

Why did people engage in Long  
Distance travel one thousand  
years ago?

It certainly wasn't easy!

How many good reasons can you  
come up with?



# Reaching Out: Expanding Horizons of Cross-Cultural Interaction 1000-1500 C.E.

**Hint: A VERY Important Concept to the AP College Board Folks...**

# Reasons for Long Distance Travel

- Trade
- Diplomatic and Political
- Missionary
- War
- ?????



# Long-Distance **Trade**

- Silk roads
- Sea lanes of Indian Ocean basin
- Trans-Saharan caravan routes
- Development of trading cities, **emporia**
- **Nomadic invasions** cause local devastation but **expand trade network**
  - Example: Mongols in China, thirteenth century

# Marco Polo (1253-1324)

- Europe to China and back again
- **Traveled to China** with merchant father & uncle
- **Enters service of** Mongol **Kublai Khan** (Yuan)
- Returns to Venice after 17-year absence
- Experiences recorded by fellow prisoner in Venice-Genoa conflict
- **Had a Great influence on future European engagement with the Far East**



## Travels of Marco Polo

# Political and Diplomatic Travel

- Trade created a demand for diplomatic relations between states after 1000 C.E.
- 13<sup>th</sup> century - Mongols & Christians recognize Muslims (Abbasid empire) as a common enemy.
- Pope Innocent IV invites Mongols to convert to Christianity and join an alliance against Islam
  - Mongols counter-offer: Christians accept Mongol rule or face destruction

# Diplomatic Travelers

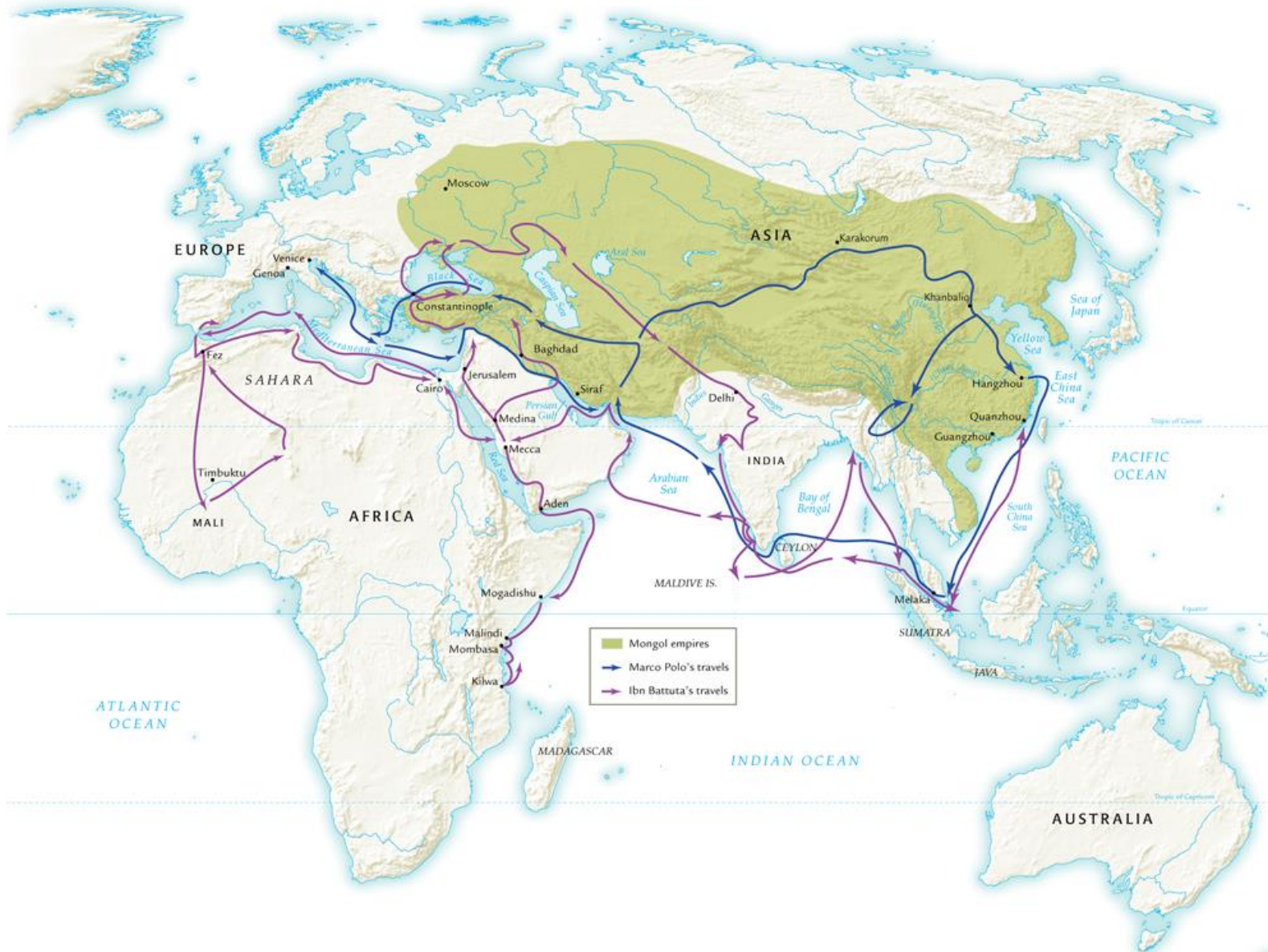
- Rabban Sauma
  - Nestorian Christian priest sent **to pope** by Mongols in Persia, 1287, regarding proposed attack on Jerusalem
  - Proposed an alliance.
  - Did not win European support
  - Why?
- A few years later... 1295, new Mongol leader of Persia accepts Islam
  - Alliance now? Not on your life....



