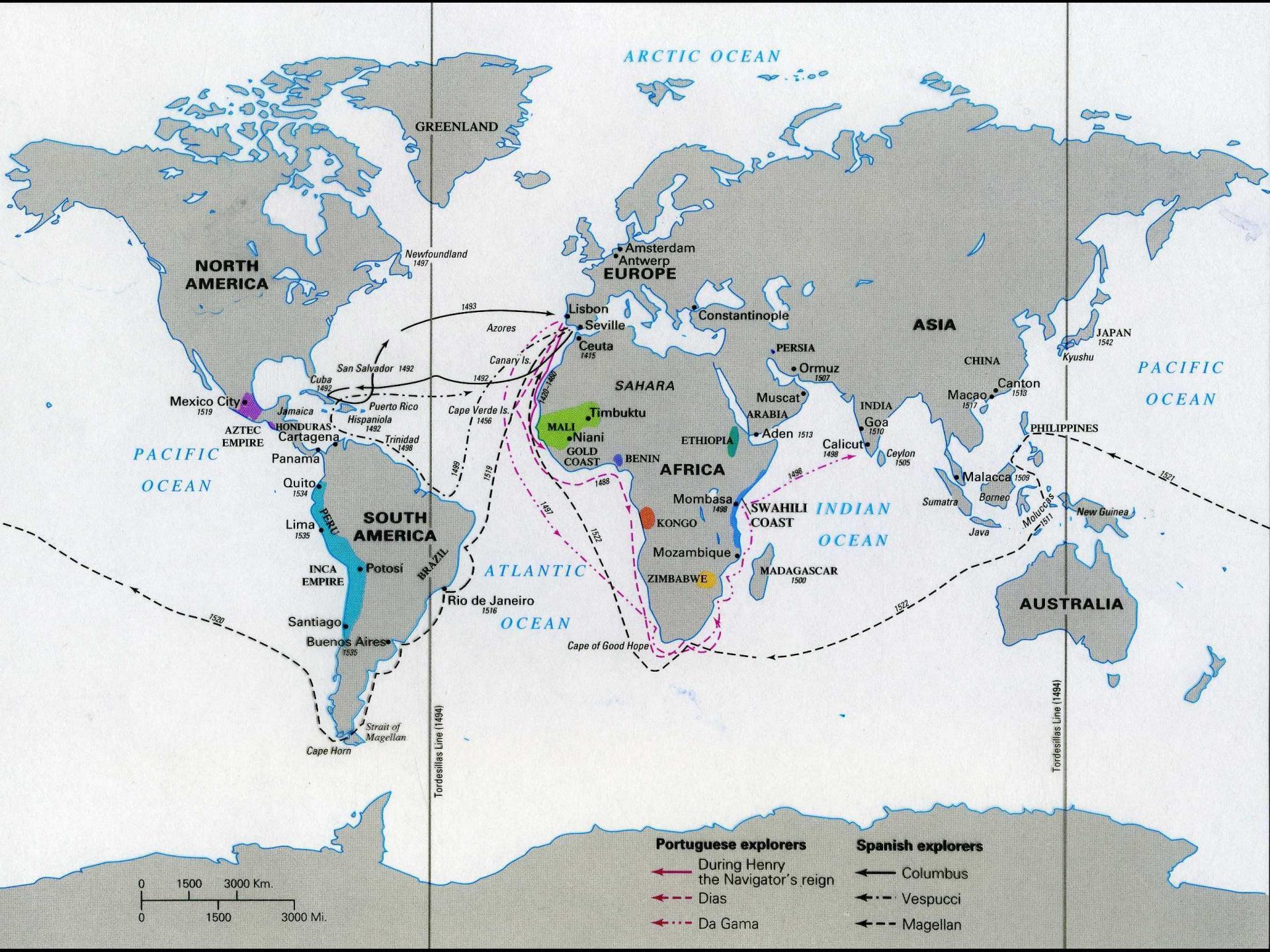


Spanish & Portuguese in Afro-Eurasia vs. the Americas

A comparison



Spanish and Portuguese had same motives

- Break monopolies on trade
- Bring in taxable income through trade to strengthen national monarchies
- Convert non-Christians
- Drive out or do battle with Muslim forces



