



Scope of lecture

- A. Medieval Trade Patterns**
- B. European voyages of the world's oceans**
- C. Trade & conflict in early Modern Asia**
- D. Global Exchanges**

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## A. Medieval Trade Patterns

1000-1500 A.D.

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### “A Zone of Ecumenical Trade”

- Philip Curtin (1989)
- <Ecumenical>: worldwide or general in extent; in unity
- Existed before the Europeans incursions

#### • Some Terms:

- Medieval/ Middle Ages: AD 600-1500.
- Early Modern: Late 15<sup>th</sup> century to late 18<sup>th</sup> century
- Modern : post 18<sup>th</sup> C

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## China - Song Dynasty

- Economic growth unprecedented in earlier Chinese history
- Combination of commercialization, urbanization & industrialization
- Stimulant: era of peace and large internal market
- Grand canal + networks
- increased craft production in general
- Even advanced Iron works in place [!]

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**“First period of great oceanic commerce in the history of the world”** (Reischauer, Fairbank, & Craig, 1960: 214)

- shipping esp to SEA [12th C] – knowledge of shipping persisted after the mid-13th C.
- expanded from Regional Sea Trade
- Canton : major port
- merchants controlled by imperial commissioner
- export silk, lacquerware, iron & steel
- govt revenue from foreign trade – 20%

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## Muslim S. Mediterranean

- Egypt controlling Levant
  - Syria, Lebanon, Jordon, Israel, Iraq
  - Fatimids > Ayyubid Dynasty > Mamluks > Ottoman
  
- Important institutions which facilitate trade
  - **Wakil al-tujjar** (legal representative for foreign merchants)
  - **Funduq** – est by Egyptian govt for oversight of foreign merchants. Functions like a Caravanserai - a roadside inn.

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## Pronounced Prosperity [970 1250 AD]

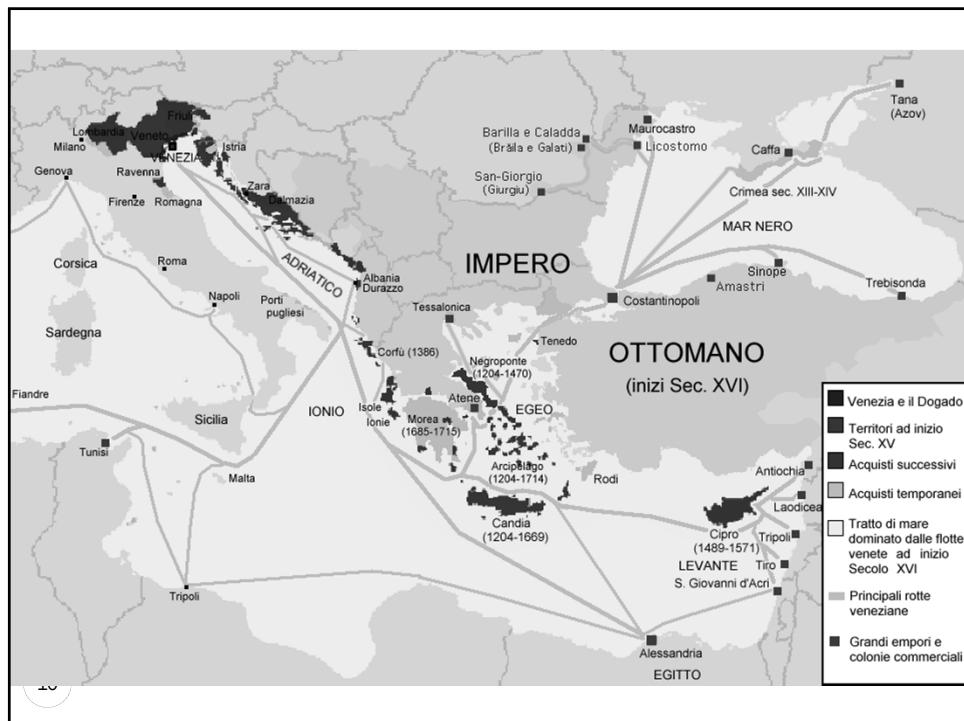
- Muslims traders in Cairo reached out to Frankish and Byzantine traders.
- Jews were free to practice on equal basis with Cops and other Muslims
- End of 11<sup>th</sup> C – 8000 merchants operated from Tunis to Sicily
- Generally trade – east was relatively free.
  