# Diplomatic Travelers

- **Ibn Battuta (1304-1369)**
  - **Islamic scholar**, worked in governments along the way during his **extensive travels**
  - Believed in a very strict interpretation of *sharia* law.
    - Lashes for drinking alcohol, hand amputations for theft
    - Once sentenced a man to 80 lashes for drinking wine eight years earlier.
    - Unable to convince women of Maldivian Islands to cover breasts

# Travels of Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta



# Missionary Travelers

- **Sufi missionaries** travel throughout new Muslim territories, 1000-1500 C.E.
- **Christian missionaries** accompany & follow crusaders
  - Roman Catholic priests travel east to serve **expatriate** communities
  - **John of Montecorvino travels to China in 1291**
    - Translates Biblical texts, builds churches
    - **Most active of Roman Catholic missionaries to China.**

# Cultural Exchanges

- Songs and stories – troubadours
- European scientists consulted with Muslim and Jewish counterparts on understanding of natural world
- Magnetic compass from China and other technological exchanges

# Spread of Crops

Spread of new crops had a strong impact:

- Citrus fruits, Asian rice, cotton
- Sugarcane
  - Muslims introduce crystallized sugar to Europeans
  - Demand increases rapidly
  - Europeans use Muslim precedent of having large populations of slaves work on sugarcane plantations

# Gunpowder Technologies

- Muslims, Mongols spread gunpowder
- Technology reaches Europe by mid-thirteenth century



