

The Age of Exploration

What You Need To Know

**A special study of an account of
ONE exploration**

Why people wanted new sea routes

What made the voyages possible

The main consequences of the voyages

Why People Wanted New Sea Routes

Europe's population was increasing and trade for goods was even more important especially with

Asia, Arabs and Chinese.

These countries could supply goods unavailable in Europe such as spices, tea, some fruits and silks etc.

Turkey had occupied the Middle East and made access to the old Trade routes to the East more difficult

Some believed that new lands might make new resources available more cheaply

The Spirit of the Renaissance inspired people to explore the world



600 km
 mi

— Main Silk Road — Eurasian Steppe Route — Main Connecting Routes



What made the voyages possible?

1. IMPROVED SHIP DESIGN

(a) CLINKER-BUILT SHIPS

the hull was constructed with overlapping planks to strengthen it for ocean voyages

(b) LATEEN SAILS

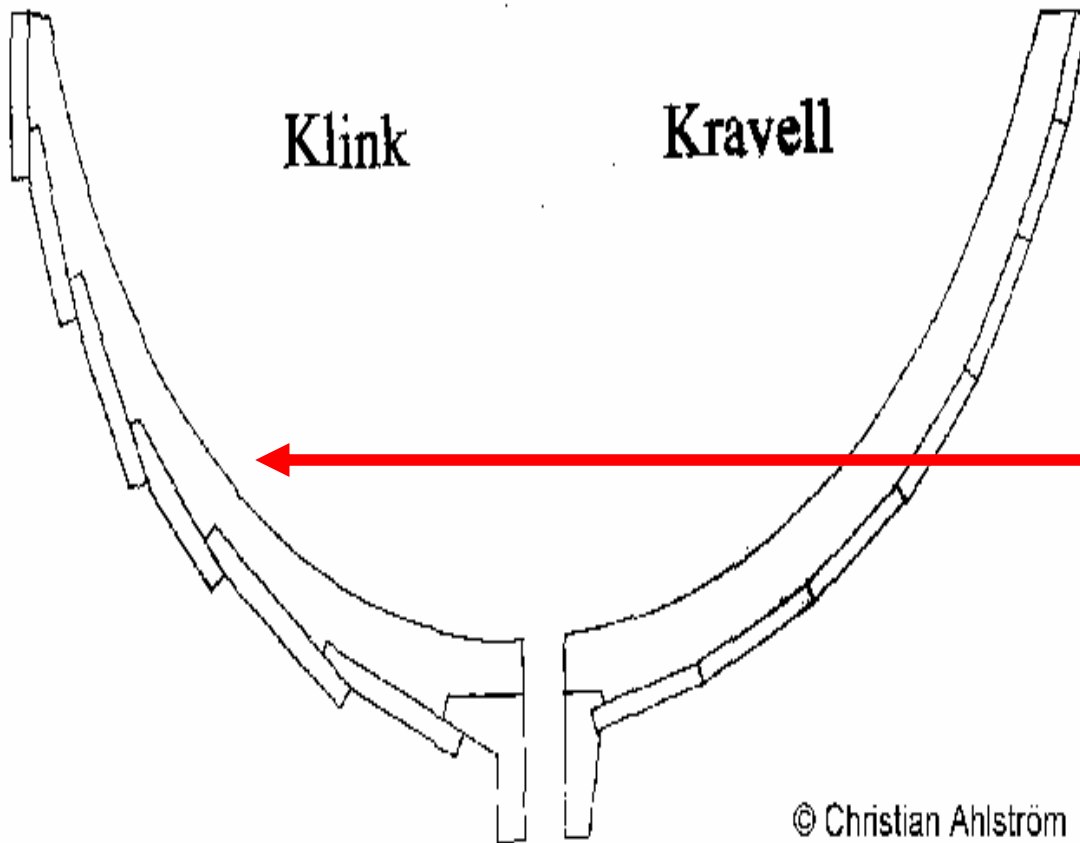
triangular sails made the ships easier to steer

