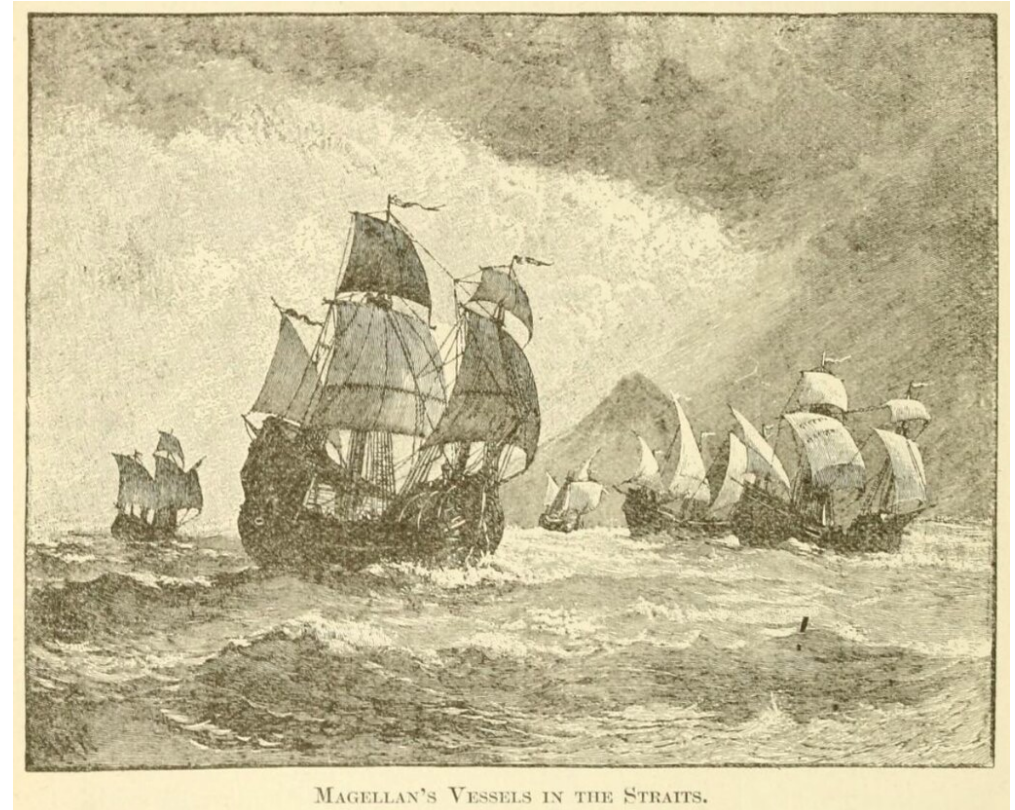




# WHAT WAS THE AGE OF DISCOVERY?

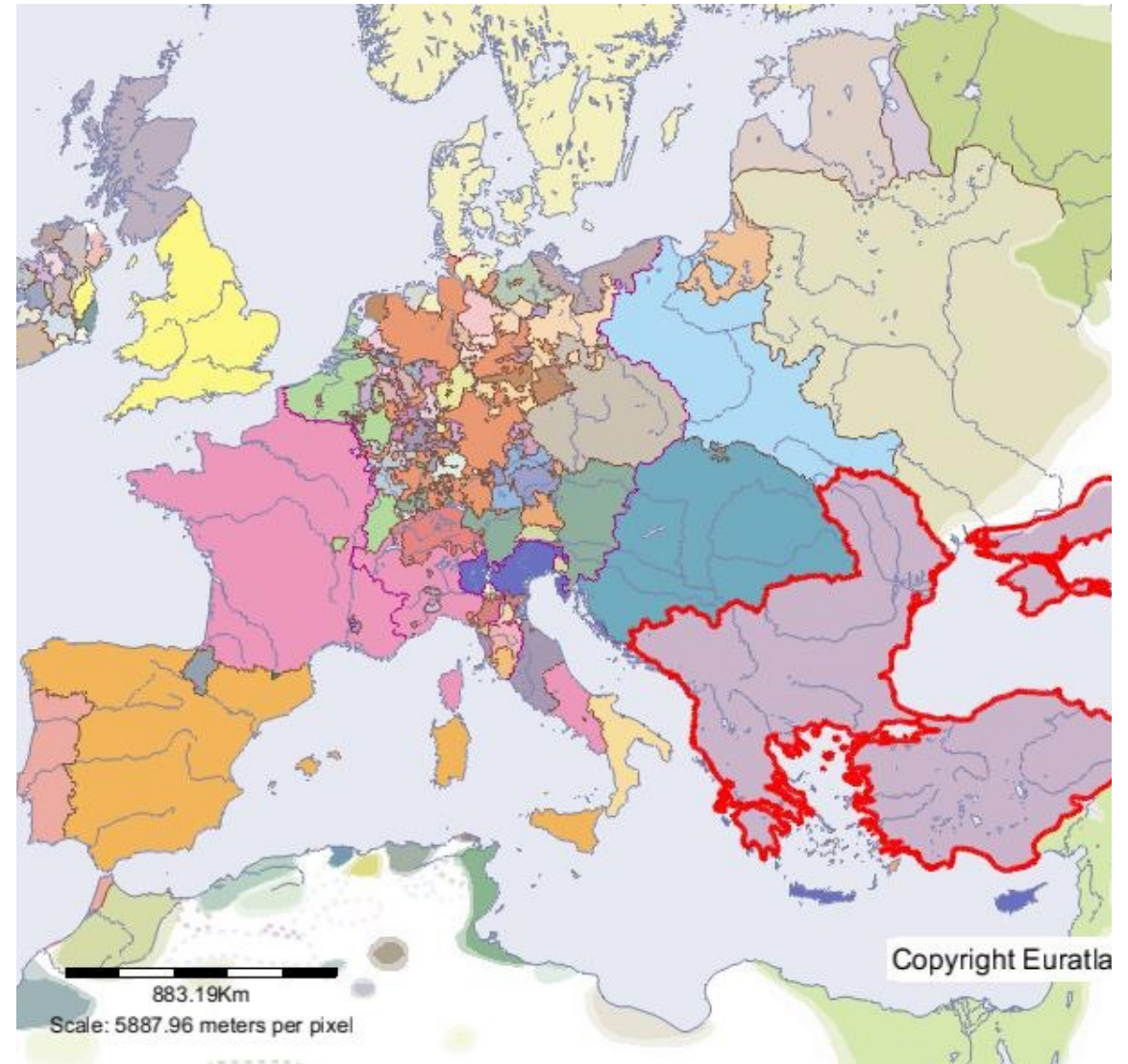
- The Age of Discovery was a period between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries when European explorers travelled across oceans in search of new trade routes, territories and knowledge about the world. During this period, important maritime powers such as Portugal and Spain explored Africa, Asia and the Americas.
- The discoveries connected different continents, encouraged trade and cultural exchanges, and transformed the political and economic history of the world.



# WHY DID EUROPEANS EXPLORE?

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- European states became interested in exploration for economic, political and religious reasons. They wanted to discover new trade routes to Asia, gain wealth and expand their political influence across the world. One important objective was to avoid the trade routes controlled by the Ottoman Empire after the fall of Constantinople in 1453.
- The spread of Christianity, scientific curiosity and technological progress also encouraged maritime exploration during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.



# PORTUGAL: PIONEER OF EXPLORATION

- During the fifteenth century, Portugal became one of the leading maritime powers in Europe. Portuguese sailors explored the Atlantic Ocean and the western coast of Africa in search of new trade routes and commercial opportunities.
- Prince Henry the Navigator was a Portuguese prince who encouraged maritime exploration during the fifteenth century. He supported navigation, cartography and voyages along the western coast of Africa. Under his patronage, Portuguese sailors explored the Atlantic Ocean, reached the Gulf of Guinea and contributed to the development of the caravel.



# IMPORTANT PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS: BARTOLOMEU DIAS

- In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias became the first European explorer to reach the southern tip of Africa, later called the Cape of Good Hope. His voyage opened the possibility of a maritime route to Asia.
- Dias's expedition demonstrated that the Atlantic and Indian Oceans were connected. His discoveries encouraged future Portuguese voyages and represented an important step toward the exploration of Asia by sea.



