

# In The Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful



## *The Truth about the Crusades*



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# The Naval Crusades

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## Overview

Just over 500 years have elapsed since the European Voyages of Discovery (Naval Crusade) beginning with Christopher Columbus, who in 1492 sailed westwards for India, eight months after the fall of the last Muslim stronghold in Europe, Granada. In his diary, Columbus states his objective: to combat the religion of Mahomet; to go to 'India' to gain enough wealth for Christendom to fight Muslims and capture the Holy Land (Palestine) [12] i.e. pretty much the same objectives as the previous eight Crusades! Five years later, in 1497, Vasco Da Gama sailed eastwards around Africa and eventually found his way to India in search of Christians and spices.

Soon after, a religious reformation, a scientific and economic revolution, simultaneously took place in Europe, namely Protestantism, modern science and Capitalism respectively. (Though from an Islamic perspective, the only true revolution is an Islamic one such as the one brought about by the Last Prophet (saw)). These 'events' in Europe were systematically financed and organised to produce skilled / trained Christians to hold and expand the frontiers of newly acquired territories and 'administer' the resources in these lands, on a scale never seen in history, to ensure economic, political, technological and military domination of the world. One of the earliest and strongest Protestant countries to emerge was Britain which inherited Columbus' objective and colonised India. Thereafter, Britain used the resources of its Empire in South Asia - The British Raj to destroy Muslim powers in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This culminated in the colonisation of Palestine in 1917 - during the global chess game called The First World War, also known as the Last Crusade. With the objective met the British Empire was itself systematically dismantled, for others like America and the Children of Israel to be ab(used) to help sustain the occupation of Palestine.

## Introduction

In the 15th century, Christian Europeans began making oceanic 'Voyages of Discovery' without oared galleries, but what is remarkable is that they ever started at all, and the startling suddenness and rapidity in unifying the new lands that were allegedly discovered, particularly after the Black Death, in which up to a third of the European population had died. Very quickly, these voyages led to the outright economic, political and religious domination of the whole world. This domination lies at the heart of the problem facing Muslims and oppressed and misguided masses of the world today. Why were Europeans the only ones to discover and conquer the world, even though the Church had lied to them, that the earth was flat and if anyone sailed too far, they would fall into Hell ? They were not only inward-looking, illiterate and misguided but oppressed by their clerics by being victims themselves to Inquisitions, Witch-hunts and charges of heresies. How is it possible for a society with such characteristics to even dream about discovering, AND conquering the World ?


Today the masses are indoctrinated, misled to believe and accept without thinking, reflecting, pondering how 15th century people with the above mentioned characteristics could have discovered the Old and New Worlds. It is impossible and so difficult to believe. It is like saying that the blind man was the one who saw the murder and not the man who can actually see! The fact is, the very institution that misguided its followers, also sent them (PIRATES such as Columbus, Da Gama, Magellan, etc) on another Crusade - a NAVAL Crusade, but under the guise of explorers, traders, colonialists and

imperialists.



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## Muslim Travellers

Following the destruction of Baghdad in 1258 by Christian-backed Mongols (Eastern Crusades), the remaining intellectual Islamic states were in Africa. Africa was home to several Islamic universities, namely Fez, Timbuktu, Jenne and Al-Azhar, with many Faculties including Law, Medicine, Grammar, Building, Crafts, Manufacturing and Geography, and they attracted scholars from all over the Muslim world. Even though two-thirds of the world's supply of gold came from West Africa during the Middle Ages, more profit was made from the sale of books. Arabic was not only the language of religion and learning, but it was also the language of trade.

On his way to Mecca in the 1320s, Mansa Musa of Mali in West Africa stated that his brother, [Abu Bukhari](#), had sent two expeditions, one of four hundred ships and the other of two thousand, across the Atlantic Ocean. This is not surprising because Islam is a universal religion that recognises no borders or natural boundaries because Allah (swt) is the Lord of the East and the West [Quran 73:9] and Allah (swt) is Lord of All the Worlds (Alamin).

In addition, the Last Prophet (saw) had come for the whole of mankind, the Last Message had been delivered and Islam had been completed [Quran 5:4]. Thus, Muslims were inclined to : trade, Dawah to the whole of mankind, Jihad, defend borders; expand the Islamic State, migrate (the Islamic calendar reminds Muslims of Hijra), etc. Muslims were also traders, sailors, geographers, astronomers, scientists, travellers (Hajj), etc. In complete contrast, the people who accompanied Columbus were condemned criminals! Muslims travelled using the stars and the winds as the following ayats from the Holy Quran reveal:

**\* 6:97. *It is He Who maketh the stars (as beacons) for you that ye may guide yourselves with their help through the dark spaces of land and sea. We detail Our Signs for people who know.***

**\* 10:22. *He it is Who enabled you to traverse through land and sea; so that ye even board ships they sail with them with a favourable wind...***

**\* 30 46. *Among His Signs is this that He sends the Winds as heralds of Glad Tidings giving you a taste of His (Grace and) Mercy that the ships may sail by His Command and that ye may seek of His Bounty in order that ye may be grateful.***

The geodetic position of the Great Pyramid at Giza i.e. it is at the centre of the world's habitable landmasses, would suggest that the Ancient Egyptians knew the world was round. Also, the mathematical relationship between the height of the Great Pyramid and its base perimeter involves the constant (PI) (3.142) and PI is associated with circular and spherical objects. Now one of the first countries that the Arabs brought the Last Message to, was Egypt in 641/2 C.E. One of the first Islamic universities was built in Egypt, namely Al-Azhar (by the Fatimids).

The Ancient Greeks had known that the world was a sphere, and Muslims studied Greek works. For example, Ptolemy's astronomy was translated into Arabic, Almagest, from Al Majisti, 'the greatest

compilation' which contained place names by latitude and longitude and a method of projecting spherical surfaces on flat maps, and his 'Geographia' was translated into Arabic early in the ninth century. Ptolemy regarded the earth as a sphere but underestimated its circumference. Another Greek called Strabo said that Africa could be sailed round. So Muslims knew from Greek sources about a round world.

