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World Civilization

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What if

Chinese maritime activities had different objectives than Europeans had, especially during the Ming Dynasty's marine missions in the 15th century. The Chinese naval expeditions led by Admiral Zheng He had a wider range of goals than their European counterparts, whose marine activity was primarily centered on trade, commerce, and later territorial expansion and colonization. The voyages aimed to display Chinese might and prestige, establish Chinese supremacy in the Indian Ocean, and broaden trade networks. In order to exhibit the might and wealth of the Ming Empire and forge diplomatic ties with other countries, they also served diplomatic and cultural purposes.

In contrast, trade, exploration, and eventually territorial expansion and colonization were the primary motivations for European nautical activities throughout the same time period. The goal of European maritime powers was to create trading networks in Asia and the Americas, and then to colonize those regions and take advantage of their resources.

However, these distinctions between Chinese and European maritime aims did not exist in absolute terms. For instance, both Chinese and European maritime powers engaged in trade and exploration as they each strove to establish supremacy in specific areas. Additionally, like the

reasons of European nations, later Chinese maritime engagement has been influenced by economic and strategic factors.

If Zheng, a Chinese adventurer before the Spanish arrived, had found the Aztec Empire, which may have had a massive impact on the history of the Americas and the rest of the world; it is possible that the Chinese may have formed diplomatic and commercial ties with the Aztecs, which might have resulted in a different situation from the bloody conquest that came with the arrival of the Spanish. A more peaceful interchange of concepts, cultures, and technological advancements between the two civilizations might have come from this.

Additionally, it is possible that the Chinese introduced the Aztec Empire to fresh concepts and technology that helped progress industries like engineering, metallurgy, and agriculture. The Aztec Empire might have been reinforced as a result, making it more resistant to outside invasions.

Additionally, if the Chinese had developed a presence in the Americas, it might have changed how Europe's colonial powers and China interacted with one another in the decades that followed. China might have built a sizable presence in the Americas and fought European colonial powers for control of the region.

Overall, the discovery of the Aztec Empire by the Chinese could have led to a quite different course of history in the Americas and the world, potentially altering the balance of power and shaping the development of civilizations in the Americas and beyond.