


Maritime
Expansions:
Zheng He vs
Christopher
Columbus

Chinese Dynasties (206 b.c.e. to 1644)



Han Dynasty (206 BCE -220 CE)

Tang Dynasty (618-907)

Song Dynasty (960 -1279)

Yuan Dynasty (Mongol): 1271-1344

Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

Emperor Yongle (r. 1402-1424)

- ruled over a prosperous China
- launched a fleet in 1405 led by Zheng He



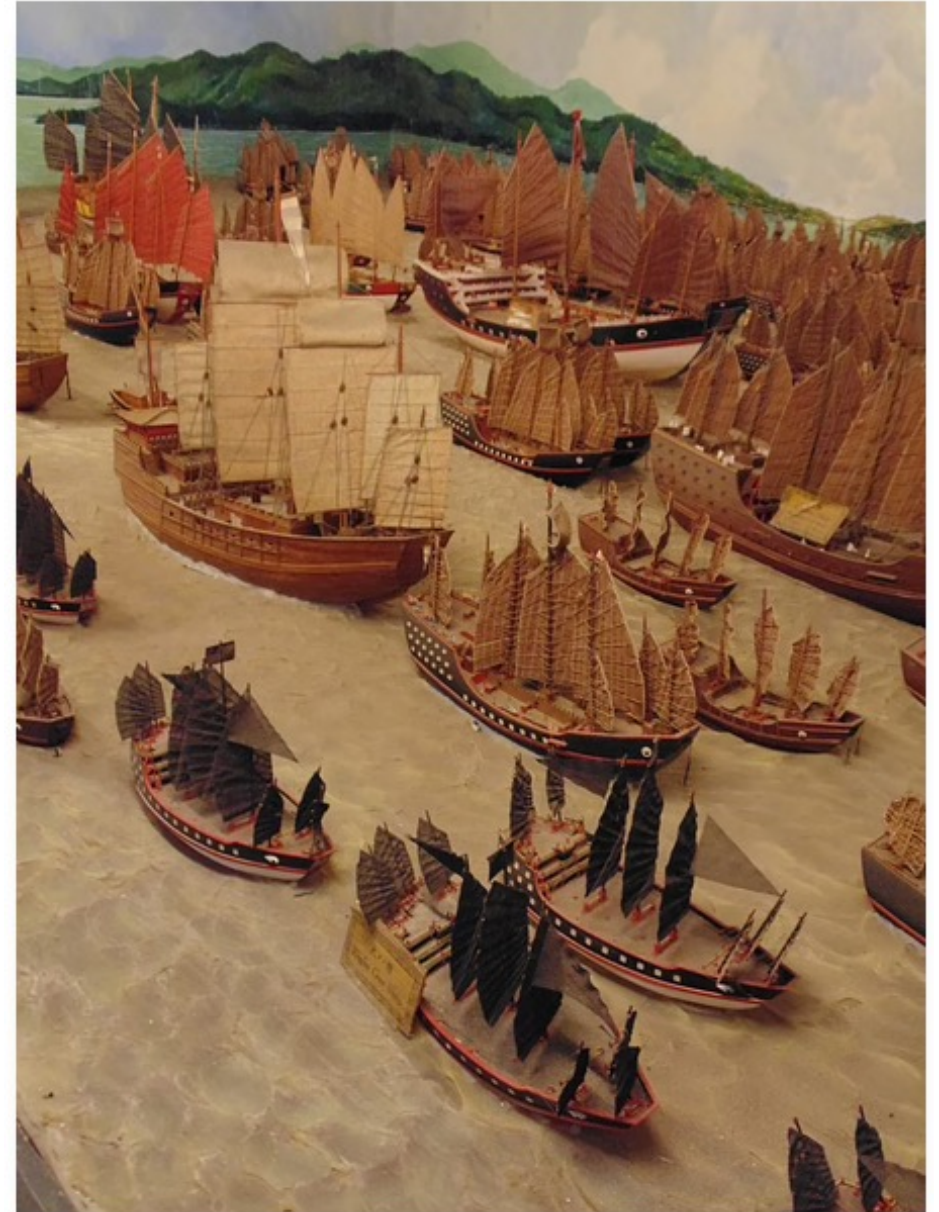


Zheng He, 1371-1433

- Muslim eunuch
- Captured by Ming armies in 1382
- Rose in hierarchy as close ally of emperor Yongle

