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**Global Maritime Expansion Before 1450**

**Motivation for Exploration** – The rulers of Spain and Portugal had ambitious and adventurous personalities that led them to sponsor the voyages of exploration. But there were four purposes to the voyages. First, it was to revive the urban life and trade, the alliance of European merchants and rulers, growing intellectual curiosity about the outside world, and a brawl against the Islamic powers for the dominance of the Mediterranean.

**Portuguese Voyages** – As the Muslim government of Morocco showed weakness, the Portuguese would attack them and capture Ceuta. This capture would give the Portuguese better knowledge of the gold and slave trades. The Portuguese sought more direct contact with the gold producers. Furthermore, it was Prince Henry, the third son of the king of Portugal that attacked Ceuta. He also converted the people of Africa to Christian. Prince Henry is known has Henry the Navigator due to his promotion of the study of navigation and directed voyages exploration down the west coast of Africa. The voyages of exploration would make use of the caravel, which is a small, but highly maneuverable three-masted ship.

**Comparing Spanish and Portuguese Voyages** – The Portuguese voyages traveled down the west coast of Africa, and then went under Africa, around to India. Moreover, Portuguese has also been to the east coast of South America. Meanwhile, the Spanish had explored the entirety of Central America, and most of the west coast of South America, along with the Philippines.

**European Expansion**

**Causes of Exploration** – People had wanted to explore due to their curiosity and also, for the purpose of making profit. For instance, the Portuguese would have ties with the gold trade after exploring and capturing Ceuta. Then, people had wanted to revive urban life and trade.

**Henry the Navigator** – The third son of the king of Portugal also known as Prince Henry. Henry the Navigator promoted the study of navigation and had directed voyages of exploration down the west coast of Africa. He had converted Africans to Christian, along with making contact with the Christian rulers in Africa.

**Caravel** – Ships that the Portuguese and Spanish used that were small, but very maneuverable with three masts that were used for exploration.

**Sailing Technologies** – The Europeans would make a ship that is cheap and highly maneuverable called a caravel. In addition, square Atlantic sails were used for greater speed, and they were fitted with cannons for weapons.

**Gold Coast** – The Gold Coast is also known for becoming the headquarters of Portugal’s West African trade. It is a region found on the Atlantic coast of West Africa.

**Bartolomeu Dias** – A Portuguese explorer who had led the first expedition to sail around the southern tip of Africa from the Atlantic and enter the Indian Ocean.

**Vasco da Gama** – A Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition from Europe to sail to India. This would open an important commercial route.

**Christopher Columbus** – A Genoese mariner who had led expeditions across the Atlantic in the service of Spain. He had established a new world across the Atlantic. This opened the way to Spanish conquest and colonization.

**Spanish Voyages** – Christopher Columbus had wanted to find new trade routes to Asia. He insisted of traveling west in order to do this. He had been trying to find a nation to sponsor him, but after getting rejected by the Portuguese, he begged the Spain, and they accepted. Instead of going to Asia, he had actually reached America.

**Ferdinand Magellan** – A Portuguese navigator who led the Spanish expedition that was the first to circumnavigate the world.