

CHAPTER 15

GLOBAL COMMERCE

AP World History Notes

Time Period: 1450 - 1750

EUROPEANS AND ASIAN COMMERCE

- European countries that got involved in Asian commerce = first the Portuguese, then the Spanish, French, Dutch, and British
- Motivations for European involvement in Asian commerce:
 - Exotic spices = cinnamon, nutmeg, mace, cloves, and pepper
 - Chinese silk
 - Indian cotton and rhubarb
 - Precious gems = emeralds, rubies, and sapphires

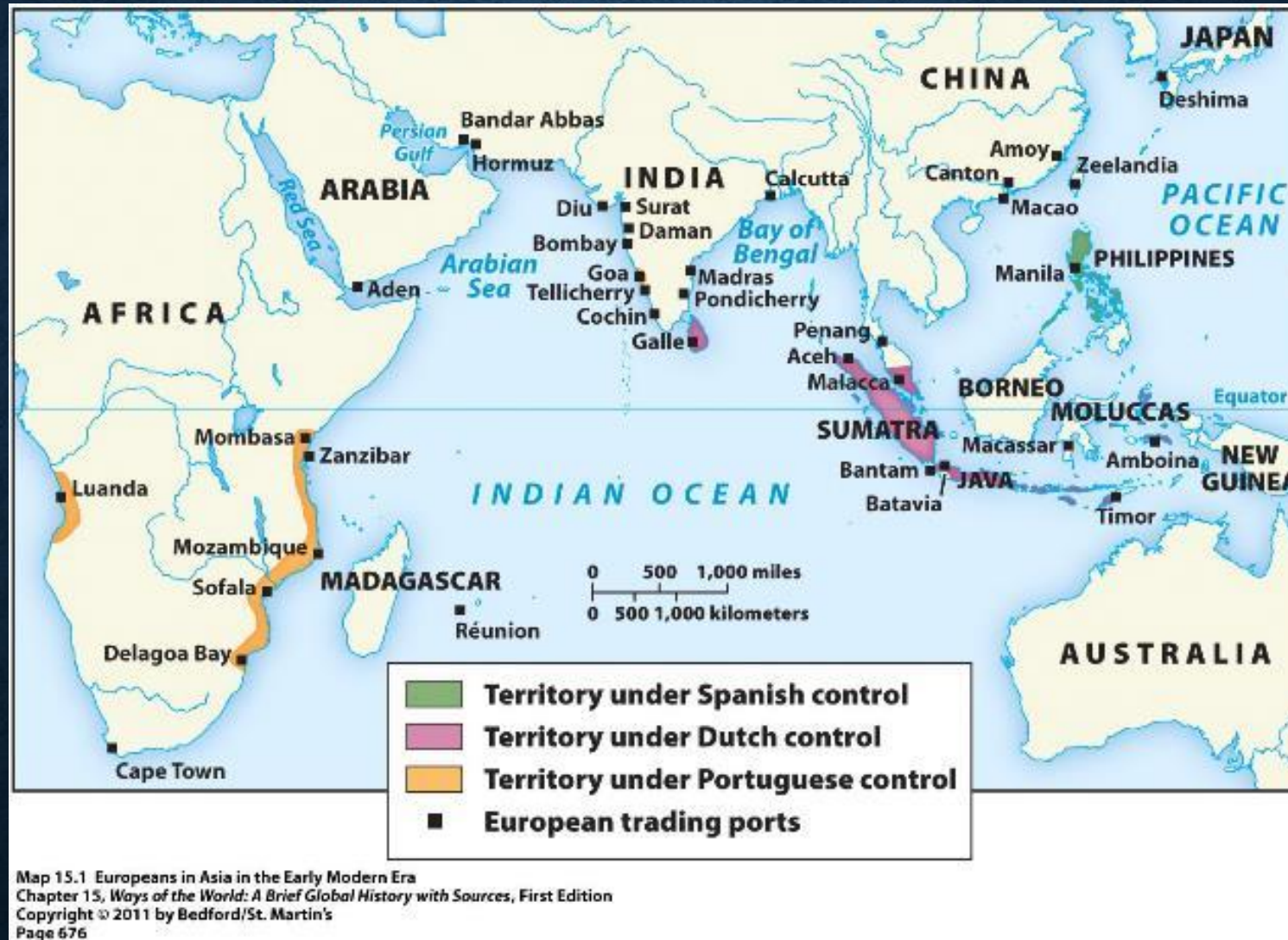


EUROPEANS AND ASIAN COMMERCE



- At the time = Eastern goods came into the Mediterranean through the Middle East from the Indian Ocean
- Europeans' problems with this:
 - Source of supply of goods = Muslim merchants who charged heavy taxes
 - Once it got to Europe = Italian merchants (especially from Venice) had a monopoly over trade of these Asian products
 - They had no valuable products to trade in return → so they had to pay in gold or silver for Asian goods