Medieval hand cannon, 1380



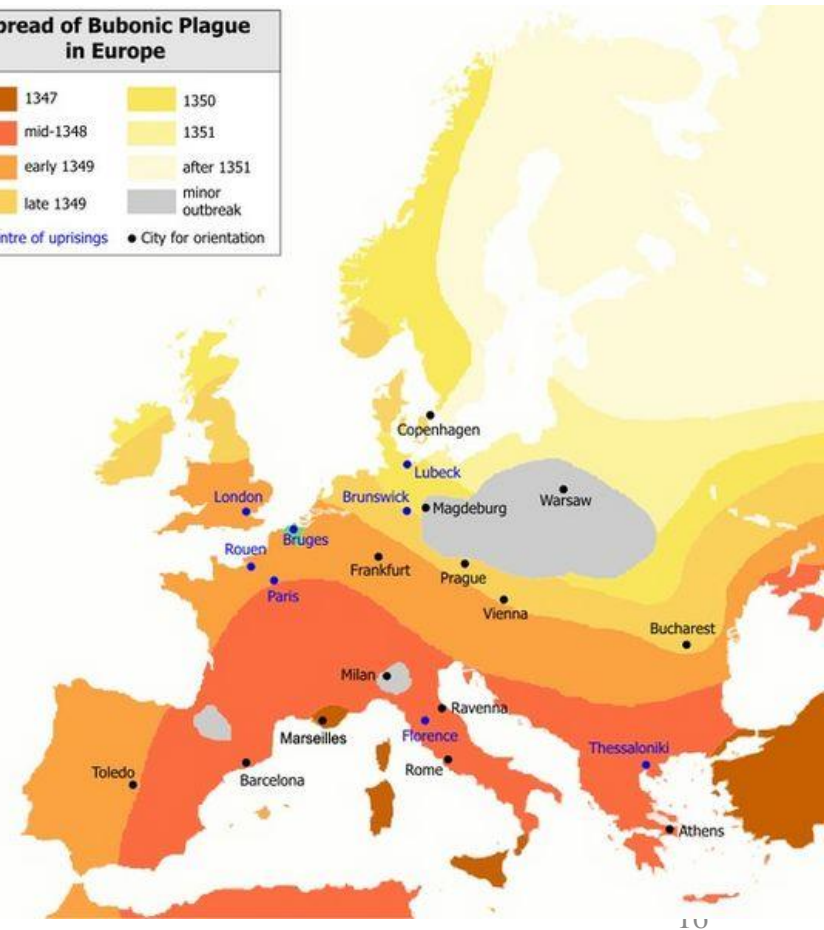
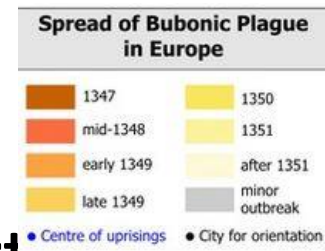
Hand cannon, late 14<sup>th</sup> century

# Crisis and Recovery

- “Little ice age,” ca. 1300 C.E.
  - Decline of agricultural output leads to widespread famine
  - Brings about the failure of the Norse colony of Greenland.
  - Bubonic plague spreads from southwest China
    - Carried by fleas on rodents
    - Mongol campaigns spread disease to Chinese interior