When the English were still trying to fend off Viking raiders in the eighth century, the earth's circumference was being calculated to an accuracy of within 70 miles by a Muslim scientist called Al-Biruni of Ghazni, Afghanistan. So the Muslims had already ascertained that the earth was round seven hundred years before Columbus set sail. [54].

Pedro Cabral was the second European to go to India by sailing around Africa (Vasco Da Gama was the first). As Cabral was proceeding around West Africa (Cape Verde), he was blown off course, across to Brazil by wind and ocean currents! (See direction and paths of Canaries, Benguela, North Equatorial and South Equatorial sea currents). In other words, it is that easy to sail to the Americas, without hardly trying!

Finally, if Arabs used monsoon winds to travel to Indonesia (~5000 miles), is it not equally feasible for West Africans to travel to the Americas (Guinea to Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad, etc is only 3200 miles) ? In his diaries, Columbus states that he found a dark skinned people trading with the Indians in the Caribbean islands who he infers were people from the coast of Guinea (West Africa). He was informed by some men, when he stopped at one of the Cape Verde Islands off the coast of Africa, that Negroes had been known to set out into the Atlantic from the Guinea's coast in canoes loaded with merchandise and steering towards the West. He was further informed by the Indians of Hispaniola that they had been able to obtain gold from black men who had come from across the sea from the south and south east. Some historians have stated that Pedro Nino, one of the pilots of the command ship of Columbus was an African. Various writers have also pointed, from time to time, over many years, of West African explorers.

Columbus himself insisted that the lands he discovered were well known even before he found them and not unknown as the envious and ignorant say.

Unlike Christians then, Muslims were not intellectually or religiously inferior, misled or oppressed; and faced no obstacles to trade and spreading religion throughout the world. When the Church discovered that Muslims from West Africa were actually doing so, they launched the Naval Crusade, the brutal slavery of West Africans and the colonisation of the whole Muslim world. After all, Europe was surrounded by Muslims in the South in Al-Andalus and North Africa; in the East by the Ottomans who had captured Constantinople and overrunning Eastern Europe, threatening Central Europe; and West African Muslims in the West in the Americas. Western Europe had to break out.

## **Economic, political, secular or Religious Reference Frame ?**

Many people are under the impression that the root cause of colonialism was economics. Nothing further could be from the truth. This view is not altogether surprising because most educational-oriented history (his story) books have been written to be more than frank in highlighting the evils of slavery, racism, economic exploitation, imperialism and other high sounding expressions, but this has been done to conceal the truth. The truth is that these 'events' were yet another sustained CRUSADE against Islam and against true and pious Muslims.

Prior to modern secularism, religion played a very dominant role in all societies and civilisations, for example the Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Europeans, Indians, etc (and right up to the present day, although the masses do not realise it). Indeed, the concept of secularism is approximately two hundred years old. Thus, all historical events should be interpreted using a religious reference frame, and not the secular, economic or political reference frame because secularism as a concept and a way of life did not exist when the voyages of discovery were taking place. Using the correct reference frame, that is, the religious one, a totally different picture emerges as to what the voyages of discovery, slavery and colonialism were all about.

This is the real story of Columbus as found in non-muslim history books, if one cares to read them instead of books that give money and status (accountancy, business, economics, medicine, law, etc). Their history books have to be read with a fine toothcomb using the Islamic reference frame. By critically analysing their so called scholarly writings, for they are some of the most rewarding sources for history, because in shrewdly attempting to remove, hide or ridicule the role of Muslims in world history, they often reveal the very opposite of what was intended. These history books are fruitful sources of unconscious evidence - supplying the very evidence they thought to suppress or recording facts the significance of which they were totally ignorant. Even Shaitan cannot write a book completely devoid of truth.



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## Slavery of Africans

In 1441, a Portuguese ship brought back black men, who were described as prisoners of war and taken to be MUSLIMS. Three years later, the first sale of slaves in Portugal took place. The West African slave trade had begun and justified in the name of Christianity.

In 1457, the Council of Cardinals met in Holland where they sanctioned, as a righteous and progressive idea, the enslavement of [Africans](#) for the purpose of their conversion to Christianity and exploitation in the labour market as chattel property. This satanic scheme speedily gained the sanctimonious blessing of the Pharaoh (Pope) and became a standard policy of the Vatican, and later of Protestant churches. [3].

A bull of Pharaoh (Pope) Nicholas 5th instructed his followers to 'attack, subject, and reduce to perpetual slavery the Saracens, Pagans and other enemies of Christ, southward from Cape Bojador (opposite the Canary Islands) and including all the coast of Guinea'.

*(The term, [Pharaoh](#) is used by the editor to express and expose the Pharaohnic nature and origins of the 'Church'. For instance, carefully ponder over the relationship between [Quran 9:31](#) and [Quran 79:24](#); read 'Black Athena' by Martin Bernal, 'Stolen Legacy' by George James, 'Africans in Early Europe' by Ivan Van Sertima and 'Pentagon of Power' by Lewis Mumford).*

Initially, two nations actively took up the bidding of the Church:

**1. SPAIN:** Columbus sailed West to the [New World \(Americas\)](#) in 1492.

**2. PORTUGAL:** Da Gama sailed East to the [Old World \(Africa and Asia\)](#) in 1497.



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## Al Andalus (711-1492 C.E.)

Al-Andalus \* in the Iberian Peninsula (Spain) had been under the rule of Muslims of African descent - the Berbers and Moors since 711 when an African general, formerly a slave called Tariq ibn Ziyad went to Spain. Gibraltar is named after him, Jebel Tariq - mountain of Tariq, because he landed on the island and burnt his ships to inspire his men that there was no turning back.