Wealth of conquered territories

- Trade Network: rich trading states on coastal India (Malabar), Persian Gulf, Eastern Africa, Malacca, Southern Coast of China
 - Large amounts of spice – esp. Pepper
 - Many port cities Muslim

Free Trade Zone prior to Portuguese domination



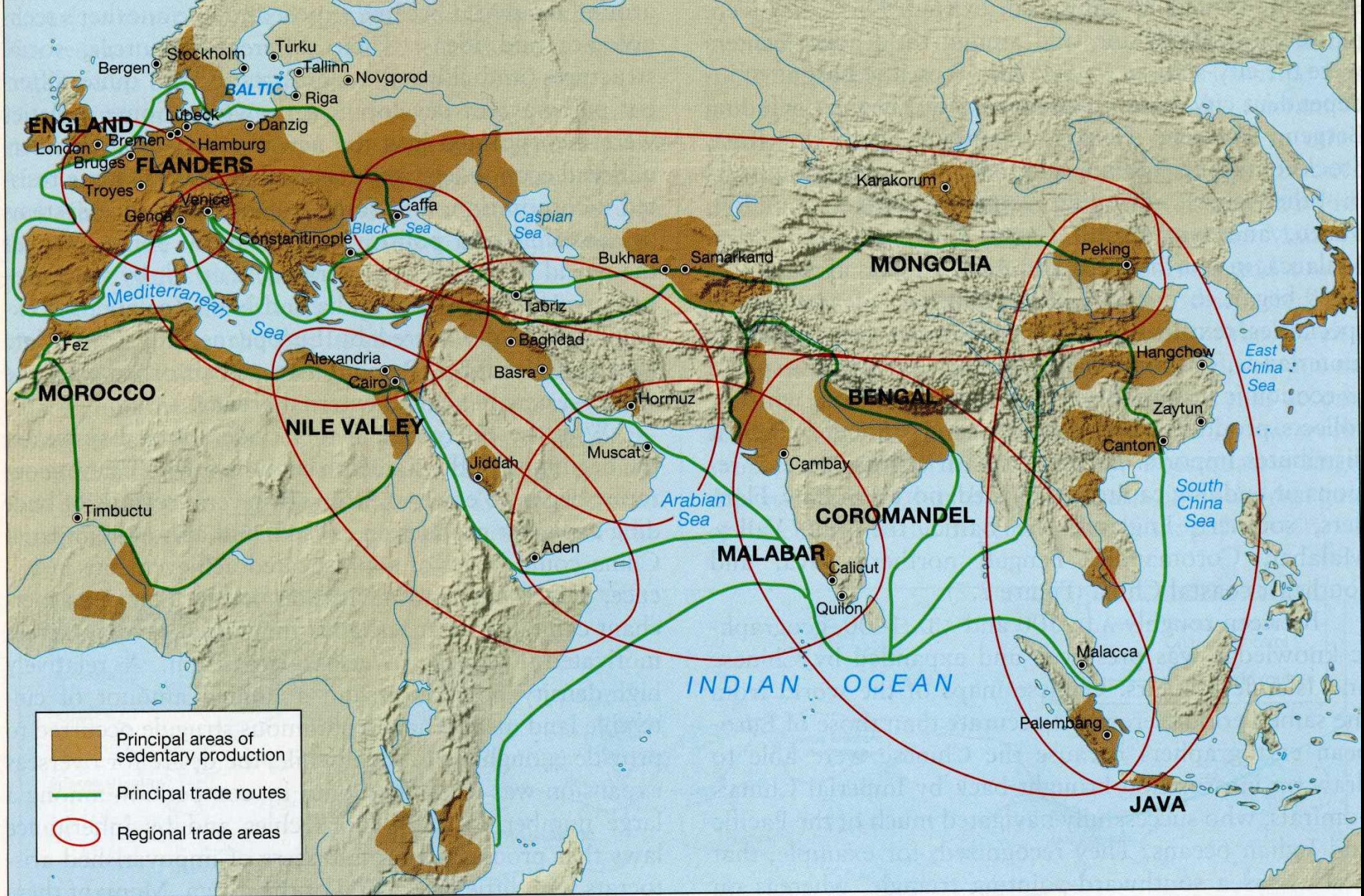


Figure 2.7 The precapitalist Old World, circa A.D. 1400 Principal areas of sedentary agricultural production are shaded. Some long-distance trade took place from one region to another, but for the most part it was limited to a series of overlapping regional circuits of trade. (Source: After R. Peet, *Global Capitalism: Theories of Societal Development*. New York: Routledge, 1991; J. Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony. The World-System A.D. 1200–1350*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989; and E.R. Wolf, *Europe and the People Without History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.)

Africans were savvy

- Attempted to control relationships with Portuguese
- Sent ambassadors
- Threatened to end trade if necessary
- Established royal monopolies



East Africans – savvy and Muslim

- Trading states Muslim, but city-states
- Malinda only state to side with Portuguese against its neighbors
- Bombardment campaign necessary to establish Portuguese control
- Alliance with Christian Ethiopia against Ottoman influence



Middle Easterners – savvy and strong

- Ottoman Empire able to help
- Portuguese still took Hormuz
- Couldn't take Aden



Indians – Savvy but under-armed

- Calicut, previous site of humiliation, conquered through use of cannon
- Gujarat conquered
- Areas that resisted were cut off from trade
- No attempt at penetration beyond entrepot cities



Malaccans – savvy but divided

- Some supported integration of new traders
- Already multicultural
- Unable to resist Portuguese cannon
- Malacca captured and controlled by Portuguese



Chinese – savvy and strong

- Trade welcomed but limited to Macao
- Portuguese used to transport trade between China and Japan – the yearly “black ships”
- No penetration into interior



Important Factors