(c) CARAVEL

A combination of the CLINKER-BUILT SHIPS and the LATEEN SAILS

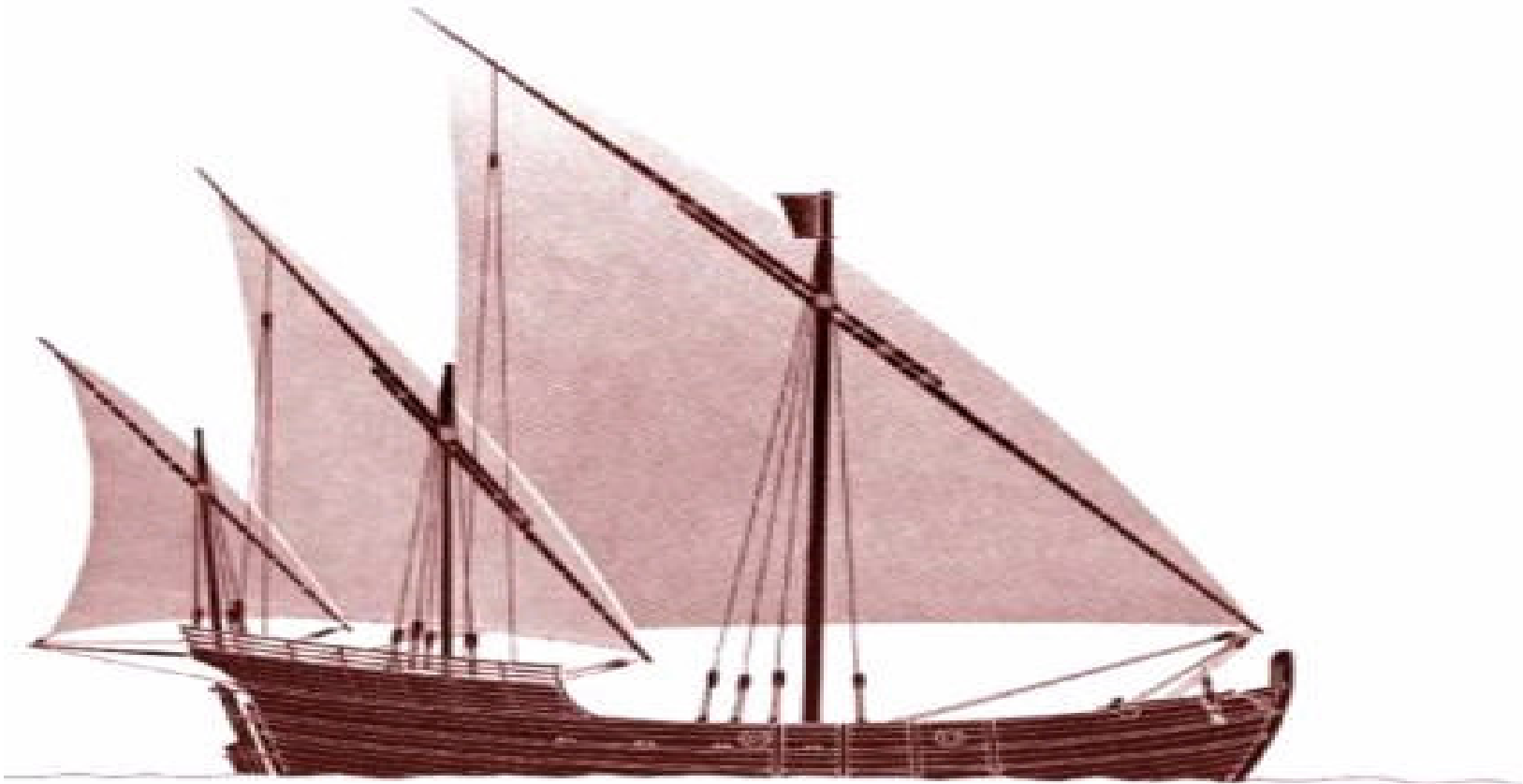
Designed by the **Portuguese** allowed ships to do long ocean voyages

