

Research and Writing Week 13

If the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans were switched, and China was closer to the Americas, it would have had a significant impact on world history. The Chinese already had a rich maritime history, and if they had discovered the Americas before the Europeans, it would have altered the course of global politics and economics.

Chinese maritime activity was primarily focused on trade and diplomacy rather than conquest, colonization, and expansionism, which were the primary goals of European maritime activity. The Chinese had a long history of maritime exploration and had developed advanced navigation techniques that allowed them to sail across the vast Pacific Ocean.

The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) was particularly interested in maritime exploration, and during this period, Admiral Zheng He led a series of expeditions that explored the Indian Ocean and East Africa. Zheng He's expeditions were not aimed at colonization or expansionism but rather at establishing trade networks and diplomatic relations with other countries.

If the Chinese had discovered Mexico and the Aztec Empire, they would have approached it with a different mindset than the Europeans. They would have been more interested in establishing trade networks and diplomatic relations rather than conquering and

colonizing the territory. The Chinese had a long history of diplomacy and would have likely sought to establish diplomatic relations with the Aztec Empire.

It is also worth noting that the Chinese had a different approach to religion than the Europeans. The Europeans were on a mission to spread Christianity, which played a significant role in the conquest and colonization of the Americas. The Chinese, on the other hand, had a more syncretic approach to religion, and it is likely that they would have been more tolerant of the Aztec religion and culture.

In summary, if China had discovered Mexico and the Aztec Empire, it would have been a different experience than the European "discovery" of the Americas. The Chinese would have approached it with a focus on trade and diplomacy, rather than conquest and colonization. They would have likely sought to establish diplomatic relations and trade networks, and would have been more tolerant of the Aztec religion and culture.

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Book- 440-448

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