

## 15<sup>th</sup> Century Mariners

Zheng He under China led ships that were way bigger than European ships. China's goals were somewhat similar to Europe's based on trading, however they weren't trading for the same reasons. China didn't need anything imported; they sailed for prestige and respect so the surrounding areas could continue to view them as the center of the economic universe. When coming in contact with inferior places, there was tribute system where the rulers of those places would give money and show superiority to China in order to be granted permission to trade with China. Their main goal was to dominant trade in the Indian Ocean. Different than China, Europe (Portugal) traded in order to provide. Portugal was resource poor unlike China so there main goal in maritime was to trade to live. Portugal also treated the people they came in contact with differently. They were more violent and aggressive and captured cities by firing cannons into city walls. Portuguese merchant ships would also capture other ships and force them to buy a permit to trade. Spain's mission in maritime was to find gold and Christians in order to gather people for another Crusade. Christopher Columbus hoped to convert natives he found to Christianity and promise the leaders of Spain gold. However he didn't really achieve either goal and was considered way less successful than Zheng He of China or Vasco de Gama of Portugal.