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What if Zheng He discovered Mexico and the Aztec Empire?

Between 1350 and 1550, China had several goals in its maritime activity, mainly on trade and exploration. During this period, under the Ming Dynasty, China launched a series of naval expeditions led by Admiral Zheng He, which aimed to explore new trade routes, establish diplomatic relations with foreign powers, and expand China's influence in the region.

Chinese maritime activity goals during this period were: Establishing diplomatic relations with foreign powers: One of the main goals of the Ming dynasty's maritime expeditions was to establish diplomatic relations with foreign powers. These expeditions helped China build diplomatic ties with countries in Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, and the Middle East. Expanding trade: China was a powerful trading nation during this period. Its maritime expeditions aimed to expand business by discovering new markets and establishing trading posts in different parts of the world.

Demonstrating China's power and prestige: The Ming dynasty's maritime expeditions were also intended to show China's power and prestige to other countries. These expeditions showcased China's naval and technological prowess and helped establish China as a significant player in the region. Moreover, gathering intelligence: Chinese maritime expeditions were also aimed at gathering intelligence on other countries, including their military strength, economic potential, and political systems.

In the same period, European maritime activity was mainly driven by economic, political, and religious goals. European countries were expanding their empires, seeking new trade routes, and spreading Christianity to other parts of the world. The Europeans wanted to: Expand trade: European countries were looking to expand their trade networks and find new sources of wealth. They sought to establish new trade routes to bypass the Middle East and gain direct access to Asian goods, such as spices, silks, and precious metals. Establishing colonies: European countries aimed to establish colonies in different parts of the world to gain control of valuable resources, such as land, gold, silver, and other minerals. They also sought to establish trading posts and ports to facilitate trade networks.

Spreading Christianity: The spread of Christianity was also an important goal of European maritime activity during this period. European countries saw themselves as spreading civilization and culture to other parts of the world, and they often used religion as a justification for their colonial ambitions. Moreover, seeking fame and fortune: Many explorers and adventurers were motivated by the prospect of fame and fortune. They sought to discover new lands, establish trade routes, and find valuable resources, such as gold and silver.

However, what if the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans were switched, placing China, not Europe, as the closest Eurasian hierarchy to the Americas? What if Zheng He discovered Mexico and the Aztec Empire?

If the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans had been switched, and China was the closest Eurasian hierarchy to the Americas, the era's history would have been significantly different. With the new proximity, China would have become the dominant global power, with extensive trade and cultural ties to the Americas.

In this alternate history, the Chinese explorer Zheng He, who led several maritime expeditions to Southeast Asia, India, and the Middle East during the Ming dynasty, would have set sail across the Pacific to discover the Americas. Zheng He was known for his diplomatic skills, and it is possible that he would have established friendly relations with the Aztec Empire, one of the most influential and advanced civilizations in the Americas at the time.

The Aztec Empire, centered in modern-day Mexico, was known for its advanced agriculture, architecture, and cultural achievements. With its vast wealth in gold and other precious metals, it would have been an attractive target for Chinese merchants and explorers.

It is possible that Zheng He arrived in the Americas in the early 15th century, several decades before the arrival of Christopher Columbus. He would have been amazed by the advanced civilization of the Aztecs and the riches of the land. The Aztecs, for their part, would have been curious about the Chinese explorers and their ships, which were much larger and more advanced than anything they had seen before.

Zheng He would have established friendly relations with the Aztecs and perhaps even found a trading post in Mexico. The Chinese would have introduced new technologies and goods to the Aztecs, and in exchange, they would have received gold, silver, and other valuable resources.

The arrival of the Chinese in the Americas would have had a profound impact on the region's history. It is possible that the Aztecs would have been able to resist the Spanish conquest in the 16th century with the help of Chinese technology and military support. The Chinese would have also established cultural and intellectual ties with the Aztecs, leading to a greater exchange of ideas and knowledge between the two civilizations.

If the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans had been switched, and China was the closest Eurasian hierarchy to the Americas, the era's history would have been dramatically different. With the discovery of the Aztec Empire by the Chinese explorer Zheng He, a new period of cultural and economic exchange would have begun, leading to a different course of history for both the Americas and Asia.

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