Clinker – built design



Notice the overlapping planks

Portuguese caravel with lateen sails

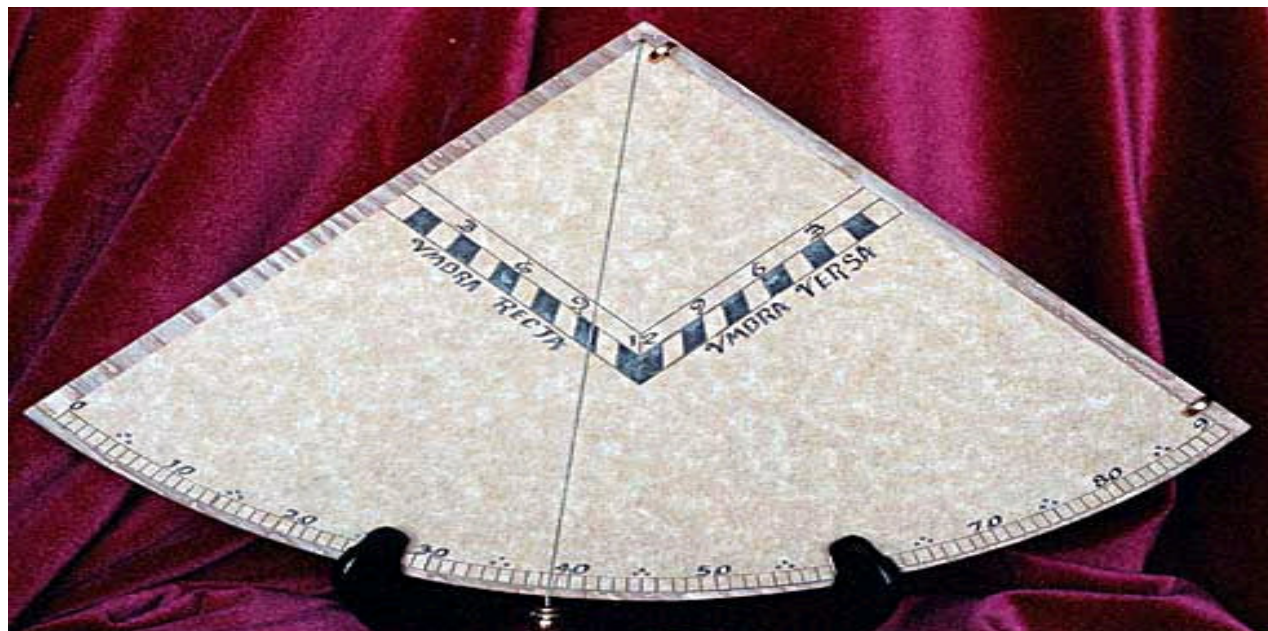


What made the voyages possible?

2. IMPROVED NAVIGATION TECHNIQUES

(a) The QUADRANT

Measured the height of the sun or pole star
and indicated the latitude



(b) The ASTROLABE

**Measured the latitude using the stars
at night**



(c) The PIVOTED COMPASS

Allowed sailors to find North and all other directions quite accurately



(d) The LOG

**attached to a knotted rope and
thrown over the side of the ship
measured speed and helped the sailors
to calculate how far they had travelled**

**(e) Improved MAP-MAKING
included the making of highly
accurate PORTOLAN CHARTS**

'Portolano' - Italian word, means 'written sailing directions'



How did the Portuguese Help?

Prince Henry the Navigator played a key role:

How?