EUROPEANS AND ASIAN COMMERCE



Goal of Europeans in Asia = trade, not empire-building

A PORTUGUESE EMPIRE OF COMMERCE

- Portugal had to use its military to secure trade bases within the Indian Ocean → did not have attractive goods that it could use to establish itself within the trade network
- Easy to do because:
 - They had more advanced technology and weapons
 - Merchant ships in the Indian Ocean weren't heavily armed
 - Portuguese ships had cannons; merchant ships did not



A PORTUGUESE EMPIRE OF COMMERCE



- **Portugal set up fortified trade bases in:**
 - **Mombasa in East Africa**
 - **Hormuz at the entrance to the Persian Gulf**
 - **Goa on the west coast of India**
 - **Malacca in Southeast Asia**
 - **Macao on the south coast of China**

A PORTUGUESE EMPIRE OF COMMERCE

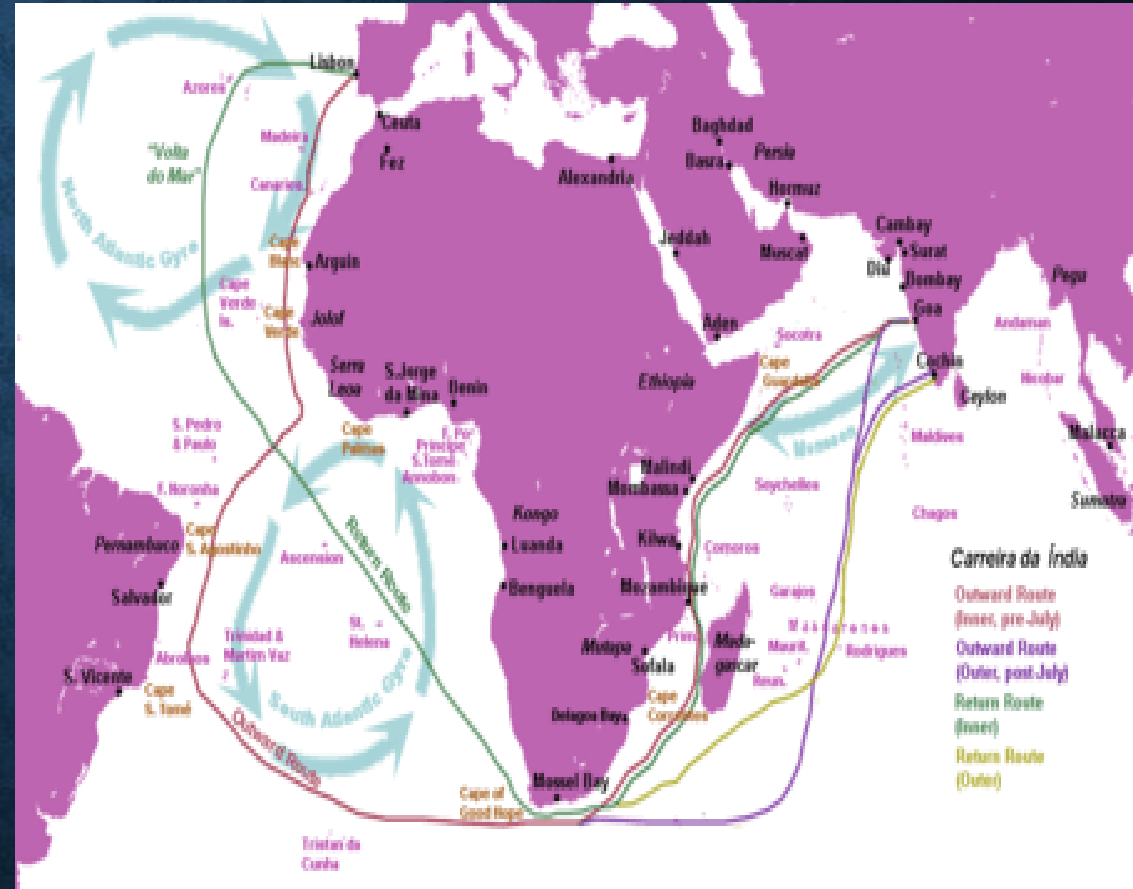


Calicut, Metropolis of the Spice Trade

- **Portugal created a “trading post empire” within the Indian Ocean**
 - **Goal = control commerce, not large territories or populations**
 - **Goal = control trading posts by force of arms, not by economic competition**
- **Major thing Portugal controlled = the spice trade**