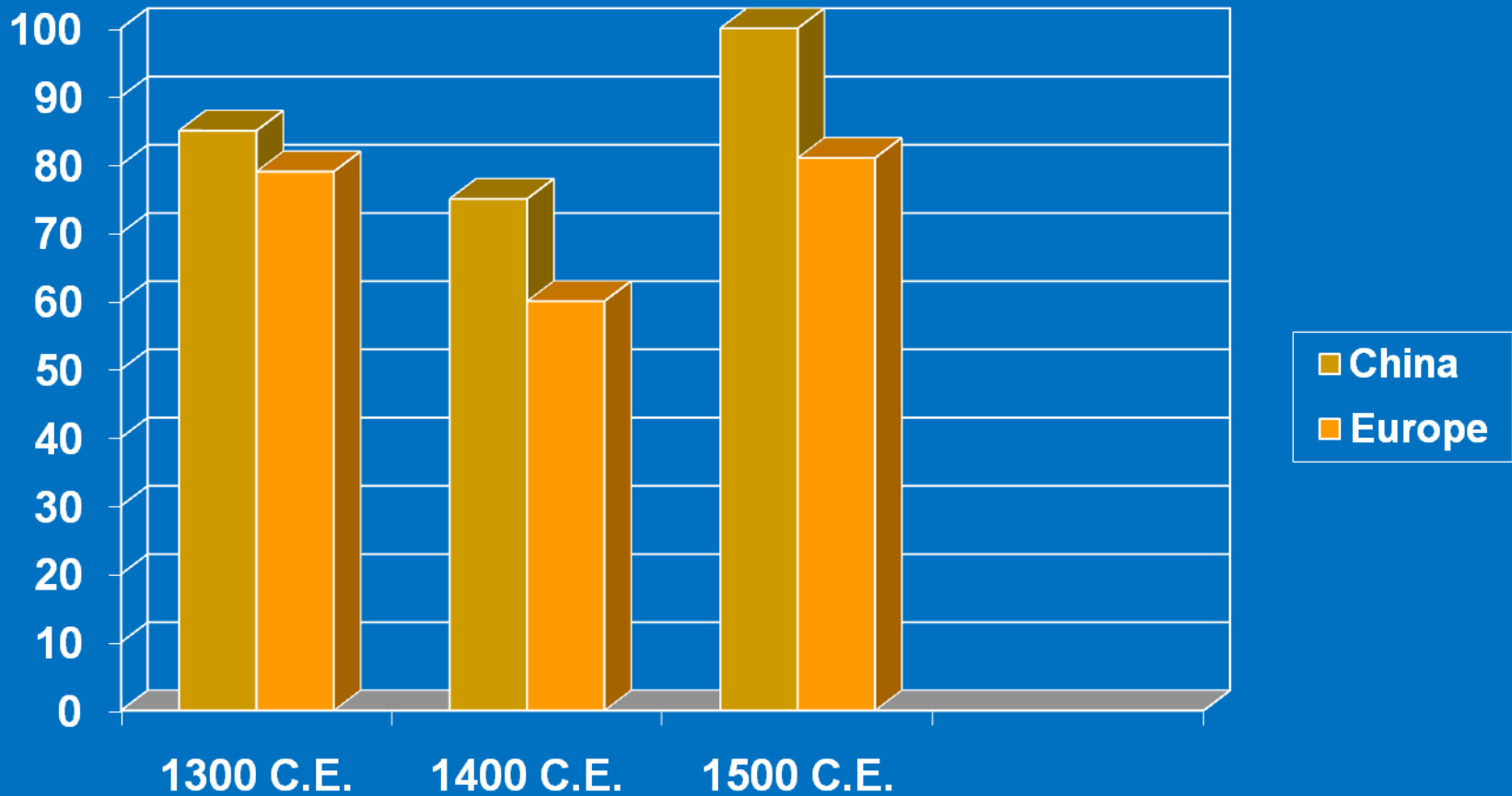
# Spread of Plague

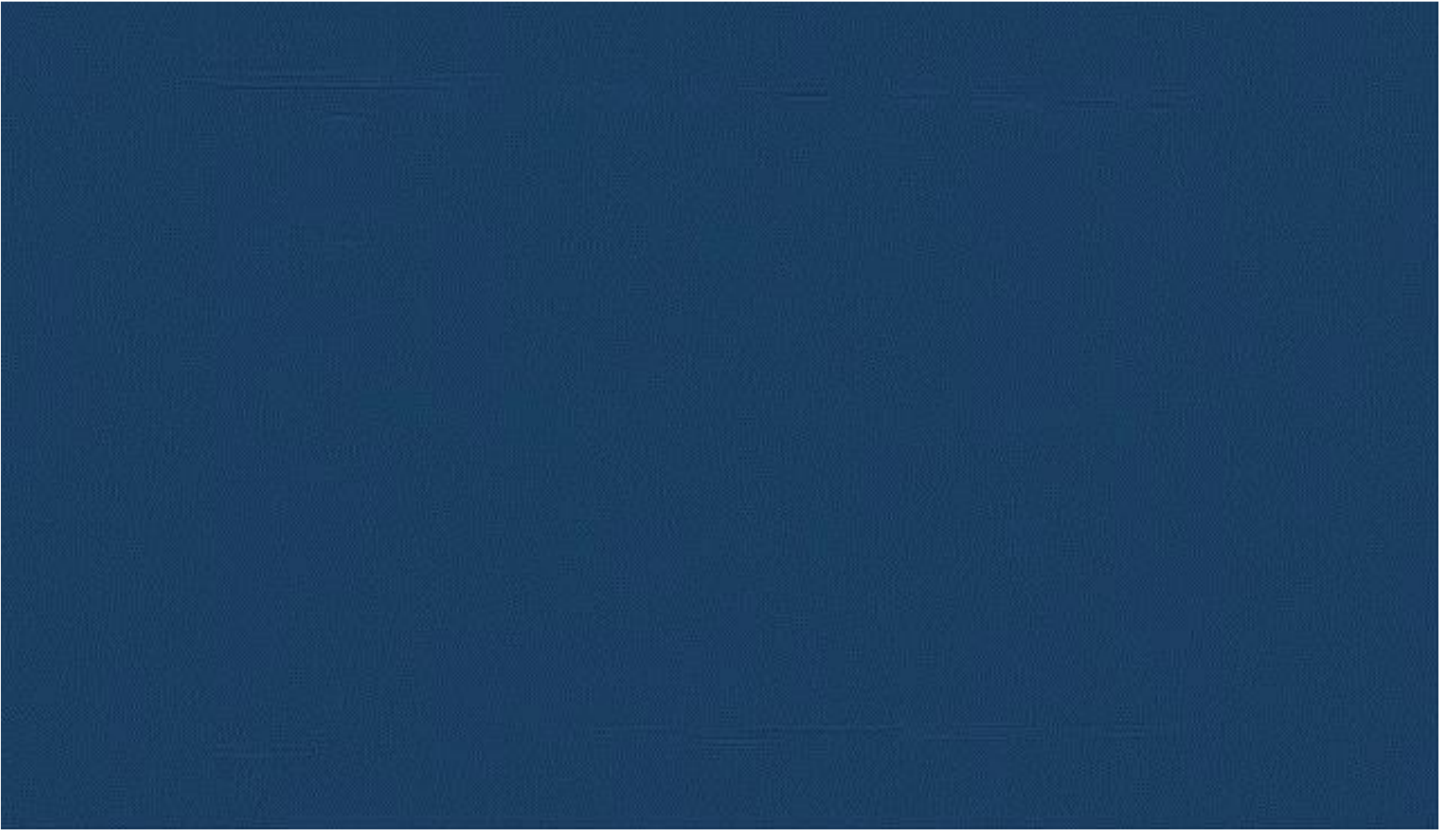
- Mongols, merchants, travelers spread disease west
- 1346 Black Sea ports
- 1347 Mediterranean port
- 1348 western Europe





