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HIS 113  
4/25/23  
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### The Mariners

Throughout history, many people sailed the seas with the intention of conquering territories and gaining fame. Zheng He, though not as famous as Columbus, was a Muslim eunuch from China who led 300 ships to accomplish his purposes. Going on trade missions brought people from other areas who wanted to visit China for trade. China was famous for its economy and people wanted to benefit from that. Vasco da Gama was another mariner from Portugal. Mariners like Vasco wanted to have access to the lucrative spice trade, gold and for religious purposes. Vasco was searching for Christians, which further motivated his explorations. Columbus, unlike Zheng He, only had 3 ships while he traveled. Like the Portuguese, Columbus also was interested in trade and wanted to spread his religious beliefs. Columbus wasn't as successful as Zheng or Vasco, however Europe did well in the next two centuries.