[1] a school for navigators

[2] sponsored voyages

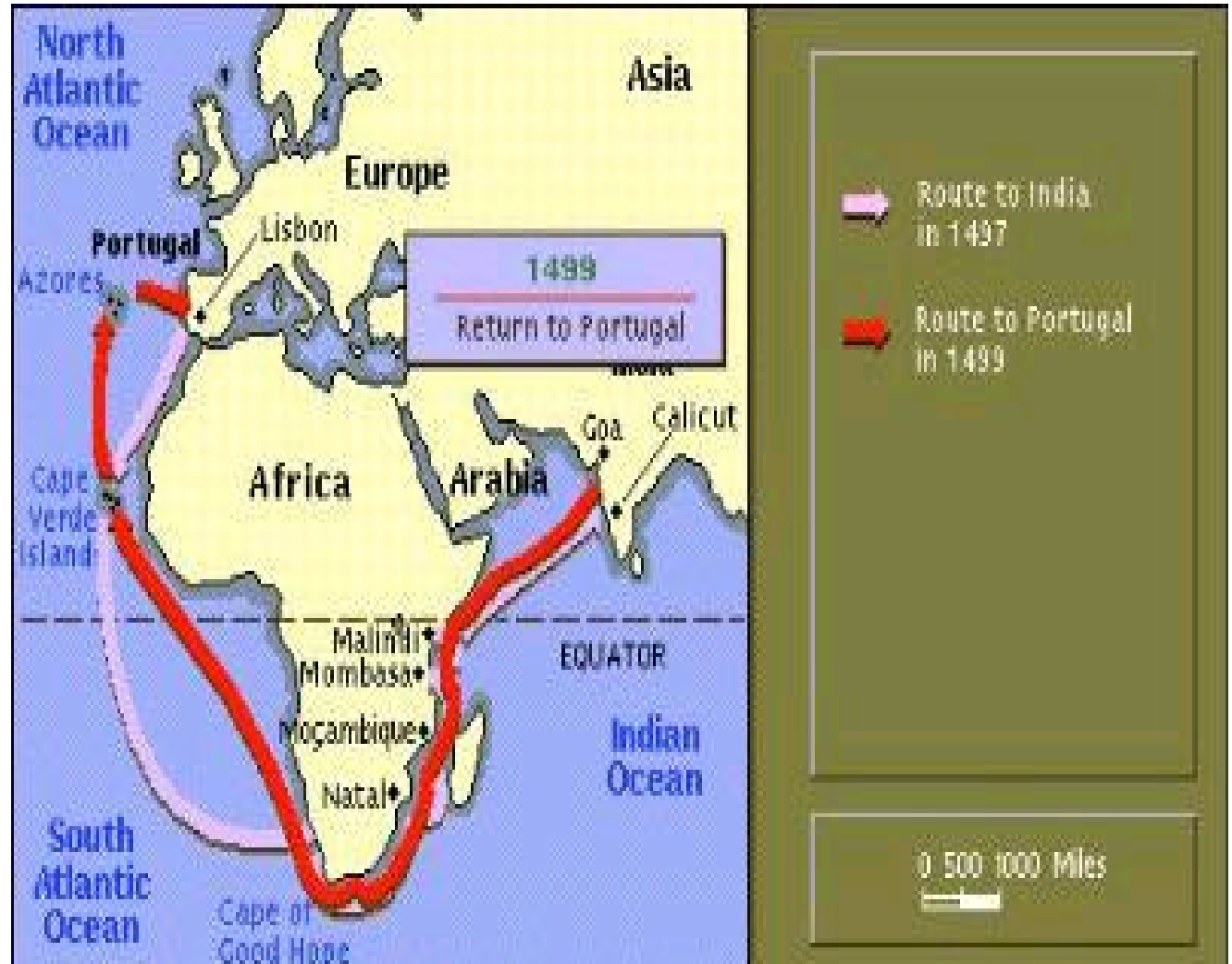


Prince Henry
the Navigator,
who was
allegedly born
in Porto, and
who founded
the Portuguese
empire



Vasco da Gama

1497 Voyage to India



Voyage of Christopher Columbus

Born Genoa in 1451

Learned navigation techniques in Portugal

Believed the World was Round

Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain agreed to sponsor his voyage