1405 expedition

- 300 ships
- 27 000 crew (180 physicians, government officials, 5 astrologers, 7 eunuchs, carpenters, tailors, accountants, merchants, translators, cooks, soldiers, sailors)
- Treasure ships



Zheng He Fleet
by O.Mustafin (Public Domain)

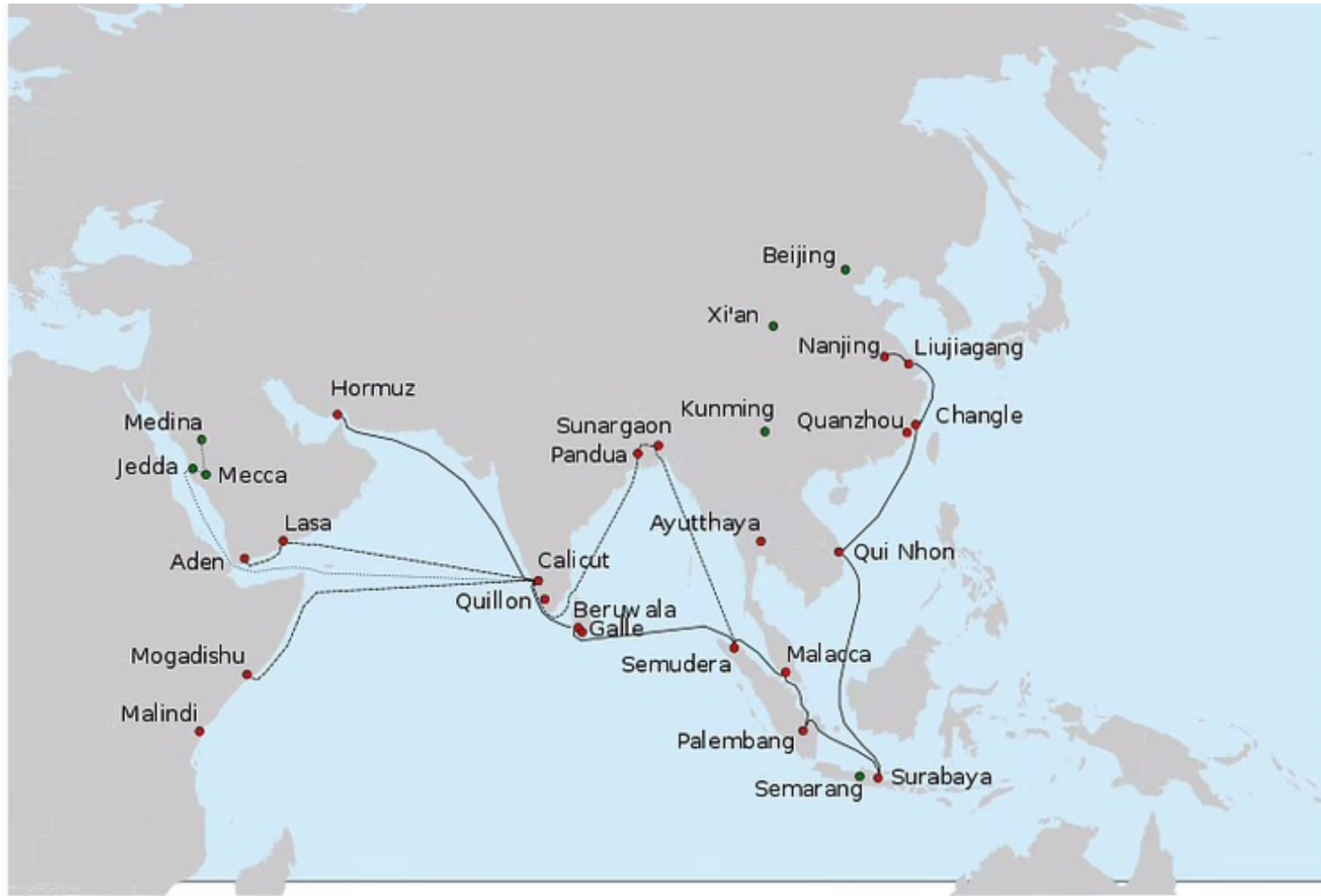