PORTUGUESE POLICIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

- Required all merchant vessels to purchase a *cartaz* (pass) to sail throughout the region
- Charged merchant vessels taxes of 6-10% of their cargoes
- Blocked the Red Sea route to the Mediterranean Sea
- Monopolized the trade route around Africa to Europe



PORTUGUESE CONTROL IN THE LONG-RUN

- Portugal never succeeded in controlling more than half of the spice trade to Europe
- By 1600 = the Portuguese trading post empire was in steep decline
 - Competition from other European powers
 - Competition from rising Asian states like Japan and Mughal India

PORTUGUESE CONTROL IN THE LONG-RUN

- Portuguese just assimilated themselves into the old, traditional patterns of the Indian Ocean trade network
 - Carried Asian goods to Asian ports
 - Sold their shipping services
 - Many settled in permanently in Asian or African ports → married native women, learned local languages, converted to Islam, etc.

SPAIN AND THE PHILIPPINES

- **Spain was the first to follow in Portugal's footsteps**
- **Established itself on the Philippine islands**
 - **Named after King Philip II of Spain**
- **Spain set up outright colonial rule → because:**
 - **Close to China and the spice islands**
 - **Small and militarily weak societies on the Philippines**
 - **No competing claims for the islands**



SPAIN AND THE PHILIPPINES



- **Spanish takeover of the Philippines = easy and relatively bloodless**
- **Used:**
 - **Small-scale military operations**
 - **Gunpowder weapons**
 - **Local alliances**
 - **Gifts and favors to native chiefs**
 - **Pageantry of Catholic rituals**
- **Remained a Spanish colony until 1898**

SPAIN AND THE PHILIPPINES

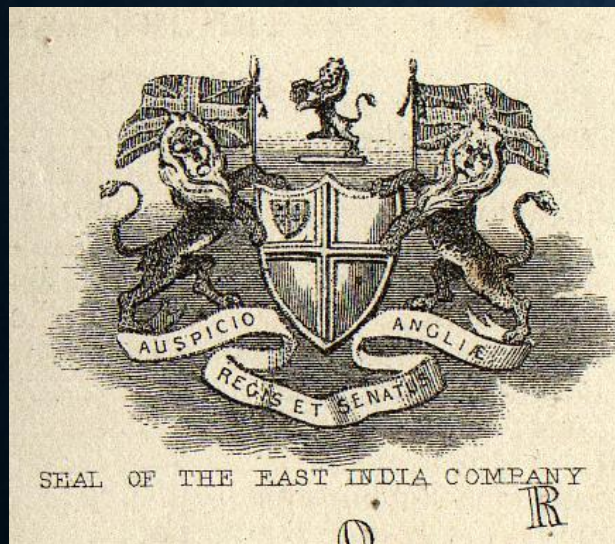
- **With Spanish rule came:**
 - **Mass conversion to Christianity**
 - **Relocation from scattered settlements to permanent, concentrated Christian communities**
 - **Taxes, tribute, and unpaid labor**
 - **Large estates owned by Spanish settlers or prominent Filipinos**
- **Responses to colonial oppression = short-lived revolts; flight to the interior mountains or bustling capital of Manila**



THE EAST INDIA COMPANIES



- **British and Dutch East India Companies**
- **Both militarily and economically stronger than Portugal → quickly overtook Portugal within the Indian Ocean network in the early 1600s**
- **Established their own parallel and competing trading post empires**
 - **Dutch = focused on Indonesia**
 - **British = focused on India**