- Karimi – gained control over trade
  - [late 12th C to 1429]

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## Christian Mediterranean (1000-1500)

- Commercial Republic
- Integrated Commercial spheres & political / military authorities
- Venetian → Trading post Empire
  - Started from charging protection cost
- Military control over chosen centers
  - Crete – Aegean & Black Seas
  - Negroponte, Modon, Coron – Peloponnesian
  - Acre in Palestine

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## Changes in Asian Trade 1250-1500

- **Cataclysmic Rise of Mongols [1217-1280]**
  - United so much territory
  - 1250-1350 – Open route
- **Crises: Black Death & Invasions**
  - Europe, India and China emerged
- **Maritime Technology**
  - Round ships; compasses
  - Bulk commodities e.g. wheat

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## New Commercial Centers AD 1250

- Africa: Somalia to Sofala – city-states
- N. India: West ports in Gujarat esp Cambay
- S. India: Kling & Chettis
  
- Chinese diaspora in SEA – commercial settlements
- Later Ming Dynasty restrictions failed to stem the trade of the S. China Sea

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## Characteristics of Eastern Seas Trade

- Dispersed military and political power
- Cities are the main nodes
  - Part of Empire, State or city state
- Integrate many smaller regions of supply & consumption
- International trade economy - >35 sub-regions

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## Some Common Features

- **Commercial entrepot**
  - neutrality and low duties (Melaka)
- **Recognition of resident aliens**
  - Relative autonomy (Egypt)
  - Control of ideas/ movement (Canton)
- **Collective Price bargaining**
  - Captain acting on behalf of merchants
  - Competitive pricing (Manila)

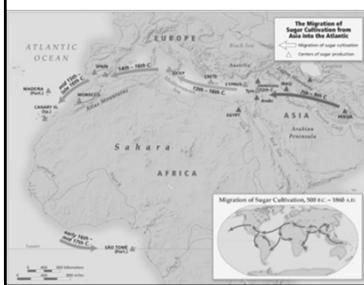
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## B. European voyages of the world's oceans



### Motives: — Cash crops:

- Cash crops:
- sugar grown Atlantic islands; Cape Verde Islands,
- off Cameroon: Sao Tome, Principe, Fernando po



## Motives: — Trade

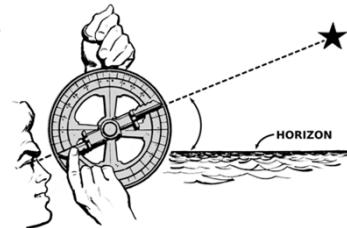
- Earlier Mongol empires trade
- Overland route Silk, porcelain
- ended with 14<sup>th</sup> c collapse of mongols & plague
- Middle men: Muslim traders, Italian merchants
  
- Wealthy European wanted to cut out the Muslims intermediaries
- Increase qty and profits
- African goods: slaves, gold, ivory

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## Motives: — Missionary

- Franciscans and Dominicans: Mongol eras
- Crusading zeal: “Reconquista”
  - Spanish conquest of Granada 1492
  
- Dom Henrique (Prince Henry the Navigator) made alliances against Muslims
  
- Vasco da Gama: “Christians & spices”

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**Means: — Technology**

- Compasses
- astrolabes
- replaced by cross staffs & back staffs – determine Latitude

**Cross-Staff**  
ONLY ONE VANE WAS USED AT A TIME.

The illustration shows a sailor standing on a ship, holding a cross-staff vertically. He is looking through the staff to sight the sun or a star. A horizontal dashed line represents the horizon. A vertical dashed line extends from the eye level of the sailor to the point where the sun or star is sighted. The angle between these two lines is labeled "ALTITUDE MEASUREMENT". The sun is shown in the upper right corner with the label "SUN or STAR".

