p> <p>Comment [HC4]: Please add an example of an early account of the voyage — one that could have fueled imaginations in the 16th century.</p> <p>Comment [HMC5]: Please provide a bit more context about this author.</p> <p>Comment [HMC6]: Have many scholars made this comparison?</p> <p>Comment [HC7]: Could you expand on this thought? If Magellan's voyage and space travel have almost nothing in common, why would historians make this comparison?</p> <p>Comment [HC8]: Please mention the discovery and crossing of the Magellan Strait.</p> <p>Comment [HC9]: Please add a concluding statement that better illustrates the magnitude of Magellan's accomplishments.</p>