

Jenna Gillespie

World Civilizations

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Lindell O'Hara

Crash Course 13

There were three nations or explorers of the nations that were discussed in this video. Zheng He was a Chinese mariner, explorer, diplomat, fleet admiral and court eunuch. He led seven voyages through the Indian Ocean with an armada of over 300 massive trading ships. China was the center of the economic universe and the leading manufacturer of quality goods at the time so they didn't need to trade to collect resources but needed pristine and respect to keep their status. He wasn't an explorer so he didn't make discoveries but was a world leader in naval technology.

Vasc De Gama was an explorer who introduced Europeans to the ocean trade network. He came from Portugal where they had poor resources so relied on trade. He searched for, as the video said, "gold and Christian's". They captured many cities along the coast creating a trading post empire. They relied on extortion in the Indian Ocean because they didn't have enough boats or people to control it themselves.

Lastly Columbia coming from Spain was an explorer but with a fleet of only 3 small ships. He overestimated the size of the size of Asia and underestimating the size of the oceans but was able to still navigate the Atlantic with the calculations of the speed they were going, the time spent on and in the direction they were going. He was in search for gold, spices and Christian's to bring back to Spain as promised for funding the trip but came back with nothing other than a "found new land

The Portuguese and Spanish have similar motivations with a push for exploration, necessity for trade and an expansion of their religious empire while the Chinese were in upon

ships to control the seas, economics and trade routes. The Portuguese also made efforts to control ocean trade routes by forcing merchant ships to pay for their passage.