**gettyimages**  
Peter Dennis

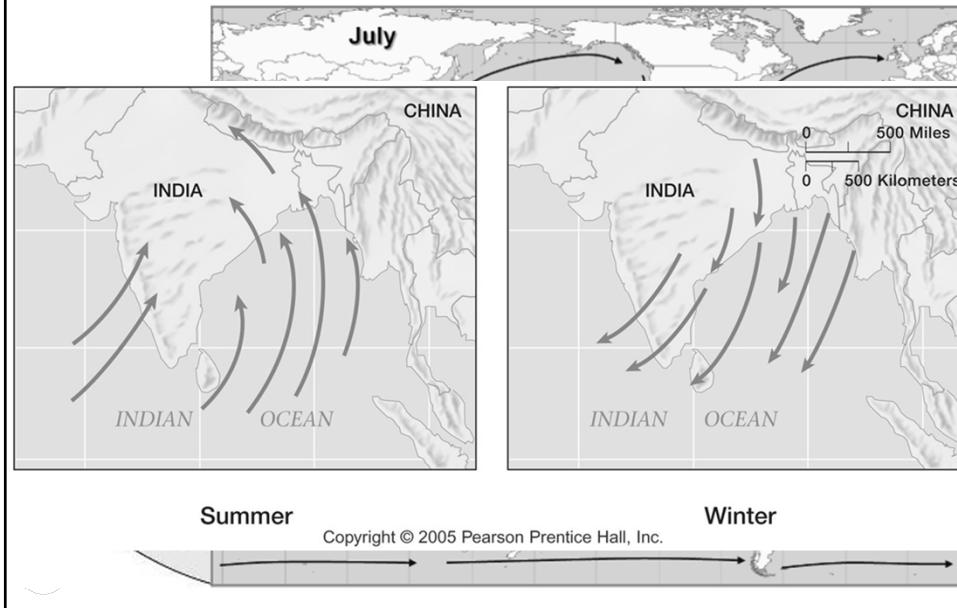
**Means: — sternpost rudder , sails**

- square sail
- Skill of “tack”

The illustration shows a ship sailing on the water with two large square sails. The ship is moving towards the left. To the left of the ship, a vertical arrow points downwards, labeled "Wind".

The diagram illustrates the "tack" maneuver. It shows a ship's hull with points A and B at the bow and stern respectively. Three positions of the ship are shown: P1, P2, and P3. Arrows indicate the ship's movement from P1 to P2 and then to P3. The wind is blowing from the top-left. The ship turns through an angle of approximately 135 degrees during the tack.

## Means: -- Knowledge of winds



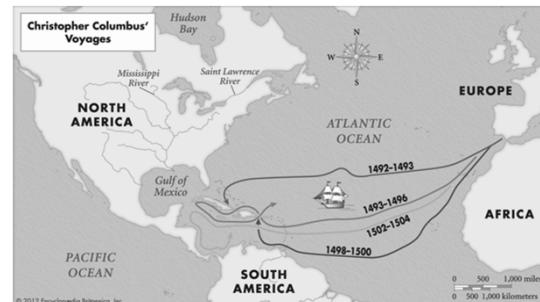
## Mediterranean to Atlantic

- Wanted a trade route to India from Mediterranean
- Portugal – Dom Henrique (Prince Henry the Navigator)
- Bartolomeu Dias rounded the cape of Good hope 1488
- Vasco da Gama: established port in Calicut (1500) – pepper and cinnamon – huge profit



## Christopher Columbus:

- Underestimated earth girth  
: 17,000 NM → 25,000 nautical miles
- 1492 Oct- Bahamas, Caribbean, Cuba
- No gold, but unintended effect. Stimulated hundreds of explorers up to early 16<sup>th</sup> c



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## Atlantic to the Pacific

- Reconnaissance of Pacific basin
- Ferdinand Magellan
- Thought that asia was close to the west coast of Americas [he visited Maluku before]
- Pursue Columbus goal of western route
- Sp by Spanish (1519-1522) – 5 ships, 280 men
- 4 months to reach Guam
- Killed in the Philippines; crew members sailed to Maluku for cloves



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## C. Trade & conflict in early Modern Asia



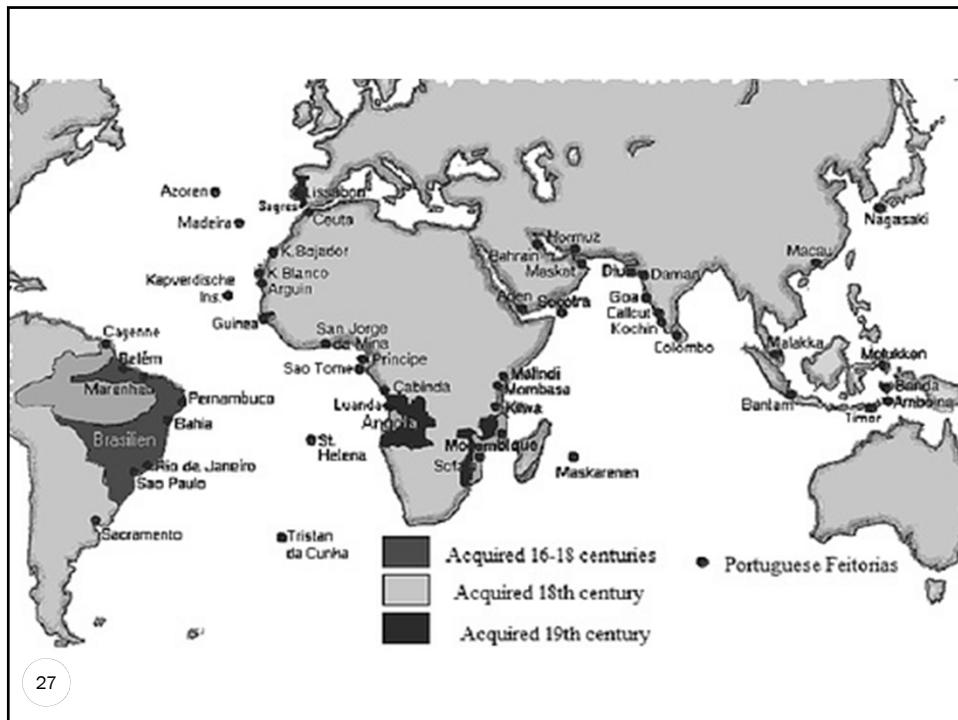
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### Trading post empires

