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### 15th Century Mariners

In the 15th century, the Chinese empire was the world's key producer in luxury goods, spices, and silk. The first mariner discussed in the video was Zheng He, from China. Zheng He was the lead expeditioner during the height of Chinese trade. Zheng He did not need to discover much as China already played a significant role in international trade and had access to ports in Africa, the Middle East, and India. Due to China already flourishing in trade, there was no need for imports. During this time it was considered a privilege to be able to trade with the Chinese empire.

The second mariner discussed was from Portugal, Vasco Da Gama played a significant role to include Portugal on all of the benefits from international trade. Da Gama's goal was to find a way for resource poor Portugal to have a chance to import from trade and to find gold. Da Gama was the first Portuguese mariner to make it to the Indian Ocean and landed at the southern tip of India in Calicut. From there his goal was to make Portugal money, they built coastal cities creating major coastal trading posts.

The third, and most well known is Christopher Columbus who set sail under the Spanish flag. Columbus' goal was to find gold and christians in the Indias. However, he ended up in America

mistakenly thinking he was in India. Christopher Columbus was unsuccessful in finding riches for Spain, but he did alter history.

Comparing all three mariners, two of them had very specific goals. Vasco Da Gama and Christopher Columbus were both mariners in search of riches and christians. Both mariners also came from prominent European countries, however in contrast, Zheng He from China had other accomplishments to achieve. Both European mariners had to search, discover, and then conquer to acquire any of their goals. Zheng He already knew of all the trading posts and had an advantage compared to his European counterparts.