

Exploration of the Americas



Time Line

- 1469 • Spain is unified with marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella I.
- 1492 • First expedition to the West Indies; Columbus claims lands for Spain.
 - Roderic de Borja i Borja (Italianized - Borgia) named as Pope Alexander VI. One of the most controversial Renaissance popes. Born in the Kingdom of Valencia, which is now modern Spain.
 - The Inquisitor-General, Torquemada gives Spanish Jews three months to accept Christianity or leave the country.
- 1493 • Pope Alexander VI papal bull “Inter caetera divina” which divides the New World between Spain and Portugal. These two countries gain sovereignty over all the new land discovered across the Atlantic, so long as the territory found was not already under another Christian prince. Of course, other countries take exception to the favoritism.
- 1502 • Bartolomé de las Casas, at eighteen, emigrates to Cuba gaining property, slaves.
- 1510 • Bartolomé de las Casas becomes Dominican priest while in New World; relinquishes his slaves.

Time Line

- 1530 • English King Henry VIII establishes Church of England.
- 1542 • Bartolomé de las Casas writes *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* bringing the unjust treatment of Native Americans to the attention of Philip II.
- 1549 • Publication of the *Book of Common Prayer*, establishing prayers for recitation in English
- 1552 • Bartolomé de las Casas publishes *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* bringing the unjust treatment of Native Americans to the attention of the public.
- 1560 • The complete Geneva Bible is published in English.
- 1566 • Bartolomé de las Casas dies in Madrid at approximately 81 years old.
- 1584 • Sir Walter Raleigh plans the Colony and Dominion of Virginia.
- 1585 • Thomas Hariot visits Roanoke Island, learns language of the Algonquian tribe.
- 1588 • Destruction of Philip II's Spanish Armada under England's Queen Elizabeth I.
 - Thomas Hariot publishes *A Brief and True Report of the Newfound Land of Virginia*. This is an attempt to present an accurate portrayal of the native people.

Christopher Columbus

Columbus' letter establishes some important facts regarding the New World:

- the trip was a success
- he met no opposition
- many rivers exist in the island; naval possibilities
- tall, various trees exist, implying good material for making ships
- numerous birds
- strong agriculture possibilities
- rivers of gold
- abundant spices
- the native people exist:
 - > wander about naked
 - > no weapons
 - > simple-minded
 - > they have gold and do not understand its full value