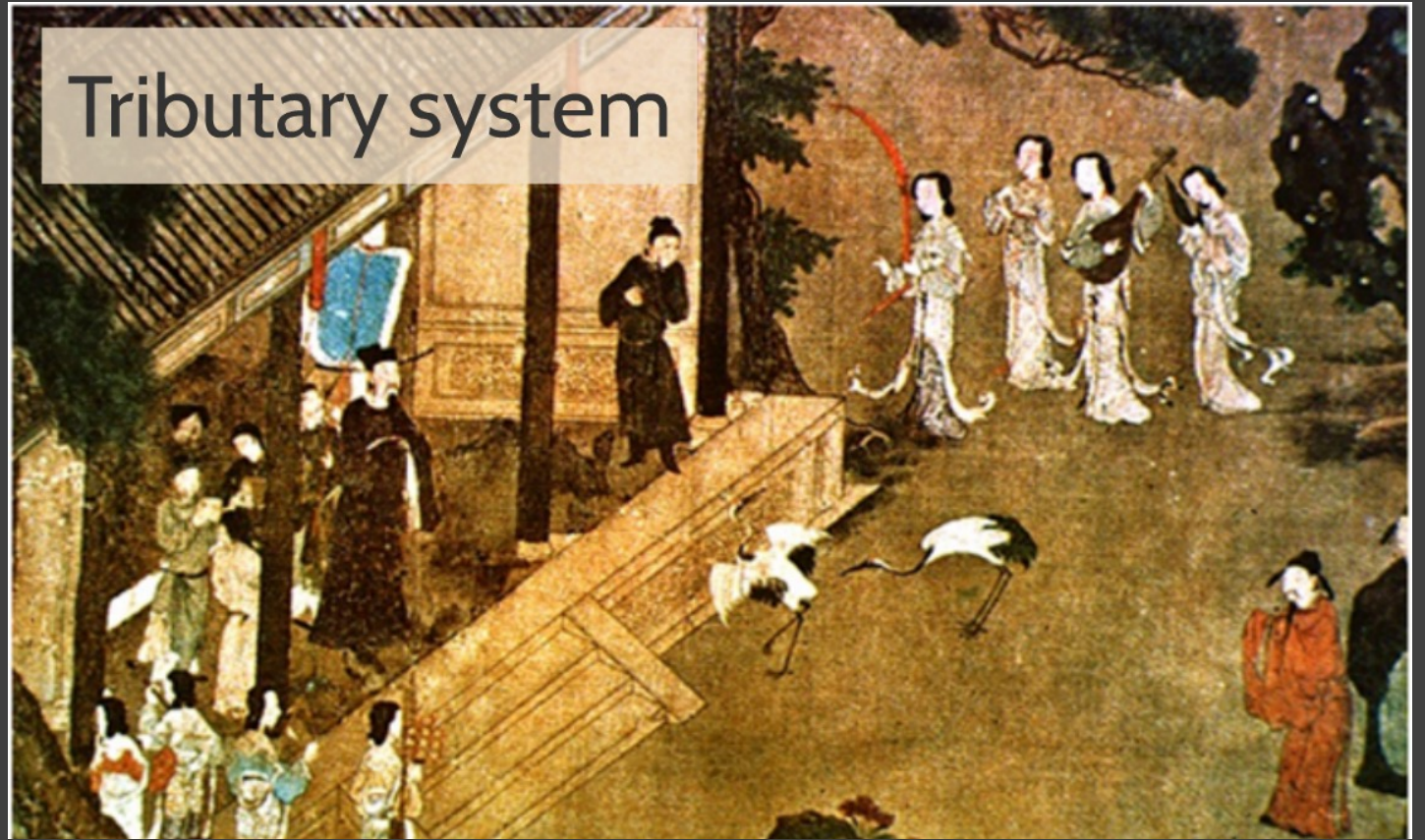
Zheng He Treasure Ship



THE
MODEL SHIPYARD

Voyages of Zheng He (1405-1433)





Tributary system

Foreign relations
& exotic gifts

- Foreign policy of emperor Yongle



Galle Stele,
1409

Chinese withdrawal from the seas – why?