The Voyage

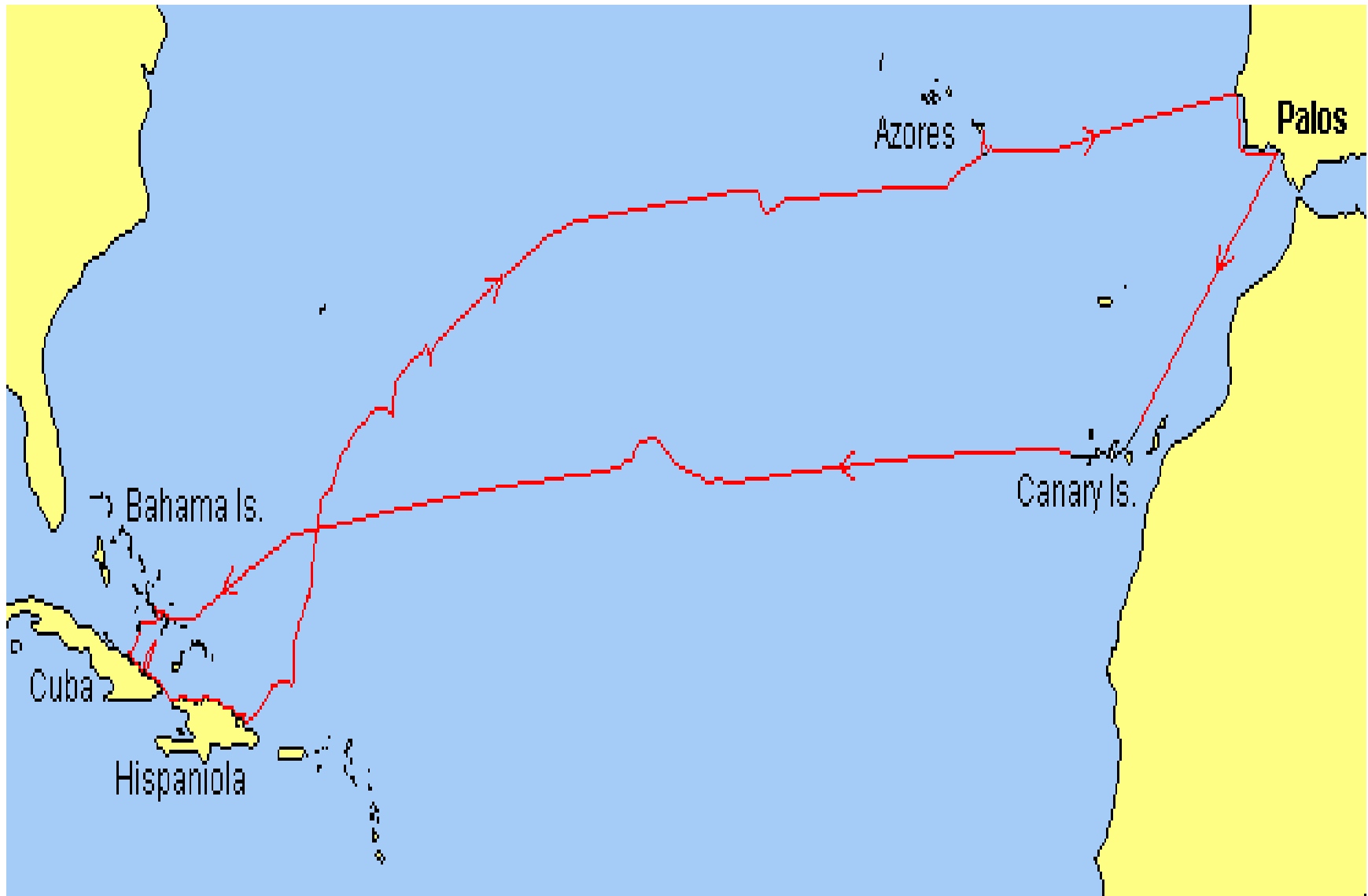
Columbus left the port of Palos, Spain in
august 1492 with 3 ships



Santa Maria – Nina – Pinta

Repairs were made in the Canary Islands

Voyage



They met natives and mistakenly called them Indians in the belief that they had landed near India

Over the next 3 months Columbus and his crew explored nearby islands.

He returned home to a hero's welcome with gold, six captured Indians and other goods