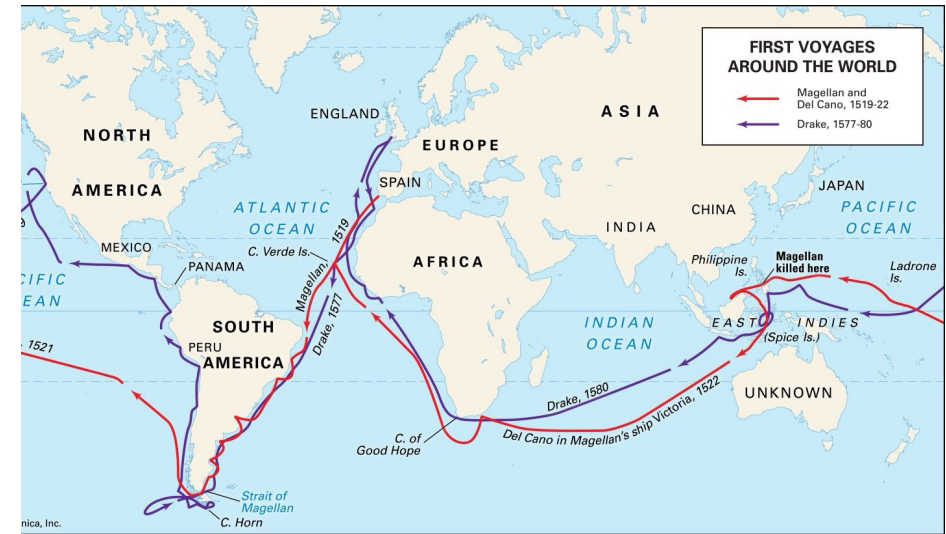
# IMPORTANT PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS: VASCO DA GAMA

- In 1498, Vasco da Gama reached India by sea, creating a direct maritime route between Europe and Asia. His voyage transformed trade and strengthened Portuguese influence in the Indian Ocean.
- Vasco da Gama's expedition allowed Portugal to control important commercial routes for spices and luxury goods. His voyages contributed to the development of the Portuguese colonial empire and increased European interest in maritime exploration.



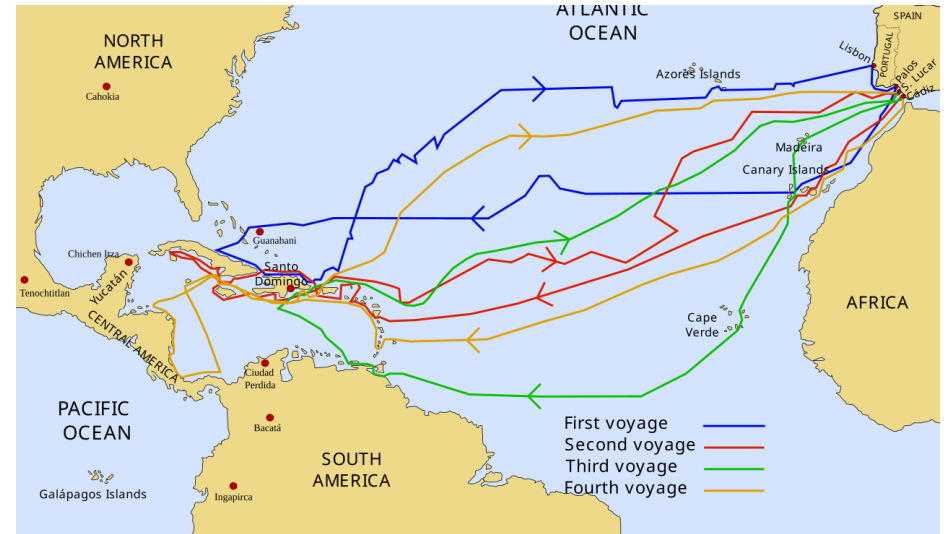
# IMPORTANT PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS: FERNÃO DE MAGALHÃES

- Ferdinand Magellan organized the first expedition to sail around the world between 1519 and 1522. Although he died during the voyage, the expedition proved that the Earth could be circumnavigated by sea.
- Magellan's expedition greatly improved geographical knowledge and demonstrated the vast dimensions of the Pacific Ocean. The voyage became one of the most important achievements in the history of navigation and exploration.



