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Compare the Chinese goals in maritime activities( 440-463) with those of Europeans(444-46)

The comparison on page 446-448 are useful, determine how China "discovering" Mexico and the Aztec Empire would have differed from the actual discovery of the Europeans

Zhen He was a Chinese military general, who was one of the greatest generals China had. He was very good at administration. General Zhen He built the world's largest naval fleet in the 1400s to travel the Asian sea with more than half the population in count of the then United Kingdom as his fleet.

He was very knowledgeable about the marines and needed no help in its navigation. He had enough power and wealth to get him to where he needed to be. General Zhen He believed in the Confucius philosophy of making all men equal, so his quest was never to dominate the ports or countries he visited but to elevate his countries status.

Zhen He was from a culture that saw merchants as leeches, who lived off the hard work of other people and reap the benefits. His perception, which was also his country's view, that colors his reality saw the opportunity to become recognized as the epicenter of wealth, thus his approach was different from the Europeans. They stumbled upon Africa's gold mines and sought to make themselves wealthy in order to gain land and build their individual country to superpower status, thus their competition against each other in trying to amass wealth.

The Europeans were zealous to dominate and amass wealth, but they disguise it as transformation, making those whom they meet seem less than and in need of elevation through salvation as their main goal, riding on the heels of the Crusaders who themselves were deceived. When they discovered that there was no gold to be gained from the islands they orchestrated another means to amass wealth, the production of sugar cane, a sort after delicacy of the European elite. But in order to produce sugar cane they needed a strong workforce that could withstand the climate while producing under harsh conditions. The Aztec were not used to being forced into hard labor, even though they lived in the warm climate all year round. They didn't have a need to commercialize their products, because they did not ascribe to naval trade or the silk route. So export was of no interest to them. The imposition of harsh labor disrupted their society, so they died at the hands of the Europeans who colonized their land for their benefit.

Zhen He imposed a tribute system upon the nations or port he visited, but not once was murder or the slave trade associated with his traversing. He simply navigated the terrain using his wealth of knowledge as a Muslim, combining his philosophy of making all men equal, in the hope of establishing himself. Had he implemented this methodology, the Aztec would probably gravitate towards Zhen He and learn his culture, while maintaining their own. Because it would not be forced or harsh, but strategically or persuasively delivered, through the tribute system that he implemented, seeing that they understood that gift giving means one is powerful.

His approach would have helped to advance their already advanced system, causing them to become a force to reckon with in the Caribbean. Since Zhen He was more about prestige than

wealth, and his culture values and status; his approach would have been on the subliminal side. The various groups would be building and establishing ports, while using their mathematical skills to help advance Zheng He's fleet and creating infrastructure that would probably increase health, and storage of food and building reservoirs to store water and making even electricity. The Aztec would have flourished because he spoke a language that brings about a win-win situation and survival of the species.

Had the tides turned and his ships traversed the waters of the Caribbean, he would not be a ruthless military leader, who invaded the Aztec and dominated them, because his quest was not for gold, money or land. Since China was the world leading producer of all manufactured resources and they had wealth to the overflow, it would be for advancement and the continuity of the Aztec and Mexican who would still be flourishing today.

## Bibliography

[https://saylordotorg.github.io/text\\_world-regional-geography-people-places-and-globalization/s08-04-the-caribbean.html#:~:text=The%20four%20main%20colonial%20powers,Portugal%2C%20Sweden%2C%20and%20Denmark.](https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_world-regional-geography-people-places-and-globalization/s08-04-the-caribbean.html#:~:text=The%20four%20main%20colonial%20powers,Portugal%2C%20Sweden%2C%20and%20Denmark.)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Caribbean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Caribbean)

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