



Medieval Europe: Heir to the Greco-Roman World

Out of the Ashes of Ancient Rome
emerged Medieval Europe

Rome

- ✦ Most impressive ancient empire
- ✦ Large empire, covering the entire Mediterranean region
- ✦ Effective political order
- ✦ Integration of colonized peoples
- ✦ Impressive infrastructure



Fall of Rome:

✧ Fell in 476 CE, but the process was a long one

✧ Many internal weaknesses:

- Hypertrophy: Empire grew too large
- Poor political leadership
- Burden of taxation
- Invasion by northern barbarians

Emergence of Medieval Europe

- ✠ Politically and economically a highly fragmented society
- ✠ Universal Church the primary power
- ✠ Feudalism a response to a hostile world
 - Developed by the 10th century
 - Invasions by Vikings, Saracens, and Magyars

Europe in 1250

- ✠ Political System: Feudalism
- ✠ Religion: Universal (Roman Catholic) Church
- ✠ Culture dominated by clergy
- ✠ Wealth defined by land ownership
- ✠ Rural civilization
- ✠ Latin was the common language

The Big Shift: 1000 to 1500

✦ Agricultural Revolution:

1. New lands under cultivation
2. Horse collar developed
3. Iron plow
4. Field rotation

The Big Shift cont.

- ✦ Declining power of papacy
- ✦ Economic Stimulation: Crusades
- ✦ Renaissance in Italy
- ✦ Black Death

Europe in 1600

- ✧ Political System: Nation states, centralized power
- ✧ Religion: Many creeds following the Protestant Reformation
- ✧ Culture now in hands of laymen
- ✧ Wealth determined by money
- ✧ Urban civilization
- ✧ Many languages

The Renaissance

- ✦ The changes of the late Middle Ages gives rise to the Renaissance.
- ✦ Economic Foundations:
- ✦ Crusades open trade with the Middle East
- ✦ Northern Italian cities perfectly poised to take advantage: Genoa, Venice, etc. New wealth was invested in trade, banking, manufacturing. Wealth now determines status more than birth

Renaissance Humanism

- ✦ The term is coined in the 19th century, but it referred to the ability to read, understand, and appreciate the writings of the ancient world (Greece and Rome)
- ✦ Later in the Renaissance, it referred to the natural gifts of human reason and that humans could achieve anything

Humanism compared

✧ “Numberless are the world’s wonders, but none more wonderful than man.”

✧ -Sophocles, 496-406 BCE

✧ “Imagine! The great generosity of God! The happiness of man! To man it is allowed to be whatever he chooses to be!”

✧ -Pico Della Mirandola, 1463-1494 CE

Humanism

- ✦ Humanists insist that man would be morally superior for having immersed himself in humanistic studies
- ✦ A key in the Italian Renaissance will be the patronizing of the arts and humanistic endeavors with the new wealth

Renaissance Art

- ✦ Key figures like Michelangelo and Da Vinci
- ✦ Clear break with Medieval art:
- ✦ In Medieval art, nature was used as a prop, to make the religious point; in Renaissance art reproducing nature became the standard of artistic truth

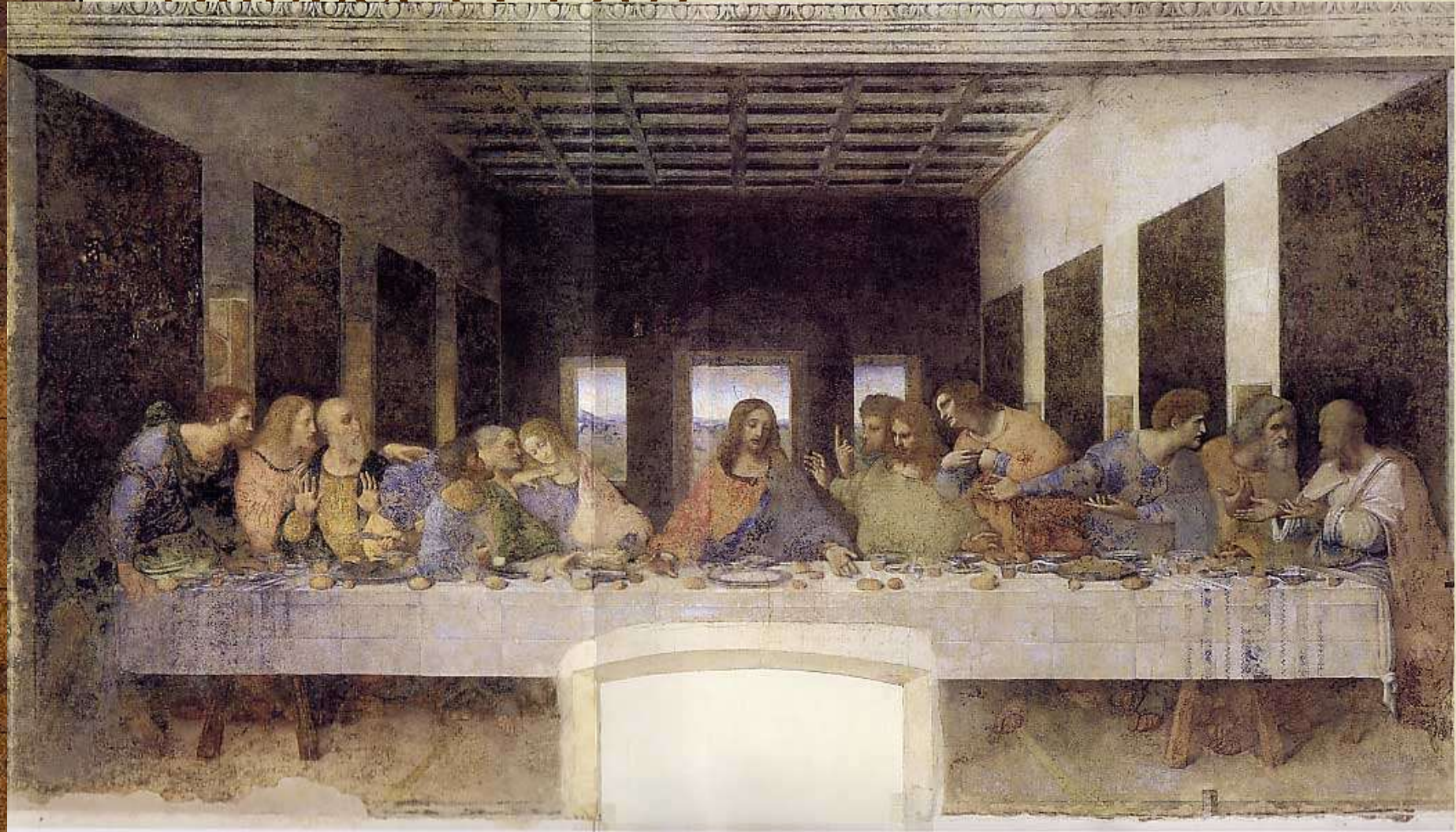
An Early Medieval Portrayal of the Last Supper