*\* When Muslims came to Spain, its natives were called Vandals. So the Muslims called the land, Andalus - the Arabisation of the word Vandalusia.*

In 1469, Ferdinand of Aragon married Isabella of Castile, helping to unite two warring Spanish kingdoms against the common enemy, the Muslims. This union subsequently sounded the deathknell for the Muslims in Spain who had already lost territory in quick succession such as Cordoba (1236), Valencia (1238), Seville (1248), Lisbon, Toledo (1487), Malaga, etc through internal feuding amongst themselves.

The Roman Catholic Church having launched Inquisitions in France, Italy in the 13th century which wiped out Unitarian Christians, extended it to Spain in 1481 to kill or forcibly convert heathens or heretics, namely Unitarian Christians and Muslims. Were Unitarian Christians, heretics and witches (if there is such a thing as women dressed in black flying on broomsticks!), actually Muslims or potential Muslims (everyone is born a Muslim and truth stands clear from falsehood) ?

Isabella proved herself to be one of the greatest quartermaster generals of all time in supplying the Christian armies to drive the Muslims out. She was responsible for inflicting more torture and burning at the stake of mostly innocent people than any other monarch; for it was under her that the Inquisition was established and carried out its terrible work with her fervid blessing.

In the Inquisition, millions of Muslims were inhumanely treated, enslaved, tortured, burned, persecuted, forcibly baptised; and had property confiscated. Rather than have their daughters marry Christians, the Moors who were forced to convert to Catholicism put the girls into convents; thus today one finds many of the Spanish nuns' recipes for sweetmeats involving sugar, honey and almonds, are of Arab origin.

1492 marked a new age for Europe. After 781 years of Islamic presence in Spain, the Vatican was well on its way in reuniting the whole of Spain into Christendom. On 2nd January 1492, the last Muslim foothold in Spain, Granada was overrun by Christian armies. Thus ended the power, wealth and elegance of Al-Andalus.

The essence of the re-conquest of Spain was the transfer of power from Muslim to Christian rulers. To that process, there contributed greedy princes, fanatical bigots, roughneck French knights looking for fighting, Castilian squires seeking land and booty.

The destruction of the Islamic state in Spain was carefully planned, to ensure that Muslims from Africa were not in a position to assist their co-religionists in Spain. With two year's preparation and a papal bull, a Crusade was launched on 24th August 1415, against Ceuta, a strategic Muslim stronghold and trading centre in Morocco, just east of Tangier, opposite to Gibraltar. The Portuguese Armada, well armed, and supported by a contingent of English archers and ships overwhelmed the Muslims. Within a

day the Crusaders had taken Ceuta. Having ransacked and piled the streets with dead Muslims, the city was left profitless. The main mosque was turned into a church.

When Granada fell to Christendom, Columbus successfully persuaded Spain's monarchs to support his expedition, in the context of the struggle against Islam. Ferdinand and Isabella then appointed Columbus, a Genoese (north west Italy) seafarer 'to go by way of the West to India'. They appointed him high admiral of the sea and made him Viceroy and perpetual governor of any lands he discovered. Eight months later, Columbus set sail in the name of the Trinity from Palos de la Frontera, Granada, Spain on the morning of August 3rd 1492. He first sailed down the West coast of Africa to the Canary Islands to take on wood and water and to refit; then he sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. In the same year, October 13 1492, he discovered the West Indies (San Salvador). [13].

'Description of the world' by Pierre d'Ailly, the Cardinal of Tournai was Columbus's favourite reading. D'Ailly introduced Columbus to Arabic sources and computations of the Muslim geographer, Al-Farghani. Columbus also studied the 'Universal History' by Pharaoh (Pope) Pius 2nd. [34].

## **To Combat the Religion of Mahomet and the Conquest of Jerusalem...**

But what was the purpose of Columbus' voyage ? It is actually written in the prologue of his journal, in which he addresses Spain's monarchs. Here is a summarised extract [12]:

Columbus first praises the Spanish monarchy for finally bringing to an end the Crusade against the Moors (Muslims) on 2nd January 1492 at Granada. He describes the humiliating end of the Moors when the Muslim leader emerged from his fortress at Alhambra to kiss the hands of Spain's Christian monarchs. (Weeping Moor).

In his second paragraph, Columbus states that he intends to go to India to meet its ruler, the Great Khan, who like his predecessors, had appealed to Rome many times, for men learned in Christianity to instruct him, an appeal to which the Pope had not yet responded, resulting in many people being 'lost' through idolatries and acceptance of religions of damnation [12].

The prologue explains that Spain's Christian rulers who are dedicated to the expansion of Christianity have sent Columbus to combat the religion of Mahomet and all idolatries and heresies. Columbus is to meet the rulers of the India, see the towns, lands and all other things, to find out in what manner they might be converted to Christianity. [12]. Hence, Columbus was accompanied by an Arabic interpreter.

Finally, Columbus makes the following pledge: *"that he intends to find gold mines and spices and everything in such quantity that the Spanish monarchs within three years would undertake and organise themselves to go to conquer the Holy Sepulchre, for all the wealth gained in the enterprise should be spent on the conquest of Jerusalem"* [12].

Columbus was convinced that he had been chosen by God to recover Jerusalem. The conquest of Jerusalem was also the aim of Ferdinand and Isabella, who styled themselves as King and Queen of Jerusalem. In later voyages Columbus tried to convince his crew of circumnavigating the whole world and return home to Spain via Jerusalem.


It was India's massive population of over three hundred million and its inexhaustible natural wealth; for Christians needed to finance their Final Crusade to colonise all of the Muslim world and capture Palestine. To this end, Columbus deposited money in San Giorgio Bank in Genoa, his native city, for

when his successors conquer Jerusalem.



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## Portugal

While Spain was used for empire building in the West, in the New World (the Americas), Portugal was used to make their tiny state of one million people into a vast African-Indian empire in the East i.e. the Old World of Africa and Asia.