- Portuguese – earliest trading post empire
- Control trade routes – force ships to pay duties; heavy artillery
- Afonso D'Alboquerque  
“The Great” - Control India Ocean – Hormuz (1508), Goa (1510), Melaka (1511)



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## English & Dutch

- Joint stock company - Investors org expeditions ; limited risk
- Parallel networks
- English – India – Bombay, Madras, Culcutta
- Dutch – Cape Town, Colombo, Batavia
- Faster, cheaper, powerful ships



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## EIC & VOC



VOC

- No political oversight
- Private merchants pooled ships, crews, commodities
- Make war in companies' interest
- Nautical tech, military arsenal, efficient org
- Doubled investments of its underwriters

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## D. Global Exchanges



## Pre-columbian exchange

- 700-1100 – Islam facilitated exchanges demographic & economic growth
- 14<sup>th</sup> c – bubonic plague drastic population losses

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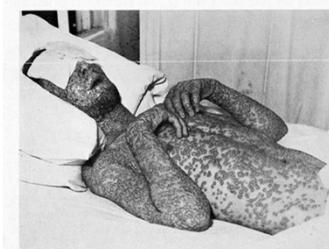


The Columbian Exchange



## Christopher Columbus – 1492 onwards– stimulated explorers

- More profound- radically different flora n fauna n diseases
- America & pacific islands badly affected by diseases – smallpox, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, influenza – no acquired resistance



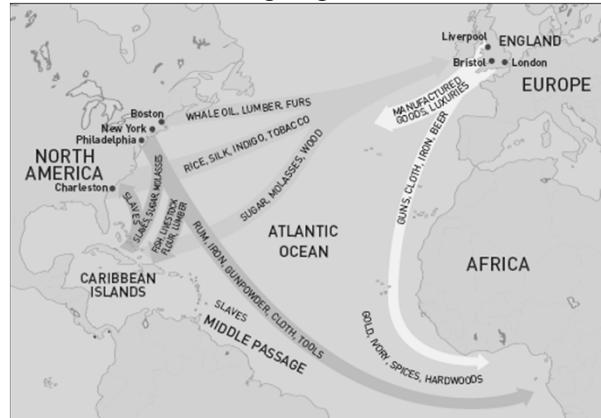
New York State Department of Health Photograph

## Food supply --- > Increase in pop

- Wheat in Americas
- Cattle fed on grasses in Americas
- Maize, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, peppers, (Manioc) , tobacco
- peanuts, cassava - Africa and SE Asian Increase protein, calories
- 1500 – 425 mil
- 1600 – 545 mil – 25% inc
- 1750 – human 720 mil
- 1800 – 900 mil – 50%inc
- 
- Migration: African slaves
- Europeans to Americas

## Origins of Global Trade (?)

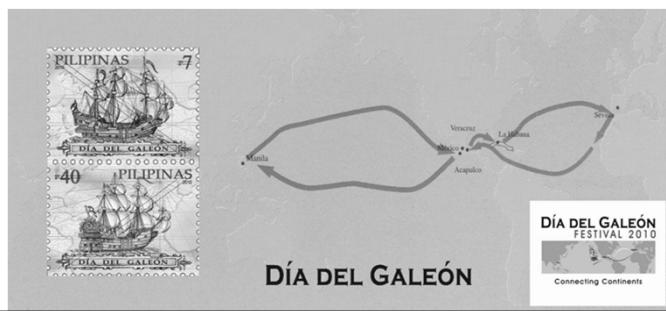
- Trade post empires allowed Europeans' "carrying" trade
- 16<sup>th</sup> c Europeans merchants as prominent as Arabs
- Atlantic basin: silver, slaves, sugar, guns



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## Manila galleons

- 250 yrs 1565 – 1815
- Acapulco, Mexico to Manila
- Silver – used as currency in China
- Luxury goods from Asia
- Sp Spanish ruling elites in Mexico



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## Takeaways

- Medieval – “zone of ecumenical trade”
- Early Modern - Transoceanic networks
- Columbian exchange
- -> Interdependence & global integration

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