

Jonas Trofort

Crash Course Video Response

24 April 2023

There wasn't a link posted for the video, but I chose the one that says "15th Century Mariner" in the thumbnail. Zheng He was a Chinese muslim admiral who led 7 voyages throughout the Indian Ocean. The point of his missions were to get respect from other countries and emperors so that his status would stay high as the center of the economic universe. Emperors would give him gold and acknowledge his superiority so that they would be in good standing with China and continue to receive goods from them. During these trips, exotic animals from Africa were taken back to China .

Vasco de Gama was from Portugal, where the country relied on trade. His missionary reasons were for gold and christians. They used canons to capture and control coastal cities creating a trading post empire. They also extorted/captured other ships forcing them to buy a permit to trade (cartaz) which allowed the captured to trade in the towns that Portugal controlled. They were basically bullies who did not add any value/monetary value to the trade.

Christopher Columbus who was from Spain had an advantage because he knew the earth was round, but over thought about the size of the countries and oceans. He also used 'dead reckoning', which is figuring out your position with speed, time, and the direction you're going. He went on 4 missions in search of gold and christians. He had hopes of converting the natives to christianity to help with the crusade. In the end, the natives had a bad taste in their mouths about Columbus. He did not find any gold or spices, but did manage to convert some of the natives to christianity. He wasn't as successful as Zheng He and Vasco de Gama, but Spain became wealthy

within 2 generations being the leading power of Europe. His voyages left a lasting impact on the world.

Columbus differed from Zheng He and Vasco de Gama because he was not as successful in finding anything and it was not a positive one. Him and Vasco de Gama's voyages are similar because they primarily went in search of gold and christians.