

Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He were all significant explorers who made significant contributions to maritime history. While each of these explorers had different goals and explored different parts of the world, their successes had a significant impact on the world. There were some similarities between Chinese and European goals in maritime activity, such as a desire for economic gain and expansion, the Chinese were primarily focused on trade and diplomacy, whereas the Europeans were focused on conquest, colonization, and spreading their cultural and religious values.

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer who sailed for Spain in 1492 in search of a new trade route to Asia. He hoped to find a quicker way to reach India and the Spice Islands, which would provide Spain with new trade opportunities. Columbus's journey led him to the Caribbean islands, which he mistook for the East Indies. Despite this error, Columbus's voyage paved the way for European exploration of the Americas and established Spain's presence in the New World.

Vasco da Gama was a Portuguese explorer who set out to find a sea route to India. He departed from Lisbon in 1497 and arrived in Calicut, India, in 1498. His successful journey opened up a new sea route for Portugal to trade with India, which had been previously dominated by Muslim traders. Gama's success also helped establish Portugal as a major maritime power.

Zheng He was a Chinese admiral who led several expeditions to Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa during the early 15th century. His voyages were primarily diplomatic and aimed to establish China's dominance over the seas and expand Chinese

influence. Zheng He's expeditions were notable for their size and scope, as he commanded a fleet of up to 300 ships and tens of thousands of men. However, after Zheng He's death, China abandoned maritime exploration, which allowed European powers to dominate global exploration and trade.

In terms of their goals, Columbus and Gama sought to find new trade routes to Asia, while Zheng He's primary objective was to establish China's influence and dominance over the seas. Columbus and Gama's voyages were also motivated by the desire to spread Christianity to new territories. In terms of exploration, Columbus and Gama focused on the Americas and India, respectively, while Zheng He traveled extensively throughout Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa. Finally, Columbus and Gama's voyages were considered successful, as they achieved their goals and opened up new trade routes for their respective countries. In contrast, Zheng He's voyages were successful in terms of establishing China's dominance over the seas, but they did not lead to significant economic gains or colonization efforts.