Portugal's eventual presence in West, Central and East Africa aimed at nothing less than building an empire from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean - a vast swath across the continent that would also serve directly as the imperial highway connection with the projected Indian empire. The court of Lisbon had planned well. For such a mini-state as Portugal to have an ambition bigger than the Roman Empire, and then daring enough to operate the plan must compel a degree of organisation, admiration and uninhibited aggressiveness that enabled very small groups of men to go forth to conquer and dominate. [40].

*(Readers should compare the territorial expansion of the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires with mini-states of the Roman Empire e.g Spain, Portugal and Britain and what military strategy was deployed if any, to counter these aggressive-mini states. Don't make the same mistakes again!).*

The Vatican used two men of vision to inspire an all-out effort to realise the African-Indian dream: Jao 1st (who was married to Philippa of Lancaster - an English bride) and his third son, Henry.

His romantic title of 'Henry the Navigator' was given in the nineteenth century by a German historian. However, he was not a practical navigator and never captained a ship in his life. His father made him head of the Order of Christ, a religious and military society created in Portugal with papal blessing in 1319. This Order replaced the discredited Knights Templars, and its purpose was to 'defend Christians from Muslims and to carry the war to them in their own territory'.

The Pharaoh (Pope) sanctioned Henry to struggle against the Moors and anyone who died on Henry's voyages to Africa would be regarded as having died on a Crusade. Indeed the early Portuguese were not traders or private adventurers, but admirals with a royal commission to conquer territory and promote the spread of Christianity.

On the orders of the Vatican, the Portuguese sailed along the coast of West Africa seizing a number of ports along the coast. In 1434, Gil Eanes dared to sail beyond the sea where the Atlantic Ocean was supposed to end and ships plunge into the void.

Portuguese sailing ships first reached the west African coast in 1470s. They built a fort there called Elmina (the mine) to inflict a fatal wound on Muslims by cutting off Islam's supply of gold at source. Afterall, two-thirds of the world's gold supply came from West Africa during the Middle Ages, with monarchs as far away as England striking their coins in the precious metal of West Africa. By the treaty of Alcacovas, Spain had recognised. Portugal's rights to explore the African coast, and the Pharaoh (Pope) granted indulgences to those who sailed to take part in the building of the La Mina. It's full name, Sao Jorge Da Mina, St. George of the Mine, embodied the religious and commercial nature of 15th century Romans. Portugal then began to its mint gold coinage using West African gold and its standard piece was called the Cruzada - the 'Crusade'.

West African gold would help Portugal finance the next phase of the Crusade - the attempt to sail around South Africa and beyond to South Asia and Far East Asia. But first West Africa and its people had to be taken out. In 1441, a Portuguese ship brought back black men, who were described as prisoners of war and taken to be MUSLIMS. Three years later, the first sale of slaves in Portugal took place. Slavery had begun and justified in the name of Christianity.

## Vasco Da Gama

On July 8th, 1497, Vasco Da Gama set sail from Lisbon, Portugal. Da Gama and his three captains spent the night before sailing in vigil at the chapel which Henry the Navigator had built for his sailors, then the following day, walked in procession accompanied by chanting priests. The white sails of his ships were embellished with the blood-red crucifix of the Order of Christ.

Unlike previous Portuguese expeditions, Da Gama continued sailing further down the West coast of Africa and round the southern tip of Africa. On December 25, sailing northwards, the Portuguese named the south east corner of southern Africa, Natal, because they had sighted it on the day that Christ was allegedly born. Da Gama and his crew were astonished and relieved at Quilimane in southern Mozambique to find that they had swum into a zone of Islamic trade and frequent ocean voyaging.

Da Gama had news of ships still bigger than theirs and pressed on. The Sultan of Mozambique provided two pilots to guide Da Gama, but one deserted when he found that his new employers were Christians and the other could be kept on board only by force. On reaching Malindi (a Shi'a stronghold), Da Gama was warmly received by its ruler, who was on poor terms with the sultan of his more powerful and prosperous neighbour and, thinking Da Gama might be an ally against Mombasa, he provided Da Gama with the most experienced pilot in the Indian Ocean, an elderly Shi'a Arab called Ahmad Ibn Majid nicknamed Malema Canaua or 'Captain Astrologer' by the Portuguese.

There is some confusion over Ibn Majid's exact identity, whether he was an Arab or a Moor from Gujerat, belonging to a heretical Christian sect. What is certain is that he was an arrogant individual who regarded himself as supreme authority on oceanic navigational and astronomy. He was able to determine his position at sea even if the Pole Star was concealed by clouds. He was a prolific writer on his trade and is credited with at least forty works. His lack of piety is said to have been a contributory factor for fondness of wine on Da Gama's ships. Lucky for the Romans, that they found the most experienced pilot in the Muslim world!

Eleven months after setting sail, Da Gama arrived at the Indian city of Calicut on 20th May, 1498. From the first, Da Gama encountered hostility from the 'Moors', Arabs and Africans, but he seemed to have found favour with the Zamorin or Hindu raja of Malabar [25]. Da Gama told the first Indians he met on the Malabar coast that he had come to seek 'Christians and spices'. The Christians he had in mind were a legendary people to be rescued from Muslim encirclement and who would help him in his Crusade. They were probably the subjects of the mysterious Prester John and were in reality the Abyssinians whom Da Gama never met. Da Gama returned home with some Hindus and a message from the Hindu raja saying : 'Vasco Da Gama, a nobleman of your household, has visited my kingdom and has given me great pleasure'.

A second expedition, consisting of thirteen ships and twelve hundred soldiers was despatched in 1500, under the command of Pedro Alvares Cabral. He was instructed to develop a friendly relationship with the Zamorin to convince him and his countrymen to expel all the Muslims living in Calicut as Muslims

were a people with whom the Portuguese have such great and ancient enmity.

