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HIS 113: World Civilization I (OA)

April 11, 2023

"Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He - 15th Century Mariners"

"Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He - 15th Century Mariners" is the 21st episode of the educational YouTube series "Crash Course World History." The video explores the history of European and Chinese exploration and maritime trade during the 15th century, focusing on the voyages of Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He. The video begins with an overview of the state of the world in the 15th century, highlighting the dominance of the Chinese Empire, the most powerful and technologically advanced civilization of the time. The video then discusses the motivations behind European exploration, including the search for new trade routes to Asia and the desire to spread Christianity.

The video then delves into the voyages of Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He, providing historical context and details about each explorer's journey. It explores the challenges they faced, the technological advancements that enabled their expeditions, and the impact of their discoveries on world history. The mariners portrayed in the video, Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He, represent three different countries, goals, and discoveries.

**Christopher Columbus: Country:** Columbus was an Italian navigator who sailed under the flag of Spain, as King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella sponsored him. **Goal:** Columbus's primary goal was to find a new trade route to Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean, as he believed that the Earth was smaller than it was and that he could reach Asia by sailing westward.

He also hoped to spread Christianity to the people he encountered. Discoveries: Columbus's voyages led to the discovery of the New World, which consisted of the Caribbean islands, Central and South America, and parts of North America. He is credited with opening up the Americas to European exploration and colonization.

Vasco da Gama: Country: Vasco da Gama was a Portuguese navigator who sailed under the flag of Portugal as King Manuel I of Portugal sponsored him. Goal: Da Gama's primary goal was to find a new trade route to Asia by sailing around the southern tip of Africa and across the Indian Ocean. He believed this route would be shorter and less dangerous than the overland routes used by the Arab traders. He also hoped to establish Portuguese control over the lucrative spice trade in India. Discoveries: Da Gama's voyages led to the founding of Portuguese trading posts and colonies along the coast of East Africa and India. He is credited with opening up the sea route to India, which enabled European powers to establish a foothold in the Indian Ocean region and to expand their global trade networks.

Zheng He: Country: Zheng He was a Chinese admiral who sailed under the flag of the Ming Dynasty as the Yongle Emperor commissioned him. Goal: Zheng He's primary goal was to demonstrate the power and wealth of the Chinese Empire by leading a series of expeditions to Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa. He also sought to establish diplomatic and trade relations with the people he encountered on his journey. Discoveries: Zheng He's voyages led to the founding of Chinese diplomatic and commercial ties with many foreign countries and the spreading of Chinese culture and influence in the Indian Ocean region. He is credited with expanding China's maritime power and promoting intercultural exchange between China and other civilizations.

In summary, Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and Zheng He represents three countries, goals, and discoveries. Columbus discovered the New World, da Gama established Portuguese trade routes to India, and Zheng He demonstrated Chinese maritime power and expanded diplomatic and commercial ties with foreign countries.