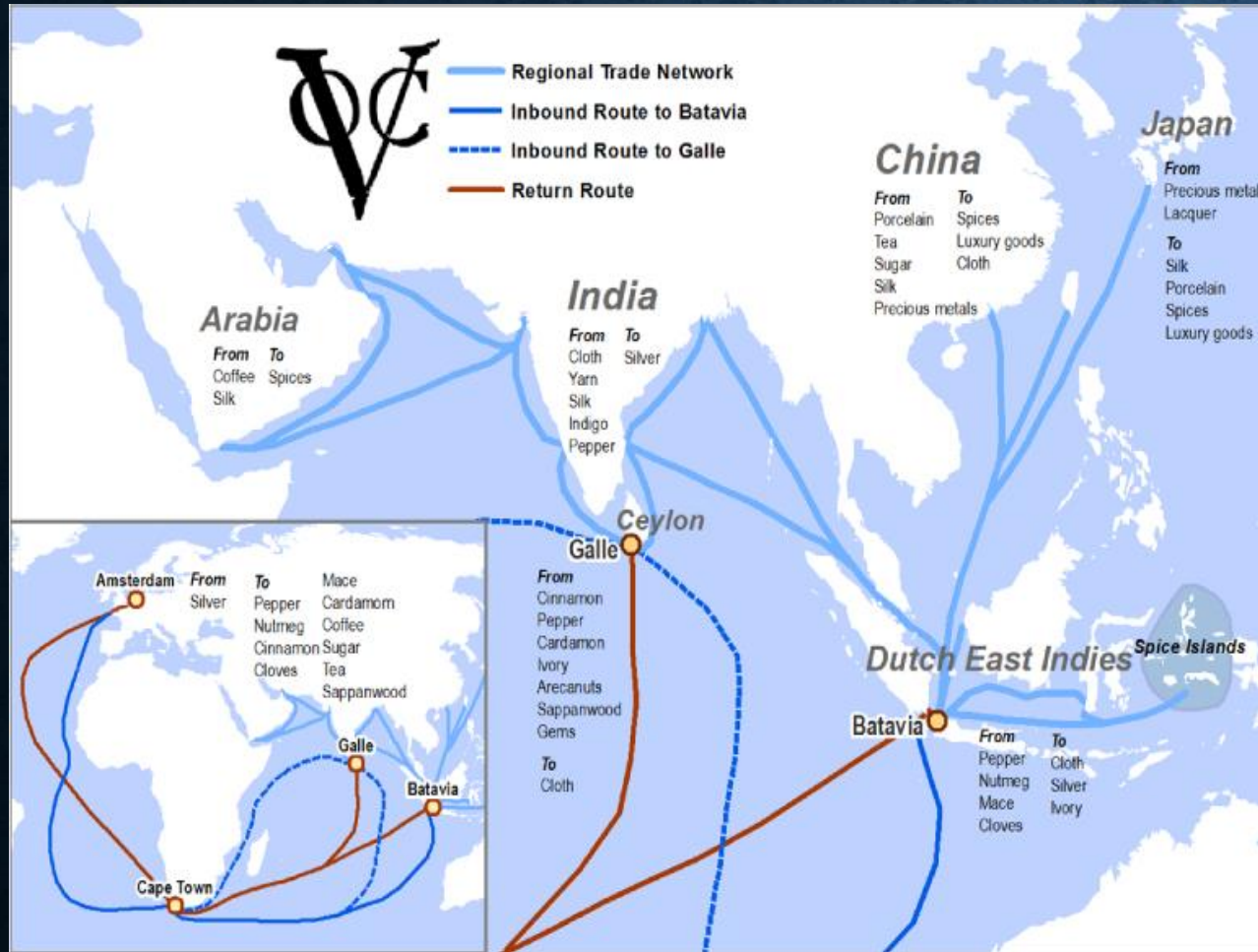


THE EAST INDIA COMPANIES

- **East India Companies = private trading companies that use merchant investors to raise money and share risks**
- **These companies were granted charters by their governments that allowed them to:**
 - **Make war**
 - **Govern conquered peoples**
 - **Hold trading monopolies**



