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World Civilization 1

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According to the textbook "Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture, Volume One: To 1550 1st Edition" by Stephen Morillo et al., the Chinese goals in maritime activity during the Ming Dynasty were driven by a desire to establish and maintain diplomatic and commercial relationships with other states, particularly through the tributary system. Chinese maritime activity was also motivated by a desire to acquire exotic goods and expand China's prestige and influence.

Zheng He, the famous Chinese admiral, was tasked with leading several expeditions between 1405 and 1433 that aimed to establish diplomatic relationships and tributary states, as well as to acquire new goods and establish China's dominance over the Indian Ocean. The Chinese approach to maritime activity was focused on diplomacy and trade, rather than on colonization or conquest.

In contrast, European maritime activity during the Age of Exploration was driven by a desire for new trade routes to Asia, as well as for the acquisition of new resources and colonies. European explorers were also motivated by religious and cultural factors, such as spreading Christianity and exploring the world.

If the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans had been switched, and China had discovered Mexico and the Aztec Empire, the Chinese approach would likely have been one of establishing diplomatic relationships and acquiring new goods. The Aztecs would have been seen as potential tributary states, and the Chinese would have likely sought to establish friendly relations with them and acquire their exotic goods.

It is possible that the Chinese approach would have been successful, as the Aztecs were known for their trade networks and desire for exotic goods. However, the Chinese may also have faced challenges, such as language and cultural barriers, as well as potential resistance from the Aztecs.

If the Chinese had established a presence in Mexico, they may have introduced new goods and technologies, as well as influenced Aztec culture and religion. However, it is unlikely that they would have attempted to forcibly convert the Aztecs to Confucianism or Taoism, as Chinese religious traditions were not focused on conversion.

In summary, if the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans had been switched, and China had discovered Mexico and the Aztec Empire, the Chinese approach to exploration and colonization would have differed significantly from that of the Europeans. The Chinese would have focused on diplomacy and trade, rather than on colonization or conquest, and the interactions between the Chinese and the Aztecs would have been complex and varied, depending on factors such as diplomacy, culture, and power dynamics.

Work cited

Morillo, Stephen, et al. "Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture, Volume One: To 1550 1st Edition." Oxford University Press, 2014.

"Zheng He." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., n.d. Web. 25 Apr. 2023.