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World Civilizations II

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Letters to The King of Portugal

#1 Instead of answering the question, I would like to give my thoughts about this letter (since I currently do not hold access to the sources book- **I found the letter online, and this is the best work that I can currently do**). Grade me accordingly to your best judgment.

Portugal is my birthplace, by the way. I also am 53% Portuguese (although both my parents are Brazilian).

Throughout my life, I have studied the history of the Portuguese invasion of Brazil many times. Their extortion was always plenty highlighted by all of my teachers on a superficial level, but I find it amusing that it is even worse than what I had previously thought. It appears to me that the impression of colonized lands by the Portuguese was that they actually cared about them, or about building any sort of home anywhere they went. They could not have been more wrong. All that Portugal ever cared about was slaves, slaves, and MORE slaves. In this letter, Nzinga attempts to use religion as a motive as to why the Portuguese should stop doing atrocities on their land. I almost chuckled when I read that part. Of course, never in agreement with such actions; but rather in disappointment of knowing the history and reputation of my country. At the same time, it is almost saddening to reach such a letter. In every land that the Portuguese have ever stepped on, the Crown only had one interest: Profit. If that came in *Pau Brasil* or various Africans who were seen as below them for the sake of laboring other lands that they had

conquered, it didn't matter. The Portuguese were never going to stop their extortion of whatever they saw as vulnerable, no matter how "Christian" they claimed to be. To request *anything* from the Portuguese crown is like me trying to reach Jeff Bezos for money: It's not gonna happen.