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HIS 113: World Civilization

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### Crash Course Response

In the video, John Green explores the maritime activities of several European countries in the 15th century, including Portugal, Spain, and England. While these countries shared a common interest in maritime expansion, their goals and discoveries varied significantly. Portugal was the first European country to “launch a sustained period of maritime exploration and expansion, with the goal of finding a new trade route to the East”. They were able to bypass the land-based routes controlled by the Ottomans and other powers by sailing around the southern tip of Africa, eventually reaching India and establishing a trading network in the region. Spain also sought a new trade route to the East, but instead discovered the Americas. Their goals shifted to colonization and exploitation of the newfound territories, resulting in the “subjugation of indigenous populations and the extraction of vast quantities of gold and silver.” England's maritime activities were initially focused on piracy and privateering, but eventually shifted to colonization and trade. They established colonies in North America, including Virginia and Massachusetts, and developed a trading network in the region. Their discovery of new territories also led to conflicts with Spain and other European powers. While these countries all engaged in maritime activities, their goals and discoveries differed significantly. Portugal focused on finding a new trade route to the East, Spain discovered the Americas and established a colonial empire, and England established colonies in North America and developed a trading network.