

Lesson #12 U.S. History

Early Explorers

Spain and Portugal argued over control of New World:

1494 - The Treaty of Tordesillas (to-re-day-SEE-yahs) split world between Spain and Portugal on June 7, by the Pope. The treaty established the Line of Demarcation 370 leagues west of Cape Verde Islands. Spain was given the less desired west and Portugal the profitable east.

1474-1517 Vasco Nunez de Balboa – Pacific

Landed in Panama and in time seized command and sent rivals home to Spain. He set out to explore and was first to see the “Southern Ocean” and named it the Pacific. When his rivals returned he and four others were beheaded and their bodies thrown to the vultures.

1497 -John Cabot claimed New World for England

1480-1521 - Ferdinand Magellan – around the globe

Set out with 5 ships and 250 men on September 20, 1520.

(3) ships mutinied off the coast of South America – Magellan parley with the mutineers on the *Victoria* and killed the three leaders of the mutiny. Then the crew of the *San Antonio* at Cape Horn killed the captain and set sail for Spain. The suppliers in Spain had cheated on the goods provided and gave only 6 months’ worth instead of 1 ½ years of supplies.

In the Philippines Magellan used and being used by natives sided with one king against another and Magellan was killed on April 27, 1521. Then on September 8, 1521 – 18 men walked barefoot one mile to the shrine of Santa Maria de L’Antigua for safe delivery back to Europe. They were in Portugal and ½ of the crew was imprisoned for going around the world. On September 6, 1522 the *Victoria* returned home.

1497-1503 Amerigo Vespucci – sailed for Portugal and a German map maker (Martin Waldseemuller) gave him credit for New World after reading Vespucci’s book that had 60 edition in 35 years. Also, Vespucci invented an instrument for finding longitude.

1503 Spain set up the first Imperial Institution *Casa de Contratacion* (Board of Trade)

1508 -Juan Ponce de Leon went through Florida – fountain of youth? Killed

1519 Hernan Cortes – Aztecs

1521 -St Augustine established in Florida

1532 Francisco Pizarro – Inca

1534 -Jacques Cartier establish Quebec for France

1535 Viceroyalty of New Spain

1539 -Hernando de Soto get to Mississippi River

1540- Francisco Vasques de Coronado y Lujan and Estevanico (Little Steven a survivor of Soto fateful trip) searched for Seven Cities of Gold. Horses lost on journey.

1541 Francisco de Orellana – Amazon Rive

1542 Hernando de Soto – Mississippi River

Quickly laws were passed to prohibit Africans from being taken to New World. This was changed in 1517. Father Bartolome de Las Casas tried to protect the native Americans and advocated the use of Africans.

The Viceroyalty of Peru and New Spain did not keep the control in Imperial hands and between military – Imperial (agents) and Church.

Riches of New World Spanish Armadas - 1/5 of gold and silver went to the Royals

Spain convoyed their ships for protection from pirates and raiders.

Spain sent 1,577 ships to the New World and 1,217 returned with 222,392,287 pounds of gold and silver. This increase of bullion caused inflation and a lack of development in industry at home that cause a stagnant home economy. This was an economic disaster for government in Spain.

English Raiders:

English ship (Sea Dogs” raided Spanish ship

1588 King Philip order Admiral Santa Cruz to develop a plan for ended this English problem:

Armada of:

150 fighting ships

150 cargo and smaller vessels

60,000 soldiers and sailors

1,500 guns

cost was to be \$4 million ducats – Then the Admiral died

Armada set sail with: (Plans never go right from the start)

73 fighting ships

20 galleons (fore and aft castles for boarding ships)

53 converted merchantmen

57 cargo vessels

10,000 sailors

20,000 soldiers

2,000 guns

English fleet composed of 190 ships that were longer and more slender than Spanish ships. This allowed for a longer row of guns and faster turning and speed. The English also, used new gunnery technique called “rifle bore” which allowed to fire 9-17 pound shot (ball) over 2,000 yards accurately.

A storm hit the Spanish fleet and was scattered until July when it had reassemble. The English stayed out of Spanish gun range and fire from long range. The battle ended in an indecisive battle. After the Spanish put into Calais the English sent “fire” ships into the harbor to burn the Spanish ships. That was the end of an (8) day battle with the English the winners.

After the storm many Spanish men came ashore in Ireland and were later identified as the “Black Irish” for their hair.



1588 was the beginning of the decline of Spanish power on the high seas and British dominance.