- "waste of resources"
- hostility to merchants and trade from Confucianism
- China as self-sufficient
- threat from Mongols in the north



European Expansion

Ortelius' World Map 1564

Christopher Columbus' Voyages





- Early voyages
- Erik the Red, 985
- Bjarni Herjólfsson, 985-6
- Leif Eriksson, 1000

- Viking settlement areas
- Viking homelands

Voyages of Christopher Columbus

- Start of new era of expansion and colonization



(1451-1506)

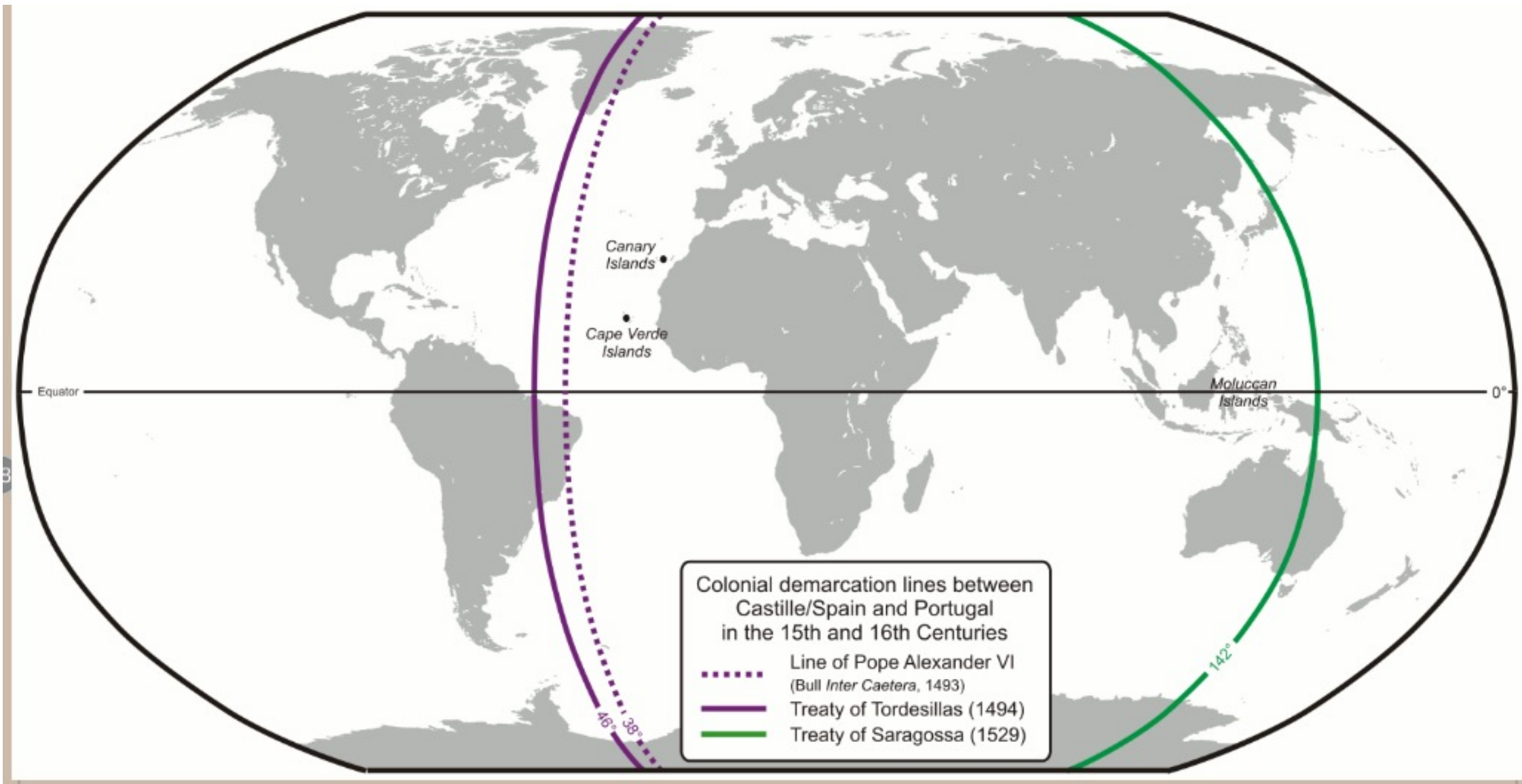


Image by Lencer. Colonial demarcation lines between Spain and Portugal in the 15th and 16th Centuries.

Effects of European Expansion

On the Americas

- Slave trade
- Indigenous populations

On Europe

- Gold/silver; inflation
- Shift of Europe's centre of power



Comparing Chinese and European expeditions

- Size
- Result
- Reasons