# Population Decline (millions)





# Social and Economic Effects of the Black Death

- Massive labor shortage
  - How would this effect the feudal serf/lord relationship?
- Demand for higher wages
- Population movements
- Governments attempt to freeze wages, stop serf movements
  - Riots result

# The Plague & Serfdom

- Workers gained power and rights.
- In a nutshell, **the plague spelled the end of serfdom in western Europe**
- Manorialism and Feudalism declined as a result

# Recovery in China: The Ming Dynasty

- Yuan dynasty collapses 1368, Mongols depart
- Impoverished orphan raised by Buddhist monks, works through military ranks, becomes Emperor Hongwu
- Proclaims new Ming (“brilliant”) dynasty, 1368-1644

# Ming Centralization

- Reestablishment of Confucian educational system
- Execution of minister suspected of treason, **begins tradition of direct rule by emperor**
- Reliance on emissaries called mandarins
- Heavy reliance on eunuchs
  - Sterile, could not build hereditary power base
- Centralized structure lasts through Qing dynasty to 1911

# Economic Recovery

- Conscripted labor to repair, rebuild irrigation systems
- Promoted manufacturing of porcelain, silk
- Cultural revival
  - Attempted to eradicate Mongol legacy

# Recovery in Western Europe: State Building

- China: centralized empire
- Europe: regional states
- Europe develops new taxes
  - Bonds, salt tax, sales tax, hearth tax, head tax, plow tax
- European regional states establish large standing armies
  - French Louis XI (1461-1483) had army of 15,000