However, Atlantic ocean currents and winds first blew Cabral to the coast of Brazil first - it is so easy for anyone to cross the Atlantic to the Americas (Read: 'Fair Gods and Stone Faces' by Constance Irwin, who writes about people from Ancient Civilisations of Africa and the Middle East (Ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, Pheonicians, etc) travelling to the Americas thousands of years before the Romans; and 'They Came Before Columbus' by Ivan Van Sertima).

Cabral then sailed east to India, arriving at Calicut. Seventy Portuguese landed, including three Franciscan friars in an attempt to establish a factory. The Portuguese compound was attacked and fifty-three of the seventy Portuguese were killed, including the three friars. Cabral in retaliation bombarded the town even though the Indians were innocent. Ten merchant ships were seized and most of the crews were slaughtered, but some were tied up, then burnt alive in the sight of people ashore.

In 1502 the king of Portugal obtained from Pharaoh (Pope) Alexander 6th \*, a bull constituting him 'lord \*\* of navigation, conquest, and trade of Ethiopia, Arabia, Persia and India'. In the same year, Da Gama sailed again for India, with a squadron of 15 ships which were later joined by another five, enough to subdue the port of Calicut by force.

*\* Pharaoh Alexander 6th was an intensely fat and ugly man who flaunted his mistress and had three illegitimate children; one of his daughters had two husbands whilst still in her teens. On one occasion, for his guests' amusement, he engaged the hundred most beautiful courtesans in Rome, had them strip naked in his ballroom and there copulate with his men-at-arms, having offered valuable prizes for the couples who performed the most lascivious positions; while his daughter, Lucretia, and the other ladies of the Court looked on and applauded.*

*\*\* Only Allah (swt) is Lord.*

It is amazing that pirates from the Roman Empire who have just discovered oceanic travelling, could have struck terror so far from home in the heartland of Islam's trading empire considering Muslims had centuries of naval and fighting expertise.

Off the coast of India, Da Gama committed the most frightful act of his career. His fleet overtook a ship returning from Mecca laden with pilgrims - men, women and children - and, after seizing the treasure it carried, Da Gama set fire and allowed it to burn with all its passengers still aboard. On loading his ships with spices from various ports on the Indian coast, he set sail for home in February 1503, leaving behind him a trail of blood and destruction. In 1524, he was appointed viceroy to India.

By the end of the 15th century Pharaoh Alexander 6th had divided up the known world between Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain and King Manuel of Portugal. The Crusade, Christianisation, Conquest, and 'Commerce' of Africa and India had begun.



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# An Analytical Study of the History of the European Church and its Consequences on the Ummah

## Overview

In 638, Palestine fell to the Muslims. 457 years later, in 1095, the First Crusade was launched by the Vatican to capture the Holy Land (Palestine). They failed, but in 1492, Columbus set sail to combat the religion of Mohamet and gain enough wealth for the capture of Jerusalem. However he failed but 425 years later, in 1917 during the World War 1, the Protestant Church of England British Empire colonised it, when General Allenby declared: `Today the Crusades have ended'. In 1948, the real power behind the Church and Empire took over Palestine.



*A painting depicting Vasco da Gama before he sets off on his naval crusade to India in search of Christians and spices.*

*Interesting features are the Christian clergy, sword, cross, etc.*

*Excerpt from: 'The Great Explorers - Stories of Men Who Discovered & Mapped the Unknown Areas of the World', by Piers Pennington*

## Naval Crusade

In the 15th century, Europeans began making oceanic voyages of discovery. What is remarkable is that they ever started at all, soon after the Black Death in which one-third of the population died. Very quickly, these voyages led to the outright economic and political domination of the whole world. This domination lies at the heart of the problem facing Muslims today.

Why were Europeans the only ones to discover and conquer the world, notwithstanding the Church had lied to them, that the earth was flat and if anyone sailed too far, they would fall into Hell ? They were not only inward-looking, illiterate and misguided but oppressed by their clerics by being victims themselves to Inquisitions, Witch-hunts and charges of heresies. How is it possible for a society with such characteristics to even dream about discovering, AND conquering the World ? The fact is, the very institution that misguided its followers, also sent them on another Crusade - a NAVAL Crusade in the guise of explorers, traders and colonialists.

Just over 500 years have elapsed since the beginning of European encroachment into the **Old (Africa and India)** and New World (Americas). The origins of colonialism, racism, capitalism (stealing and exploitation), globalisation, slavery (free labour) and 'Business Administration' can be traced back to 1455 when the Pharaoh (Pope) put out an announcement ( `papal bull') authorising Catholics to "reduce to servitude all infidel people". In 1457, the Council of Cardinals met in Holland where they sanctioned, as a righteous and progressive idea, the enslavement of black Africans for the purpose of their conversion to Christianity and to be exploited in the labour market as chattel property. This scheme gained the sanctimonious blessing of the Pharaoh (Pope) and became a standard policy of the Vatican, and later of Protestant churches.

A bull of Pope Nicholas 5th instructed his followers to `attack, subject, and reduce to perpetual slavery the Pagans and other enemies of Christ'. Two nations actively took up the bidding of the Vatican:

- *SPAIN* - In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed to the WEST.
- *PORTUGAL* - In 1497, Vasco da Gama sailed to the EAST.

Many people assume that the primary reason for these events was economics. HIS story books openly talk of the evils of slavery, racism, economic exploitation, etc but this has been done to conceal the truth. For example, only by World War 2, when the British empire was in terminal decline, did trade between Britain and its colonies reach a peak of 35% of all British trade. So much for imperialism being the handmaid of mercantilist capitalism.

Prior to secularism, religion played a dominant role in all civilisations : Ancient Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Indians, etc. The concept of secularism is approximately 200 years old. It is more appropriate to interpret historical events using the religious reference frame, and not the secular or economic reference frame.



