

## **THEME 2**

# **NEW PERSPECTIVES IN THE 15th AND 16th CENTURIES**

**Geographic, cultural and intellectual  
perspectives**

**BOOK P 104 to 158**

## INTRODUCTION OF THE THEME

The 15th and 16th century represent a period of fast changes in history.

Europeans started to explore new lands across the Atlantic.

Trade and exchanges developed fast.

Culturally speaking, it was the time of Renaissance Humanism which brought a real intellectual shift.

**What were the major changes in the 15th and 16th centuries?**

# LESSON 1

## DISCOVERY OF THE NEW WORLD

P104-133

## INTRODUCTION

All along the Middle-Ages, the Mediterranean was the main center of exchanges and inventions

In the 15th and 16th century, Europeans turned to the Atlantic and this opened them new perspectives in the « new world »

**What were the consequences of the discovery of the new world?**

- It first led to the creation of colonial empires
- It started globalization

## I/ The new explorations

A/ Spanish and Portuguese were the leaders

### **1- First discoveries**

1492, Christopher Columbus discovers America by sailing West( for Spain)

In 1497, Vasco de Gama sails around Africa to reach India ( for the Portuguese)

In 1519, Magellan is the first to circumnavigate the globe= to sail around the world.( for the Portuguese)

In 1535, Jacques Cartier discovers Canada for the French ( François 1st)

As they competed and to avoid a war, Spanish and Portuguese agreed on sharing their conquests:

In 1494, the TREATY OF TORDESILLAS to shared the American conquests

Later, when they explored Asia ( After Magellan's journey) they did the same with the TREATY OF SARAGOSSA in 1529, sharing the Asian conquests

### Principal Voyages of Exploration

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A Portuguese expeditions, 1430s–1480s         | F Columbus's three successive voyages, 1493–1504 |
| B Dias, 1487–1488                             | G Voyages attended by Vespucci, 1499–1502        |
| C da Gama, 1497–1499                          | H Magellan–del Cano, 1519–1522                   |
| D Portuguese voyages to the Orient, 1509–1514 | I Cabot, 1497                                    |
| E Columbus's first voyage, 1492               |  |



- |                                |                            |                   |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Areas under Spanish control    | Spanish trading cities     | Spanish routes    |
| Areas under Portuguese control | Portuguese trading cities  | Portuguese routes |
|                                | Independent trading cities | Other routes      |

## 2- Reasons



# A need for new economic partners

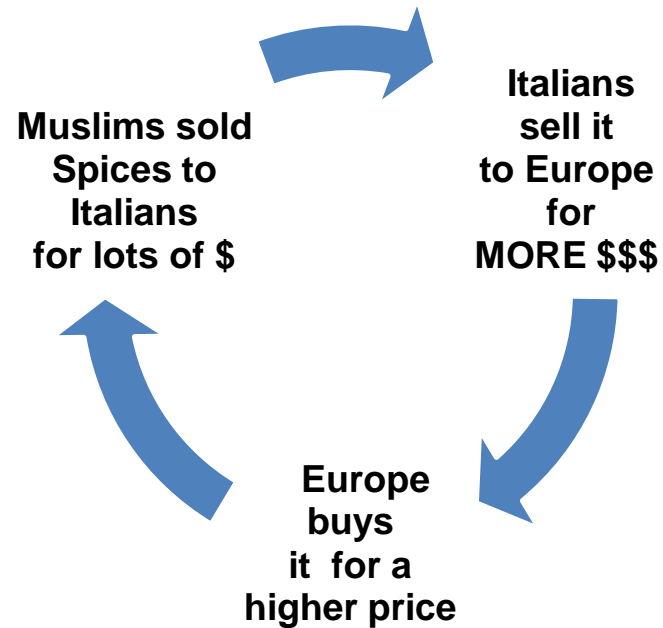
## Europeans needed

- Gold
- New spices in Europe (introduced during the Crusades)



## AS A CONSEQUENCE

- Europeans wanted to cut out the middle man (Italy)
- Europeans tried to find new trade routes because they want new sources of wealth.



There was a favorable background with new techniques and inventions



**Hartman Astrolabe**  
(height of the stars)  
(1532)

**Better Maps  
[Portulan]**

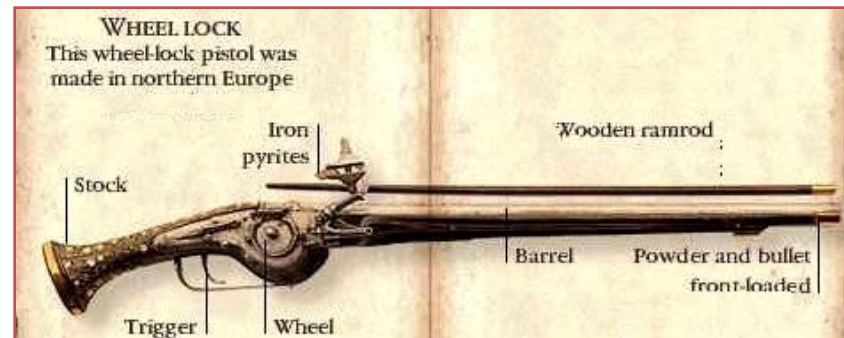


**Mariner's Compass**



**Sextant for  
location**

# New Weapons Technology



## B/ Consequence: the first colonial empires

### **1-The conquistadores in Latin America**

examples

- Cabral took Brazil for the Portuguese king in 1500
- Cortez took Mexico and the whole Aztec empire for Spain in 1521
- Pizarro conquered the Inca empire in 1532
- French and English focused on North America