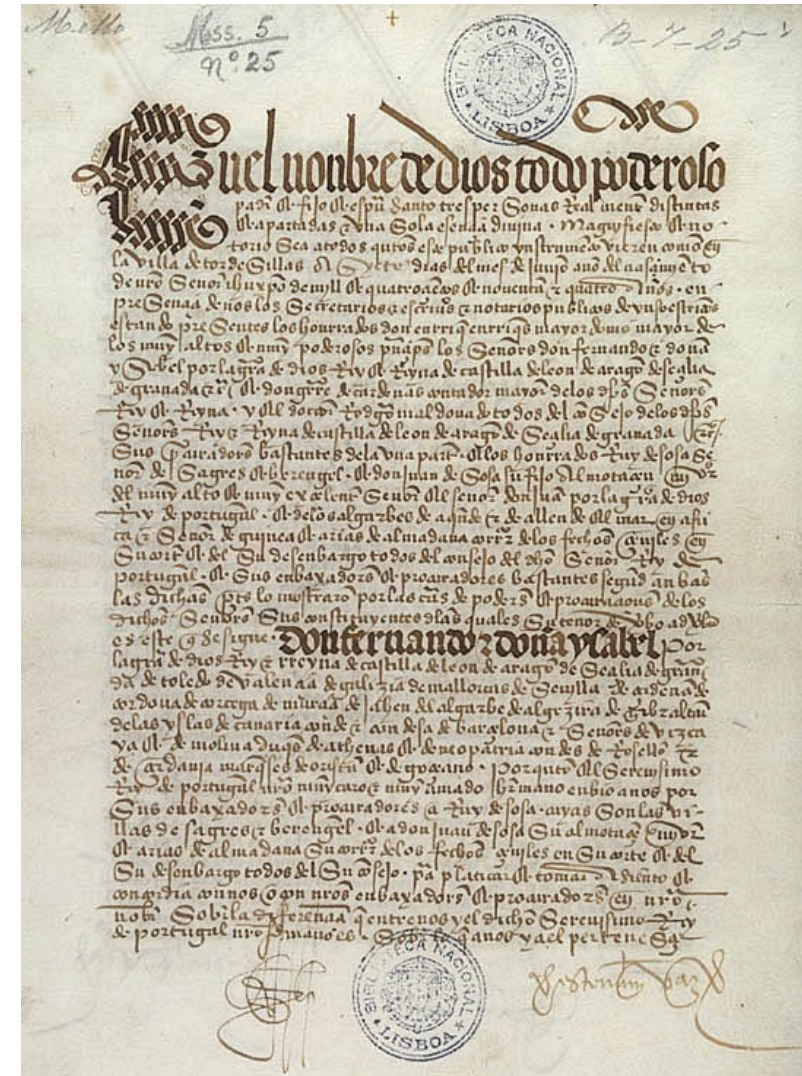
# CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND SPAIN

- In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean under the Spanish flag, searching for a western maritime route to Asia. Instead of reaching Asia, he arrived in the Americas, an event that transformed world history.
- Columbus's voyages opened the way for Spanish exploration and colonization in the New World. The discoveries increased European expansion overseas and created new economic and cultural connections between continents.