- Resistance to disease of Afro-Eurasians meant no penetration into interior
- Portuguese cannon on ships allowed for establishment of a Maritime Trade Empire, but NOT complete control
- Monopoly of Italians broken; Portugal became very wealthy

The Americas – Very different

- Motives of explorers exploitation of natural resources, slave trade
- Amerindians naïve, ritualistic in warfare
- Little resistance to long-established Afro-Eurasian diseases – up to 50% of population died
- Little metallurgy; Europeans had technological advantage e.g. swords and armor
- No firearms
- No horses for cavalry



Aztec

- Thought Cortez was Quetzacoatl returning according to prophecy (initially)
- Unhappy minority populations within brutal Aztec joined with Spanish conquistadores
- Attempts at parley resulted in Mocteczuma being held hostage in Tenochtitlan
- Seeing their emperor fall broke the religious faith that sustained the power structure



Aztec

- Disease wiped out many, reduced chance to resist conquistadores
- Clever, long-known European military strategies used effectively (e.g. Cavalry charge)
- After brief resistance, empire fell



Inca



- Already weakened by smallpox when Pizarro arrived
- Had been through succession battle and civil war just prior
- Ceremonially welcomed Pizarro
- Pizarro's men betrayed Ayathualpa, cut down litter which ended religious authority

General factors - Americas

- Religious nature of state meant ceremonial warfare
- When leaders fell, religious basis of power put into question
- Spread of epidemic diseases seemed inspired by gods
- Lack of military techniques and technology
- Dishonesty of conquistadors



Major differences: Port v. Spanish

- Portuguese

- Encountered experienced populations with almost as good tech
- Couldn't use spread of disease to penetrate inland
- Had a MARITIME trade empire
- Focused on dominating the interconnected trade, trade with West Africa



- Spanish

- Encountered Naïve populations with little technology
- Used spread of Smallpox to weaken population
- Established LAND EMPIRES
- Focused on extracting resources (esp. Specie) from land