## **2-A violent face-off**

- natives were slaughtered
- Europeans brought epidemics
- Europeans set slavery on plantations/ enslaved them

# **1 debate emerged: THE VALLADOLID DEBATE**

## **1550-1551**

It was a moral and theological debate about the reason for colonization

- Bartholemeo Las Casas: dominican priest
- Juan Gines de Sepulveda

Juan Gines de Sepúlveda  
1490---1573  
jurist and royal historiographer



Bartolomé de las Casas  
1484---1566



## Juan Gines de Sepúlveda's four arguments:

(1) “that these people are barbaric, uninstructed in letters and the art of government, and completely ignorant, unreasoning, and totally incapable of learning anything (...) . that the Indians are obliged by natural law to obey those who are outstanding in virtue and character.

(2) “that the Indians, even though unwilling, must accept the Spanish yoke so that they may be corrected and be punished for their sins and crimes against divine and natural law . (...)





## Juan Gines de Sepúlveda's four arguments:

(3) “that the injuries and extreme misery which the Indians used to inflict and. . . still inflict today (...) that all who can do so are held by natural and divine law to defend any and all persons from such injuries.

(4) “that once those regions have been brought under control, the gospel of Christ can be preached ( ...) that it is totally just, as well as most beneficial to these barbarians (...)

**SUM UP WITHIN FEW LINES ,  
SEPULVEDA'S POINT OF VIEW**



## Bartolomé de las Casas' counter-arguments:

(1) “that it is unlawful to force the Indians to the faith by war (...)

(2) for it is very easy for our rulers to subject that people to their authority without the disturbances of war.

(3) “The kings are commanded to have as their purpose leading the Indians to the faith. It is granted that subjection to their rule is helpful

(4) “War is not a suitable means for spreading Christ’s glory and the truth of the gospel. ...)

“Since war should not be waged unless there has first been a provocation (...) war against the Indians is unlawful.”



**SUM UP WITHIN FEW LINES ,LAS CASAS'S POINT OF VIEW**

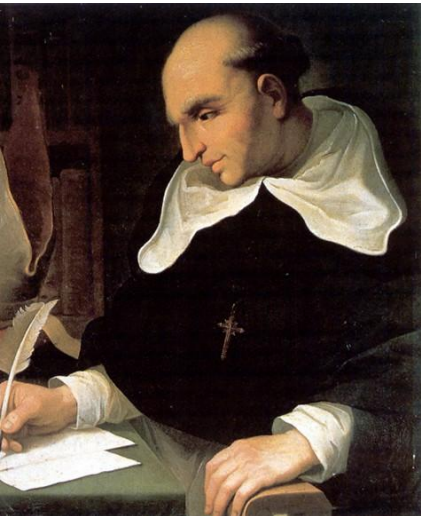
# The Arguments at Valladolid

**SEPULVEDA argued for the need for:**

- (1) external moral authority**
- (2) Tough action**
- (3) responsibility to protect**
- (4) beneficial conquest**

**LAS CASAS argued for the need for:**

- (1) illegality of war without provocation**
- (2) equal treatment**
- (3) Pragmatism**
- (4) right of independent development**



**The explorations and the discoveries of new lands,  
built new colonial empires**

**These empires boosted trade and exchanges, creating  
the very first form of globalization**

## II/ The very beginning of globalization

Globalization is a term which means an intensification of exchanges on a world scale

A/ New flows: there were 2 types of flows

- 1) Migrations/migratory flows  
Conquistadores, slaves



- Possessions et comptoirs portugais
- Possessions espagnoles



## I/ The very beginning of globalization

Globalization is a term which means an intensification of exchanges on a world scale

### A/ New flows: 2 types of flows

- 1) Migrations/migratory flows
- 2) Economic flows:

## II/ The very beginning of globalization

Globalization is a term which means an intensification of exchanges on a world scale

### A/ New flows: 2 types of flows

1) Migrations/migratory flows

2) Economic flows:

Cotton, sugar, spices, animals ( new breeds),  
techniques, weapons....



## II/ The very beginning of globalization

### A/ New flows: 2 types of flows

1) Migrations/migratory flows

2) Economic flows

3) The Columbian exchange video

-What is this exchange about?

-Was this exchange only beneficial ?

## **-What is this exchange about?**

I was about productions, plants, animals, migrants which were exchanged between Europe and the “new world”

### What was exchanged was:

From Europe: new epidemics, new animals, new plants, new products ( cloth...)

From the new world: New plants ( tomatoes, coffee, cotton, sugar), new food, new animals ( birds), spices, gold, slaves

## **-Was this exchange only beneficial to the Europeans?**

No Europeans brought new techniques, horses to be domesticated, cows, some new plants ...

## B/ To a new world-economy

### **1)The first colonial empires set new rules for trade**

The Colonial pact: the Colony must have trade links only with the mother-country

Protected trade ( high duties )

### **2)Some dark sides**

- Slavery and triangular trade
- Slaughter of the natives
- Ethnocentrism-cultural shocks

## CONCLUSION

### **What were the consequences of the discovery of the new world?**

When the Europeans turned to the Atlantic, they discovered and then invaded new lands.

Portuguese and Spanish were the most active.

New trade routes were found and new products were exchanged. Also, new colonial empires were formed and globalization started.

However, even if there is no doubt, these new discoveries were real turning points in European history, they rose questions about slavery and domination of the natives.

These early empires did not last but new colonial empires reappeared in the 19th, bringing the same questions.