**They reached an area full of seaweed
and called it the **Saragasso Sea****



**October 12th the crew of the Pinta and landed at dawn on
the island of San Salvador**

Results of the Voyage

A New World had been discovered by Columbus

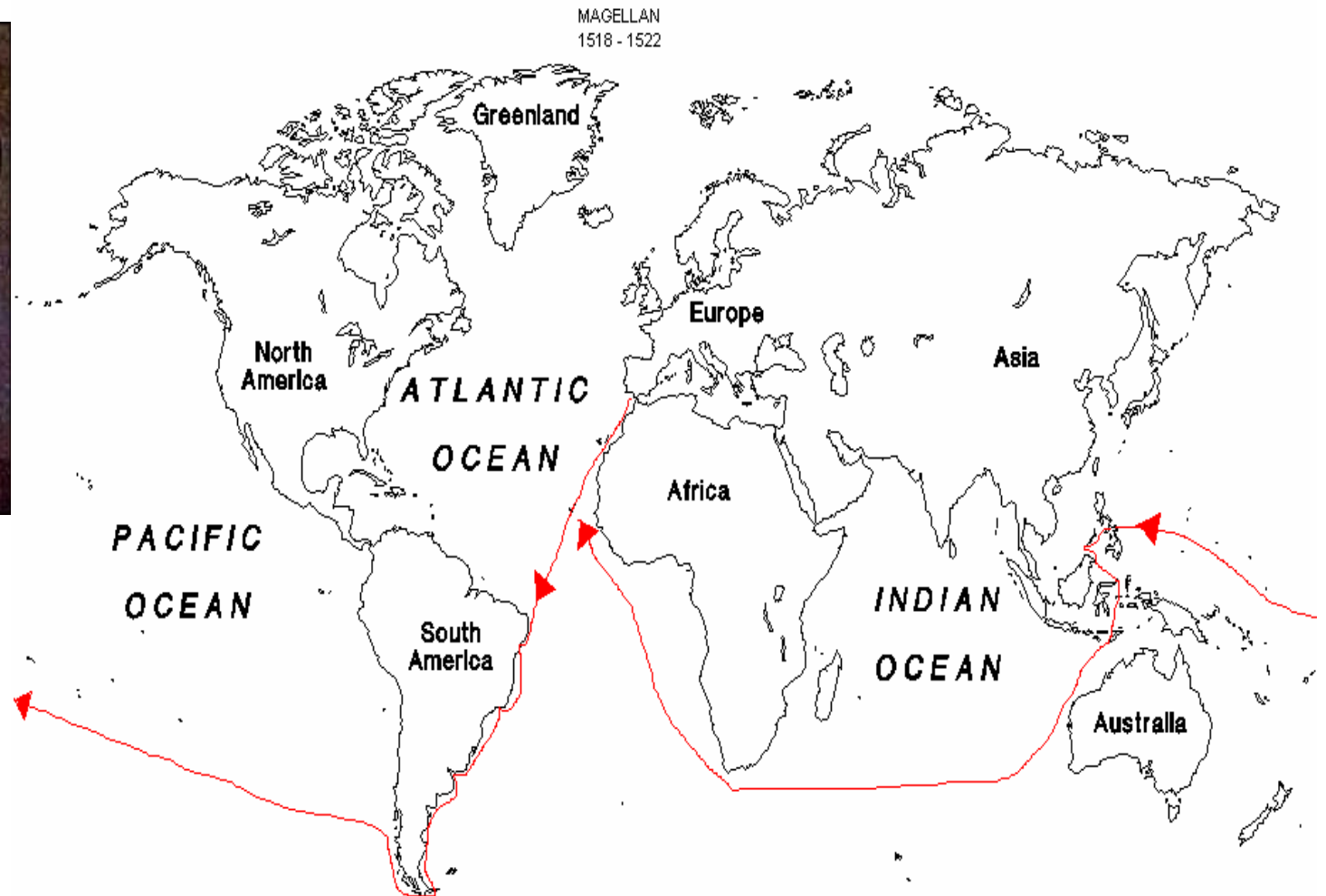
**More explorers from Spain went to the New
World**

**The New World provided gold, land, slaves and
other sources of wealth for Spain**

Columbus died a forgotten man in 1506.

Ferdinand Magellan

Magellan convinced King Charles V of Spain that he could reach the East by sailing West



Consequences of Voyages of Discovery

**More and more of the earth was explored, discovered
and mapped**

**To make profits from voyages Europeans conquered
the lands they discovered**

**Spain conquered most lands using it's army of
Conquistadores**

Cortes – Mexico (1519) defeated the Aztecs

Pizarro – Peru (1531) defeated the Incas

Native people suffered at the hands of the Europeans

European diseases - European Languages

European Religions - took over in these new lands

European countries gained great wealth