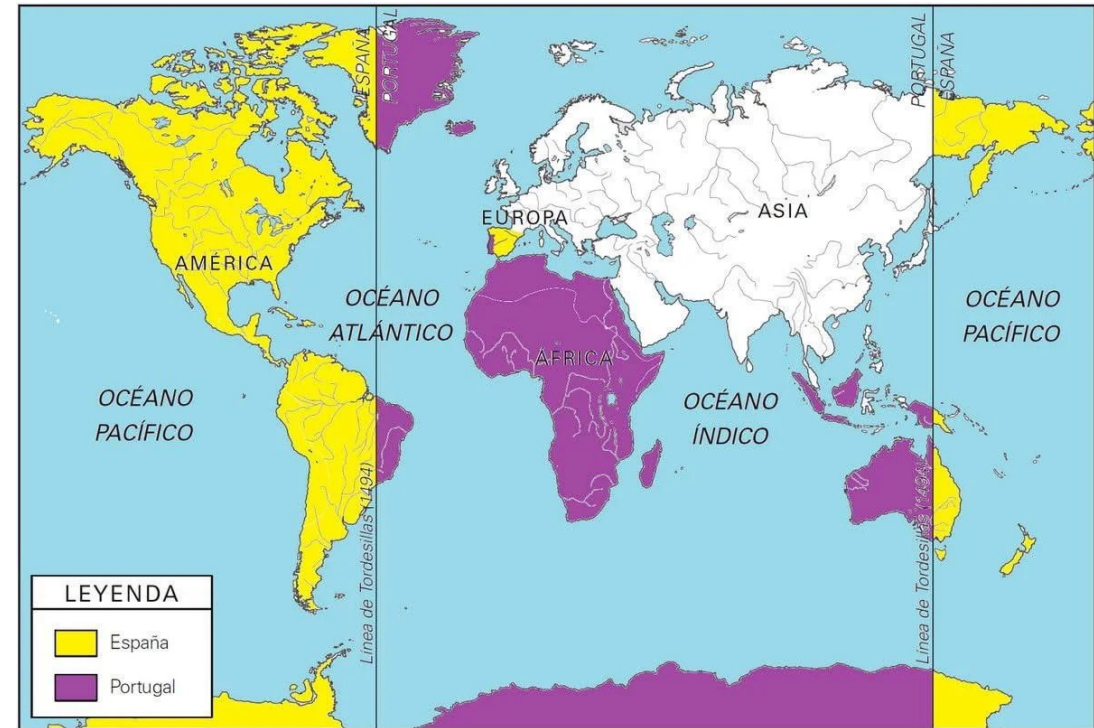
# CONSEQUENCES OF THE AGE OF DISCOVERY

- The Age of Discovery transformed the political, economic and cultural history of the world. European states created vast colonial empires and developed new commercial routes connecting Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas. As a result, the center of trade gradually moved from the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The discoveries encouraged trade, cultural exchanges and the circulation of goods and ideas. However, they also led to colonization, exploitation, slavery and conflicts with indigenous populations in many regions of the world.



# THE TREATY OF TORDESILLAS

- In 1494, Spain and Portugal signed the Treaty of Tordesillas in order to avoid conflicts over newly discovered territories. The treaty divided the non-European world into two spheres of influence separated by an imaginary line in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Territories located west of the line became part of the Spanish sphere, while territories east of the line belonged to Portugal. This agreement helped Portugal gain control over Brazil, Africa and maritime routes to Asia.



# THE SPANISH EMPIRE IN THE AMERICAS

- After the discovery of the Americas, Spain created a vast colonial empire in the New World. In order to control these territories more efficiently, the Spanish Crown organized large administrative regions called viceroyalties.
- Viceroyalty of New Spain;
- Viceroyalty of Peru;
- Viceroyalty of New Granada;
- Viceroyalty of Río de la Plata.



# BRAZIL: THE LARGEST PORTUGUESE COLONY

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- In 1500, the Portuguese explorer Pedro Álvares Cabral arrived on the coast of Brazil, and the territory became part of the Portuguese colonial empire. Brazil later developed into the most important Portuguese colony in the Americas.
- Portugal used Brazil for agriculture, trade and the exploitation of natural resources. Products such as sugar and gold became extremely important for the Portuguese economy, while Portuguese language and culture strongly influenced Brazilian society.



# GROUP ACTIVITY: AGE OF DISCOVERY

**Work in mixed Romanian-Portuguese groups and create a short digital product (text + visual elements) about the Age of Discovery, following these requirements:**

- clear organization and accurate historical information;
- integration of visual elements (images, maps, quotes, diagrams etc.);
- coherent and well-structured arguments.

## **Possible Topics for the Digital Project**

- Bartolomeu Dias and the Cape of Good Hope;
- Brazil as a Portuguese colony;
- The Spanish viceroyalties in the Americas;
- Vasco da Gama and the maritime route to India;
- Ferdinand Magellan and the first circumnavigation of the Earth;
- Christopher Columbus and the discovery of the Americas.