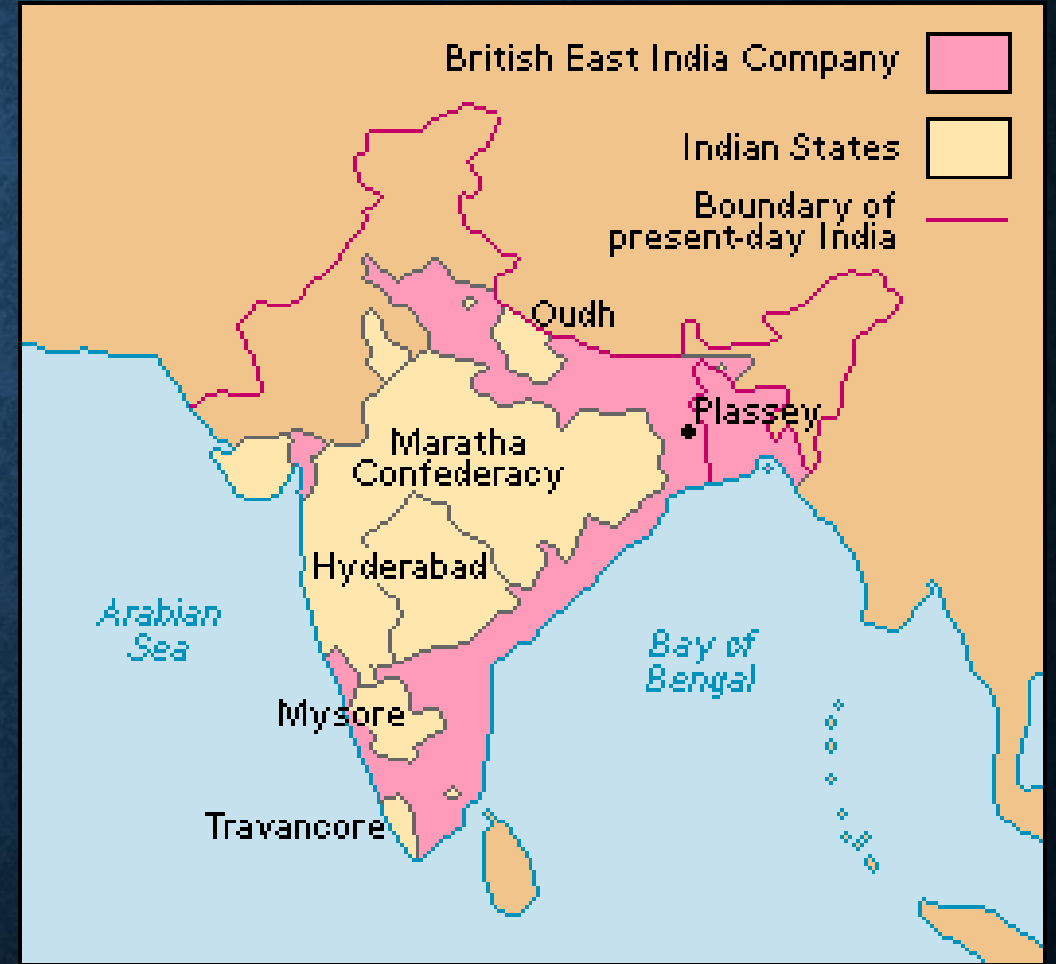
DUTCH EAST INDIA COMPANY



- **Trading posts = in Indonesia**
- **Controlled production and shipping of: cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg, and mace (all spices)**
- **Seized control of spice-producing islands with force and bloodshed**

BRITISH EAST INDIA COMPANY

- **Trading posts = in India**
- **Did not practice “trade by warfare”**
like the Dutch → were no match for the **Mughal Empire in India**
- **Secured their trading bases on the coast with the permission of Mughal authorities**
 - **Usually took substantial payments and bribes**
- **Focus = Indian cotton textiles**



ASIAN COMMERCE

- **Impact of European involvement in Asian commerce = not very big on the major powers of South and East Asia (Mughal India, China, and Japan)**
- **Europe posed no real military or economic threat to them**
- **Were able to get rid of European intruders if need be**

JAPAN AND THE EUROPEANS



- When European merchants first arrived in Japan (1500s) → Japan = tied down with interior conflicts between competing *daimyos* (feudal lords), each with his own band of samurai
- Result = it was easy for the Europeans to stay there
- European ideas taken by the Japanese = shipbuilding skills, military technology, geographic knowledge, commercial opportunities, and religious ideas



JAPAN AND THE EUROPEANS

- **Early 1600s = Japan unified politically by military commanders**
 - **Now led by the lead commander = *shogun***
 - **From the Tokugawa clan**
 - **Set up the Tokugawa Shogunate**
- **Shoguns began to see Europeans as a threat to Japan's new unity**



Tokugawa Ieyasu

JAPAN AND THE EUROPEANS



Painting of Japanese authorities

- **Result = Japan did the following:**
 - **Expelled Christian missionaries**
 - **Violently suppressed the practice of Christianity**
 - **Included: Torture and execution of missionaries and converts**
 - **Forbade Japanese people from travelling abroad**
 - **Banned European traders from entering Japan**
- **Result = Japan became isolated from the world of European commerce for 2 centuries (1650-1850)**
 - **Maintained trading ties with only China and Korea**

ASIAN COMMERCE

- **Despite European naval dominance, Asian merchants did not disappear**
- **Many commercial networks (run by Asians) continued to operate successfully**
- **Chinese merchants = carried spices from Southeast Asia to China**
- **Christian merchants from Armenia = active in overland trade linking Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia**
- **Indian merchants and moneylenders = lived throughout Central Asia, Persia, and Russia & connected these regions to markets in India**