

European Exploration

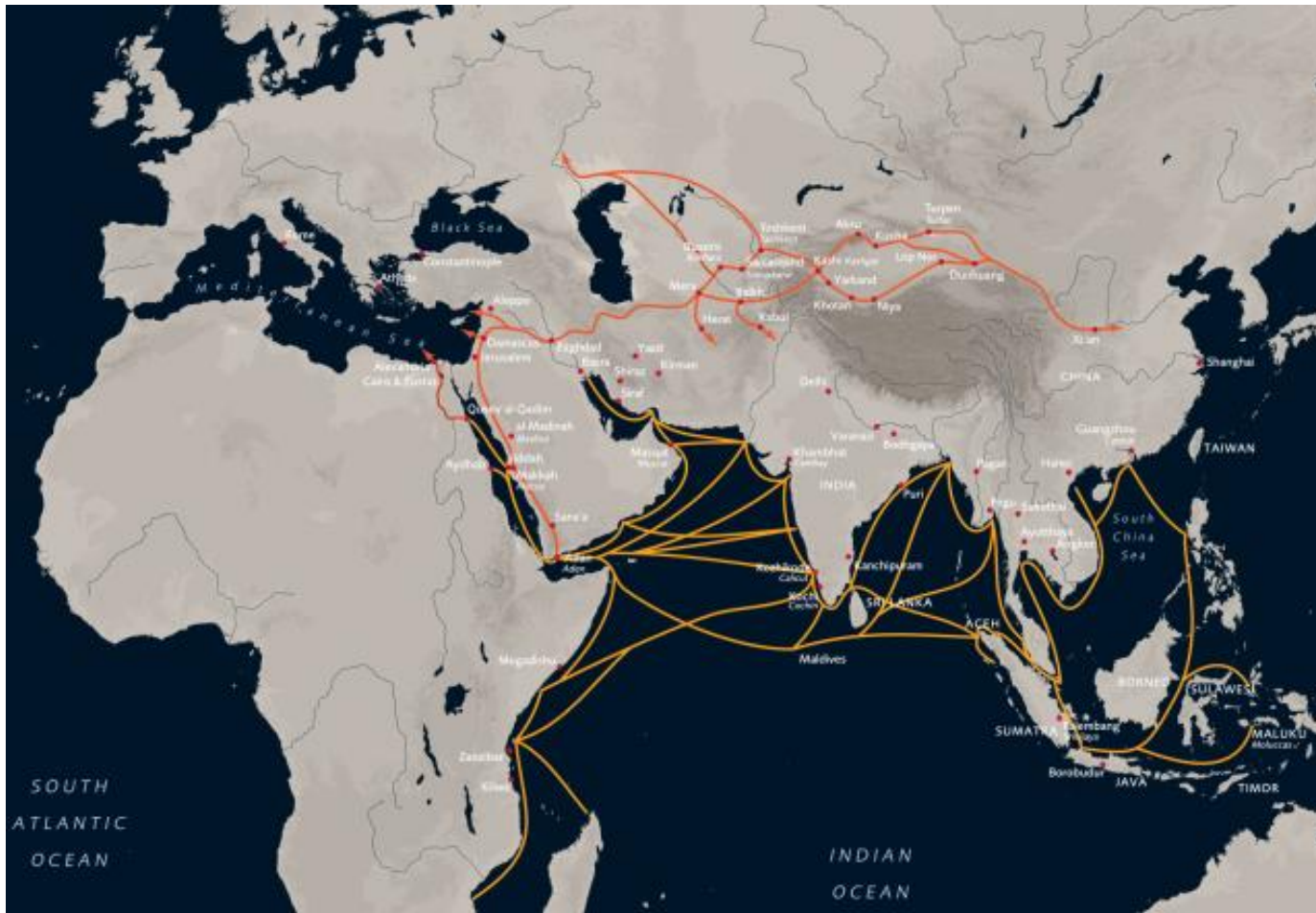
Essential Question

- Why did European nations send out explorers in the 15th century?