**Next Page: SPAIN**

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 **Overview/Naval Crusade**

 **Spain**

 **Portugal**

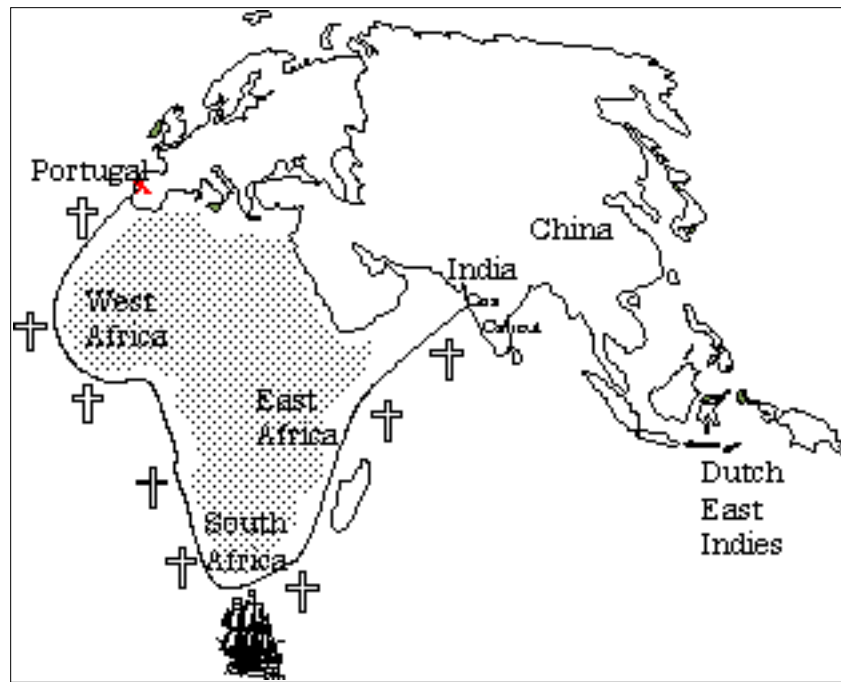
 **Protestantism**

 **Secularism**

# European Crusades, Christianisation, and Colonisation

## Introduction

1997 will mark 500 hundred years since the beginning of European encroachment into Africa and India. The origins of European colonialism (another Crusade actually), end of the Middle Ages / beginning of Renaissance can be traced back to the taking of the capital of the Byzantine Empire **Constantinople** in 1453 by the Ottoman Turks, thereby ending the Eastern Roman Empire that had existed for over a thousand years. Shortly afterwards, in 1455 the Pope put out an announcement called the 'papal bull' (and it certainly was for the Muslims): authorising Roman Catholics to "reduce to servitude all infidel people". One of the main objectives of launching the Crusades in the first place in 1095 was to prevent the Seljuk Turks from overrunning the Eastern Roman Byzantine Empire when the Turks defeated Byzantine armies at Anatolia in 1071 and Syria and Palestine in 1075.



**In 1457, the Council of Cardinals met in Holland where they sanctioned, as a righteous and progressive idea, the enslavement of black Africans for the purpose of their conversion to Christianity and to be exploited in the labour market as chattel property. This devilish scheme speedily gained the sanctimonious blessing of the Pope and became a standard policy of the Roman Catholic Church, and later of the Protestant churches.**

Two rival powers actively took up the bidding of the Vatican and they were:

- **PORTUGAL** - they were the first Europeans to come in contact with India
- **SPAIN** - Columbus sailed from Palos in Spain, eight months after this last Muslim stronghold in Spain called Granada fell to Christian armies.

The Portuguese set out with the intention of uniting the Christian forces of Europe with those of Africa, namely Ethiopia in an all out war against the Muslims. In so doing, they discovered the eastern sea route

to India by sailing along the immensely wealthy Africa coastline. In 1494, two years after the last Muslim stronghold in Europe fell i.e. Granada in 1492, the Pope blessed an African crusade.

## North Africa - What was it like before Slavery and Colonisation ?

Arab Muslims first arrived in Africa in 641/2 AD, when they displaced the tyrannical rule of the Byzantium Empire in Egypt and north Africa. Under Islamic rule, Egypt was regarded as major source of wealth for Muslims as they replaced the competitive taxation of Greeks and Romans with a fairer tax system. With the emergence of new and stable systems of Islamic law and order in the Near East and North Africa, the arteries of economic growth regained their health. In the Mediterranean, as in all the seas surrounding Arabia, trade recovered and was steadily enlarged. Responding to their new opportunities, as well as to the challenge of their new unity and faith in themselves, Muslim merchants pushed their ships and enterprise far across the seas. They established themselves little trading settlements along the coasts of India, Ceylon, Malaya, down the eastern coast of Africa, and in the ports of southern China. They multiplied the old Phoenician links between southern Spain, soon to be the seat of material prosperity and soaring intellectual achievements under a succession of Muslim dynasties. They re-opened large channels of inter-continental communications. Old markets were expanded and new ones founded, helping to shape the course of political change. Large regions of Africa benefited particularly from this recovery and expansion, creating long-enduring networks of commerce, that penetrated far into the continent.