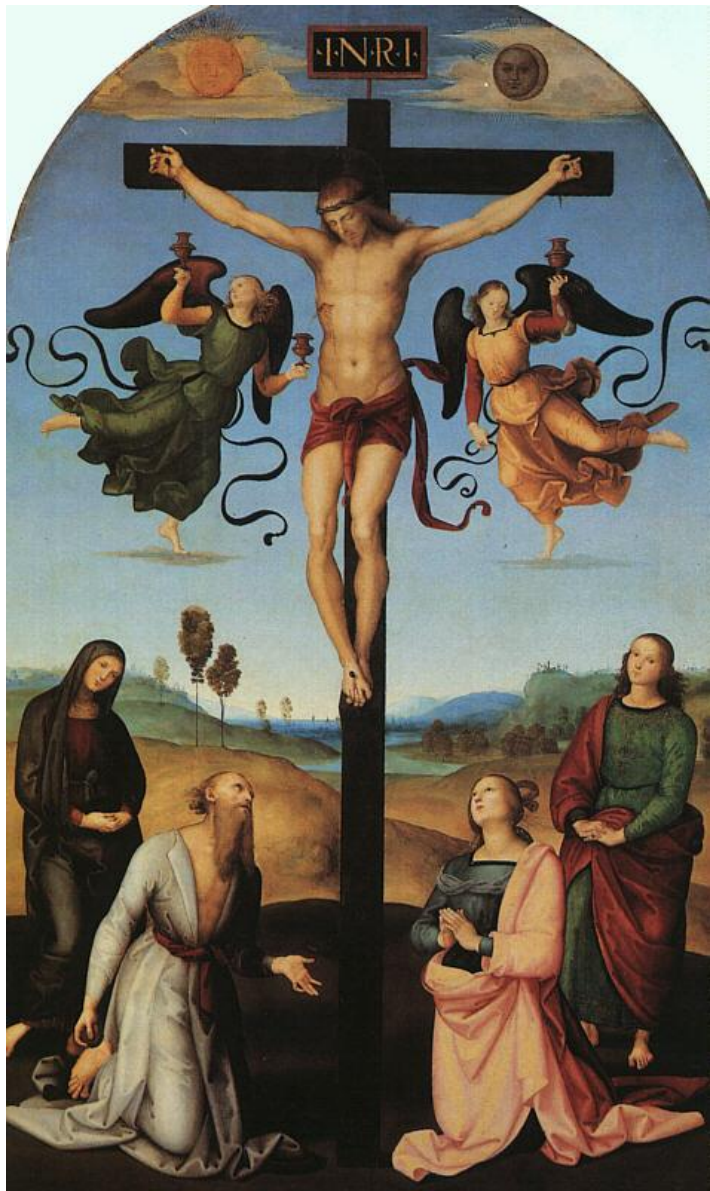


# Spain

- **Ferdinand** of Aragon marries **Isabel** of Castile, 1469
- Major political and economic alliance
- Completes *reconquista* in 1492
- **Funded Columbus's quest for China**

# The Renaissance, Fourteenth to Sixteenth Century

- “Rebirth” of classical culture
- Italian artists use perspective
- Work with real human anatomy and musculature
  - Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)
- Architecture: domed cathedrals
  - Imitation of Roman domes



**The Crucifixion by Rafael**



**Venus was painted by Sandro Botticelli**

# The Humanists

- Humanities: literature, history, moral philosophy
- Renaissance humanists deeply devoted to Christianity
  - **Desiderius Erasmus** (1466-1536) publishes critical Greek-Latin edition of New Testament
  - The Father of Christian Humanism
- Also devoted to rediscovering classical Latin texts, often ignored in monastic libraries