Background

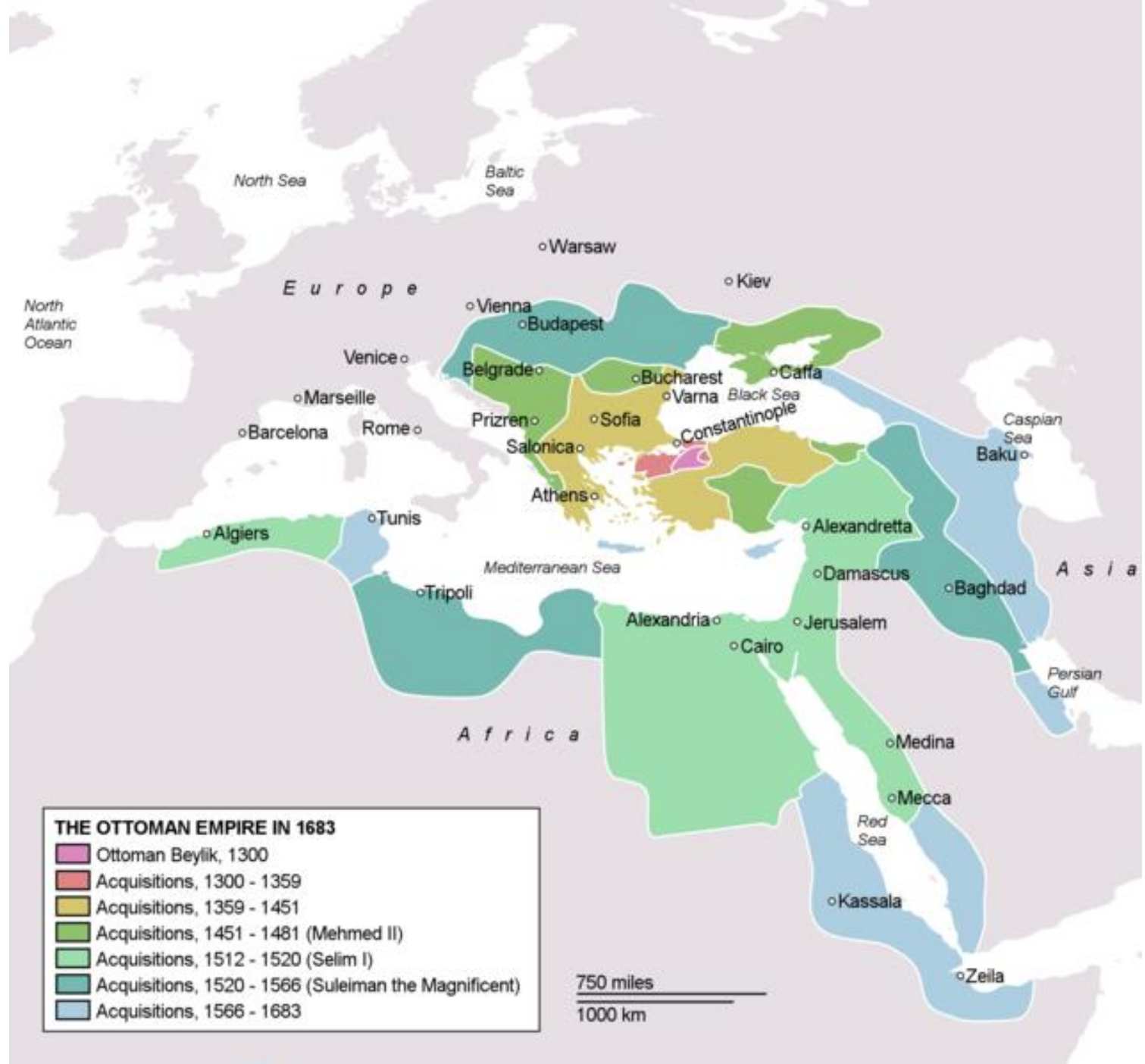
- China and India source of much wealth
- Trade between Europe and Asia controlled by Muslims
 - Rivalry between Christians and Muslims intensified when Muslims conquered Constantinople 1453
 - Finding a way to get around Muslim middlemen would mean more profits for Christians

Afro-Eurasian Trade Routes



Background cont.

- Reformation leads to increased motivation by Catholics to expand the Church
- Renaissance leads to improved technology, increased interest in the unknown
- Demand for gold and silver increases for trade with Asia



North Atlantic Ocean

North Sea

Baltic Sea

Europe

Warsaw

Kiev

Vienna

Budapest

Venice

Belgrade

Bucharest

Caffa

Marseille

Varna

Black Sea

Barcelona

Rome

Prizren

Sofia

Constantinople

Caspian Sea

Baku

Salonica

Athens

Algiers

Tunis

Alexandretta

Mediterranean Sea

Tripoli

Damascus

Baghdad

Asia

Alexandria

Jerusalem

Persian Gulf

Cairo

Africa

Medina

Mecca

Kassala

Red Sea

Zeila

European Exploration

- Spain and Portugal attempt to find ways to India and China that will bypass Muslim middlemen
 - Portuguese Prince Henry the Navigator (early 1400's) sends explorers along African coast to find route to India
 - Find gold, slaves in Africa
 - Bartolomeu Dias makes it around Africa 1488
 - Vasco de Gama makes it to India 1497