Next Page: **WEST AFRICA**

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 **Introduction**

 **North Africa**

 **West Africa**

 **East Africa**

 **Africa & Europeans**

 **India & Portuguese**

 **India & British**

# Countries named after the Portuguese Conquest

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- **America:** Amerigo Vespucci charted part of South American coast
  - **Angola, Luanda:** founded in 1576 by Portuguese settlers. Made capital in 1627
  - **Benin, Porto Novo:** founded in 15th or 16th century by Portuguese slave-traders. Its name is Portuguese for 'new port'.
  - **Cameroon, Yaounde:** founded from Portuguese cameroes, meaning prawns, because Portuguese explorers found plentiful supplies along the coast.
  - **Cape Verde, Praia:** islands named Cabo Verde, meaning green cape, by the Portuguese.
  - **Gambia, Banjul:** according to tradition, the city's name arose when Portuguese settlers, who discovered the country in the 15th century, asked what the place was called. Thinking the question to be 'what are you doing?', the natives replied 'Bangjulo', meaning 'making rope-mats'.
  - **Guam, Agana:** present name of islands derived from the original name San Juan (St John), which the inhabitants distorted to San Guam. Islands first sighted by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan on St John's Day 1521.
  - **Guinea-Bissau, Bissau:** country formerly Portuguese Guinea.
  - **Macao, Macua City:** Peninsula settled by the Portuguese in 1557.
  - **Portugal, Lisbon (Lisboa):** the original settlement on the site was colonised by Phoenicians and Carthaginians. The city's modern name is probably Phoenician; it may come from the word ippo, meaning 'fortress', or alisubbo, meaning 'joyful bay'.
  - **Reunion, Saint-Denis:** islands discovered by Magellan in 1513. Given its present name in 1793, during the French revolution, to celebrate the union of the revolutionaries from Marseilles with the National Guard on August 10, 1792.
  - **St Helena, Jamestown:** island discovered in 1502 by the Portuguese explorer Joao Da Nova. Named after St Helena (about 250-330) who reputedly discovered Christ's cross.
  - **St Pierre and Miquelon, St Pierre:** islands first named Eleven Thousand Virgins because discovered by the Portuguese explorer ...
  - **United States of America, Washington:** Portuguese sailor, Ves... Amerigo. Capital named after George Washington (1732-99).
  - **Uruguay, Montevideo:** probably named by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan in 1520. Settled in 1726 by Spanish. May mean 'I saw the mountain' (from Portuguese mont-vidu).
  - **Vatican City, Vatican City:** has been the papal residence since 5th century AD. City named after *Mons Vaticanus*, the Roman hill on which it stands, and the hill's name may come from the Latin *Vaticina*, meaning a place of divination. It was the site of a pre-Christian shrine.
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**to Truth about the Crusades**

# Islamic Trading System in the Old World

## (Africa and India)

### An article from the Financial Times

#### Islamic Trading System in the Indian Ocean ?

*Financial Times Weekend, November 16 / November 17 1996, Section 3*



***SHIP WITH RED CROSS ON BOTH OF ITS MASTS -  
picture imposed on Ethiopia, Arabia, India and Madagascar***

There is a challenge to the Pacific Age, argues Richard Hall, who thinks the West ill-advised to ignore Islam's trading tradition.

#### Stirrings from the Indian Rim

When **Pope Alexander VI** divided up the known world between Ferdinand & Isabella of Spain and King Manuel of Portugal at the end of the 15th century, Manuel was thrilled at getting the better of the bargain. For him, it was the opulent Indian Ocean, with all its spices, jewels and gold. The Spaniards were making do with seemingly barbaric and barren lands found by Columbus while trying to reach what is now called the Pacific Rim.

King Manuel proudly declared himself Lord of the 'navigation and commerce of Ethiopia, Arabia, Persia and India' - the bountiful lands where fortunes were waiting to be made. Beyond them, past the Straits of Malacca, were shores and oceans which seemed far less promising. Fears still lingered that ships would

fall off the end of the world if they ventured into waters far beyond the Indian Rim.

That terra incognita, the Pacific region, is the engine of the world economy. Japan has blossomed, China is on the rise, Chile has overcome dictatorship and the West coast of the US is where present and future fantasy is made and marketed. In retrospect, Ferdinand and Isabella appear to have given the prime real estate.

But there are stirrings in the Indian Ocean that could challenge the Pacific Age. The idea is easy to mock the images evoked by a mention of the Indian Ocean is of languid paradise, a honeymoon destination, or a scene of tragedy in which the sheer size of casualty figures makes for incomprehension. Regional co-operation seems an impossibility, its way blocked by religious dispute and ethnic divisions.

The stereotype absurdly underestimates the present economic strength and ignores the commercial past of the Indian Rim. Traditions of international trade were established in a region that now appears to have a permanent high risk investment rating.

*But even a glance at the geography hints at the potential. At the rim's Northwest corner are Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, the world's richest countries in per capita terms, possessing more than 60% of the world's proven reserves. On the south-east flank of the Indian ocean are Malaysia and Singapore, economic success stories already, and beyond them, the emerging giant of Indonesia and minerals-rich western Australia with its brash capitalism.*



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# Vasco Da Gama - Christian Fundamentalist Terrorism

( or 'Voyages of Discovery was Christian Fundamentalist Terrorism' )

## An article from the Observer

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### Is democracy really the `natural' political system of Europeans ?

*The Observer 7th June 1998, page 28.*

### Who says democracy is the only way forward ?

**The seeds of rabid Christian terrorism still lie dominant in the fields of Europe.**

'**Dark Continent**': that is the title of Mark Mazower's history of modern Europe, published later this month. In his book, already much discussed, Mazower poses a shocking question which should have been put years ago. He asks whether democracy really is the `natural' political systems of Europeans. Or can it be that totalitarian politics and dictatorship have also at times been genuinely popular, appealing to deep-rooted European traditions ?

It is Mazower's title which specially appeals to me. Pious Eurocrap apart, the truth is that our continent is dark and barbarous as well as brilliant. Europe and the United States together invented representative democracy and human rights. But Europe invented fascism and communism all by itself. Our democratic credentials are not ancient, but new and shaky.

I thought again about Mazower's book when I read the press reports about the huge `Expo `98' trade fair in Lisbon. The theme is the fate of the oceans. But there are always national sub-texts in shows like this. Portugal, a country with an attractive deficit of self-esteem, wants Expo `98' to show that things actually do work in Portugal and that the new technologies are at home there.

Another sub-text, however, is to remind foreigners that Portugal once ruled those oceans. The emphasis today is on Europeans as `discoverers' rather than colonialists (the liberation wars in Portuguese Africa are still a relatively recent trauma). And this, inevitably, has led the Portuguese to promote the memory of Vasco da Gama.