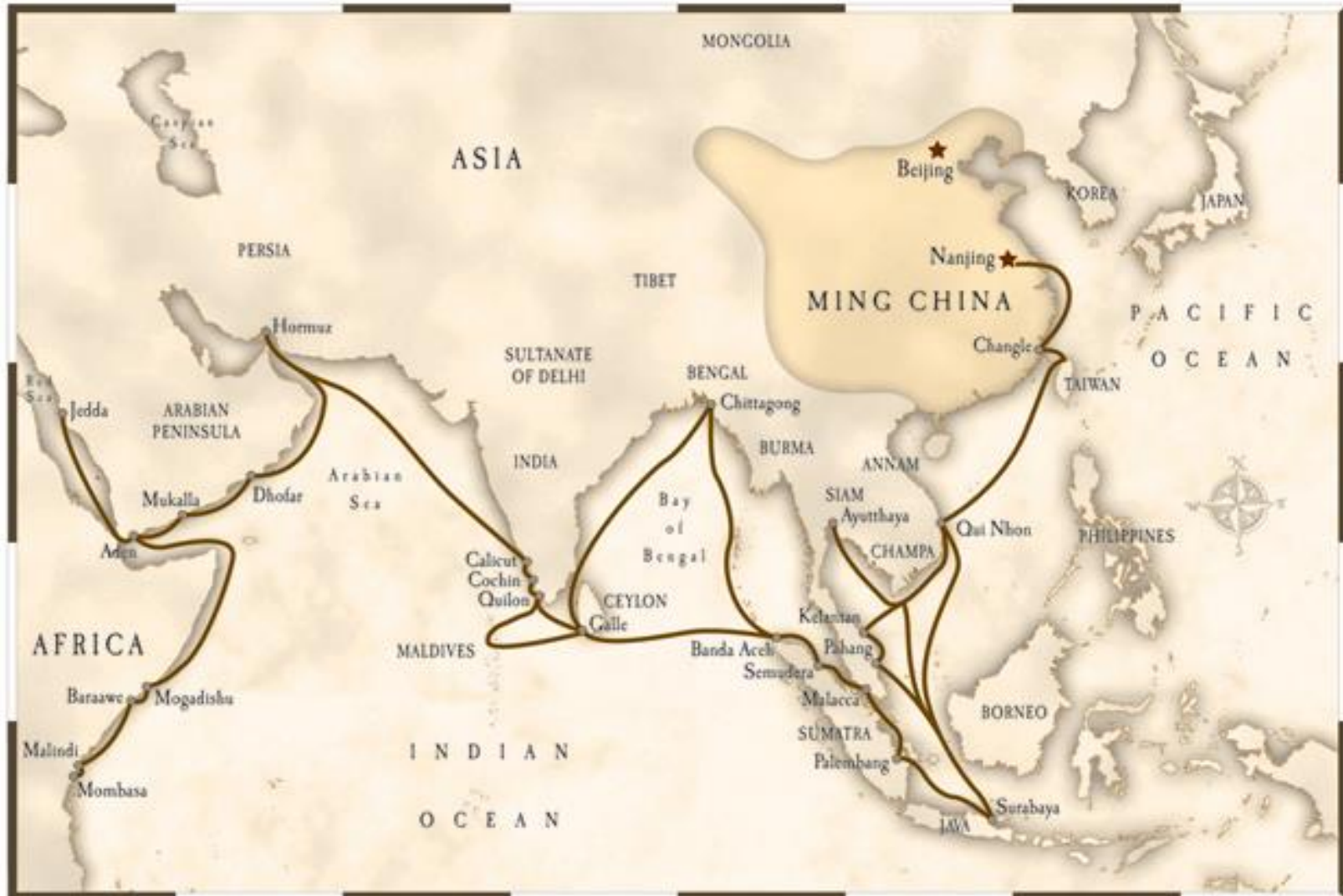
# Humanist Moral Thought

- Rejection of monastic lifestyle in favor of morally virtuous life while engaged in the world
  - Marriage, business
- Reconciliation of Christianity with rapidly changing European society and economy

# Exploration and Colonization

- Ming dynasty xenophobic
  - Mongol experience
  - Allowed small foreign populations in port cities
  - The exception was Emperor Yongle
- Yongle engaged Admiral Zheng He to mount seven massive naval expeditions, 1405-1433
- Placed trade under imperial control
- Demonstrated strength of Ming dynasty
- Successful, but aborted with the death of Yongle and the rise of a new Mongol threat in the north

# The Treasure Fleet Voyages of Zheng He







# Chinese and European Voyages of Exploration, 1405-1498



# European Exploration in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans

- Motives: \$ and ✝ (profit & missionary activity)
- Portuguese early leaders in Atlantic exploration
- Search for sea route to Indian Ocean basin
- Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal

# Indian Ocean Trade

- Attempt to avoid using Muslim middlemen in trade with east
- 1488, Bartolomeu Dias sails around Cape of Good Hope
  - 1497-1499, Vasco da Gama sails this route to India and back
- Portuguese gun ships attempt to maintain trade monopoly
- Beginnings of European imperialism in Asia

# Christopher Columbus

- Search for western sea route to Indian Ocean
- Portuguese consider his proposal impractical, reject it
- Ferdinand y Isabel of **Spain underwrite voyage; departs in 1492**
- Makes landfall in San Salvador
  - Believed he had reached islands off coast of Asia