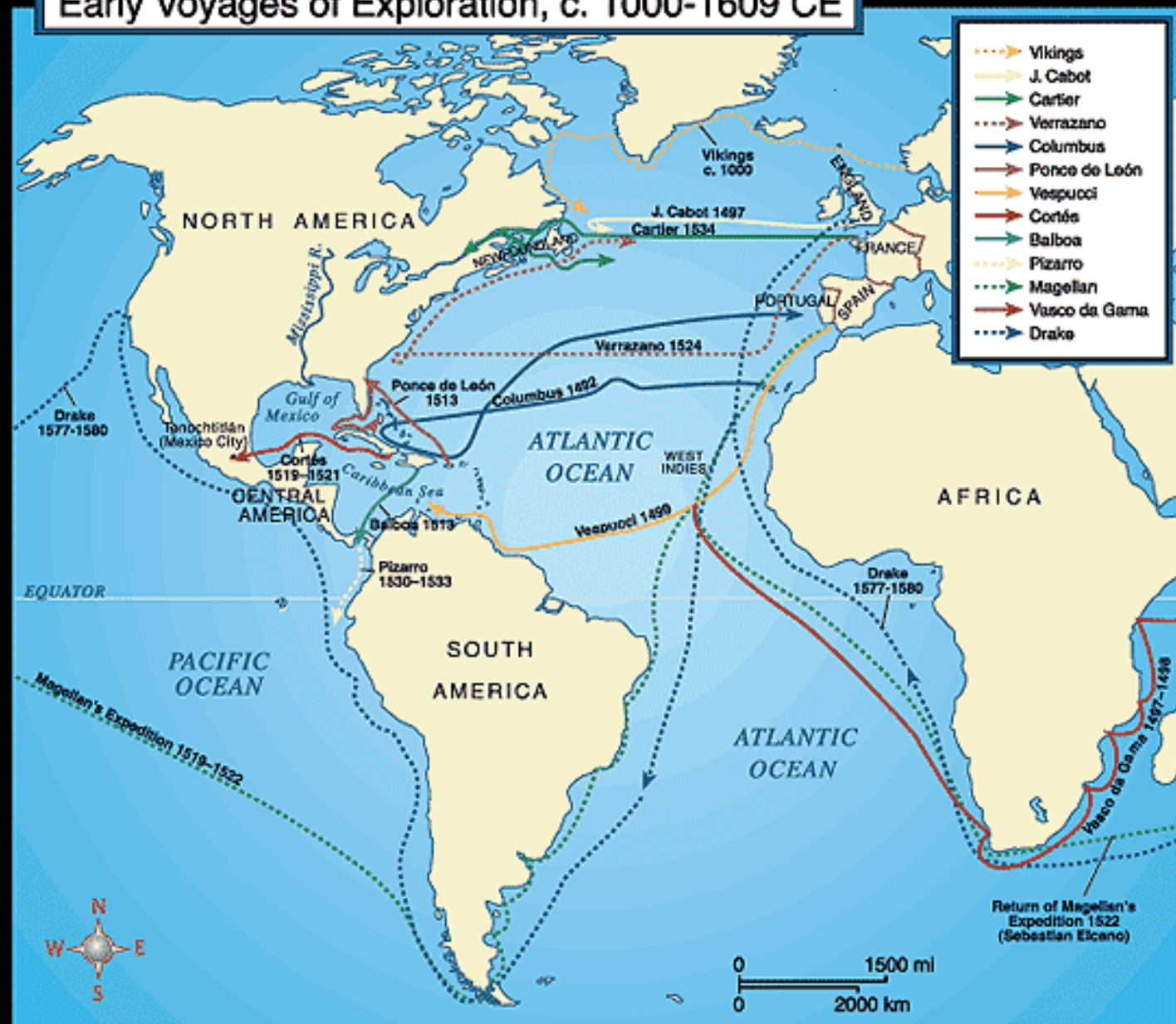
Portuguese Voyages



European Exploration cont.

- Spanish rulers Ferdinand and Isabella send Christopher Columbus west to find route to Asia
- [Video](#)

Early Voyages of Exploration, c. 1000-1609 CE



Review Questions

1. What two Asian nations were major sources of wealth for Afroeurasia starting around 1400?
2. What religious group controlled European trade with these nations?
3. What two European countries started trying to find new routes to Asia in the 1400's?
4. What did Portuguese explorers find was available in Africa?
5. What Spanish rulers sent Christopher Columbus west?
6. What was the motivation for European exploration?