The Expo is his anniversary. After the longest recorded sea voyage in history, he landed at Calicut in India in May 1498 - just 500 years ago. Columbus had already made his first American voyage; in 1498, the Pope had partitioned the world's oceans between Spain and Portugal, allotting Portugal the eastern Atlantic, Africa and the Indian Ocean. Vasco da Gama and his little fleet headed for India. There is his shabby little ships and his tacky gifts (baubles suitable for the West African trade) were regarded with amused contempt by the great Rajah Zamorin of Calicut.

For some, Vasco da Gama remains the mighty Christian voyager who discovered India and opened up its pagan shores to trade and the Church. Others have come to see him as a crazed destroyer, a wrecker of higher cultures to be compared to Genghis Khan or Attila.

The late Richard Hall, for many years on The Observer, described the world of the Indian Ocean in his 1996 masterpiece `Empires of the Monsoon'. For the coast of Natal round to the tip of India and Sri

Lanka, this sea had for many centuries been surrounded by prosperous cities and states, traversed by Roman, Arab, Indian and Chinese merchants ships. Its standards of living and literacy were more advanced those of western Europe. Its wars were minor, and the different faiths of those who lived and traded on the shores of this vast region were tolerated.

Into this world burst, in 1498, a gang of fundamentalist terrorists. Vasco da Gama belonged to the Order of Christ, established in Portugal in 1319 as a religious-military society for attacking Islam in its own territories. He went to India not for geography or commerce or philanthropy, but to conquer the enemies of Jesus Christ. His only strength was his bronze cannon, unknown in the Indian Ocean, and his suicidal courage.

Later voyages, by da Gama and his successors, showed their true nature. *'The Moors and the Gentiles are outside the law of Jesus Christ'*, wrote one of their ideologists. This justified a policy of sustained atrocity and plunder. Da Gama bombarded the defenceless city of Calicut for three days, cutting off ears, noses and hands of prisoners before burning them alive.

Off Arabia, he intercepted a large ship carrying cargo and pilgrims: it was fired and sunk, with its 700 passengers, and da Gama sent out his crew in longboats to spear survivors in the water. One of his specialities was hanging Muslims from his masts and using them for crossbow practice. But these horrors were not done on perverted impulse. They were deliberate, even political. Vasco da Gama wanted local inhabitants and their rulers to watch the flames and hear the shrieks. He relied on terror to compel surrender.

The commanders who followed da Gama were no different. 'The Great Afonso de Albuquerque' carried out massacre after massacre with the same carefully spectacular sadism used by Vasco da Gama. Reporting to the King after the sack of Goa, he wrote: *'I burnt the city and put everyone to the sword and for four days your men shed blood continuously. No matter where we found them, we did not spare the life of a single Muslim; we filled the mosques with them and set them on fire...'*. The peoples of the Indian Ocean had never encountered calculated savagery of this order, and were broken by it.

To recall these things is not to criticise contemporary Portugal, child of the most beautiful and merciful of modern revolutions.

Neither do I want to deny Expo's claim that Vasco da Gama enlarged Europe's awareness of the world, a sort of ancestor of globalisation. But Europe's awareness of its own nature also matters, and that means confronting Vasco da Gama for what he was.

He, like the other Portuguese and Spanish conquerors, stood at the end of five centuries of Christian fundamentalist terrorism which began with the Crusades. The fanatical onslaught against rival cultures, the orgy of cruelty and destruction that the barbarian 'Franks' of western Europe brought to the Holy Land and even Byzantium (centre of Orthodox Christianity and rival to the Trinitarian Church in Rome), reached its culmination in sixteenth-century India and Mexico. But its consequences live on, even in the post-imperial world.

Saddam Hussein aiming missiles at the 'New Crusaders' is one such consequence. Israeli civilians mutilated by Hamas bombs are another. And the seeds left in Europe itself by those centuries are not dead yet. Given a hidden place to lie, they can still germinate every so often. And this Dark Continent is full of crevices.



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# *History ... from an Islamic perspective*

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Say: "Travel through the earth and see what was the end of those before (you):

Most of them worshipped others besides Allah."

Sura 30: Al- Rum, Verse 42, TMQ: Yusuf Ali

## Articles available On-line

'No Muslim needs to be told about the importance of HISTORY if only because the Quran is full of it. Ironically no one seems more ignorant of their history today as the Muslims, for they, like others, certainly know who controls the past controls the future. But what they do not seem to wake up to is the corollary - whoever controls the present, too often, controls the past. This is not simply to explain why they remain ignorant of their past but to make them appreciate the fact that those who control their present will not easily give up their past. The past is an important component of people's freedom, for it gives them their identity and therefore the freedom to be what they are. But without it no nation, or indeed individual, makes any meaningful progress. People's past gives them not only their identity and their worth, but also their bearings and their goals. Our future therefore is in discovering our past.'

Author: Usman Bugaje, page 78 of *Al-Mizan (The Balance) Vol. 2, Issue 1, 1996, published jointly by the Federation of Student Islamic Societies in the UK & Islamic Foundation.*

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- *"In the early hours of 31st August, 1997, Diana - the mother of: the future king of England, and future head of the Church of England, was killed in a bizarre car crash in Paris, along with her lover, Emad Mohammed (Dodi) Al-Fayed. Their deaths had ended what was probably the biggest unreported crisis ever to face the Church of England, since the abdication of Edward in 1936, following Edward's adamant desire to marry Wallace Simpson, an American divorcee."*

 **Fatwa on the Rise of Inter-Faith Movements: Unification of Religions**

- *"Abrahamic Faith" based on a new strain of religion called "Inter-Faith Dialogue" is rearing its ugly head amongst the people of the world and is a very serious one. The objective of this new group is to attempt to unite Judaism, Christianity and Islam, under one banner and create a brand new religion based on all three in the name of Unity, Compassion and the rest of the reasons they can conjure up, of these enemies of Islam. This fatwa contains the description and rules that need to be observed by the believing Muslims in this regard.*

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