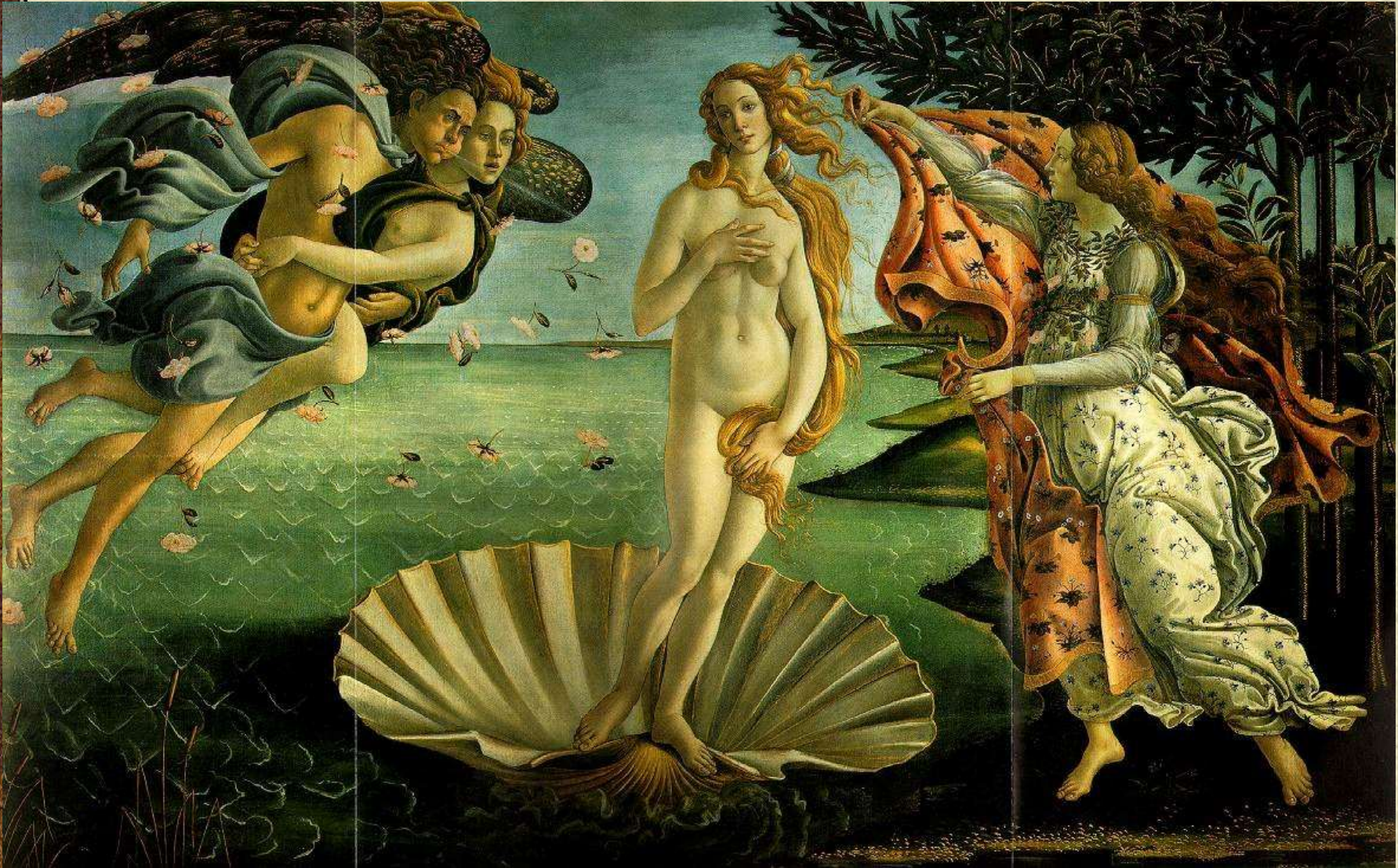
Later Middle Ages from Notre Dame Cathedral



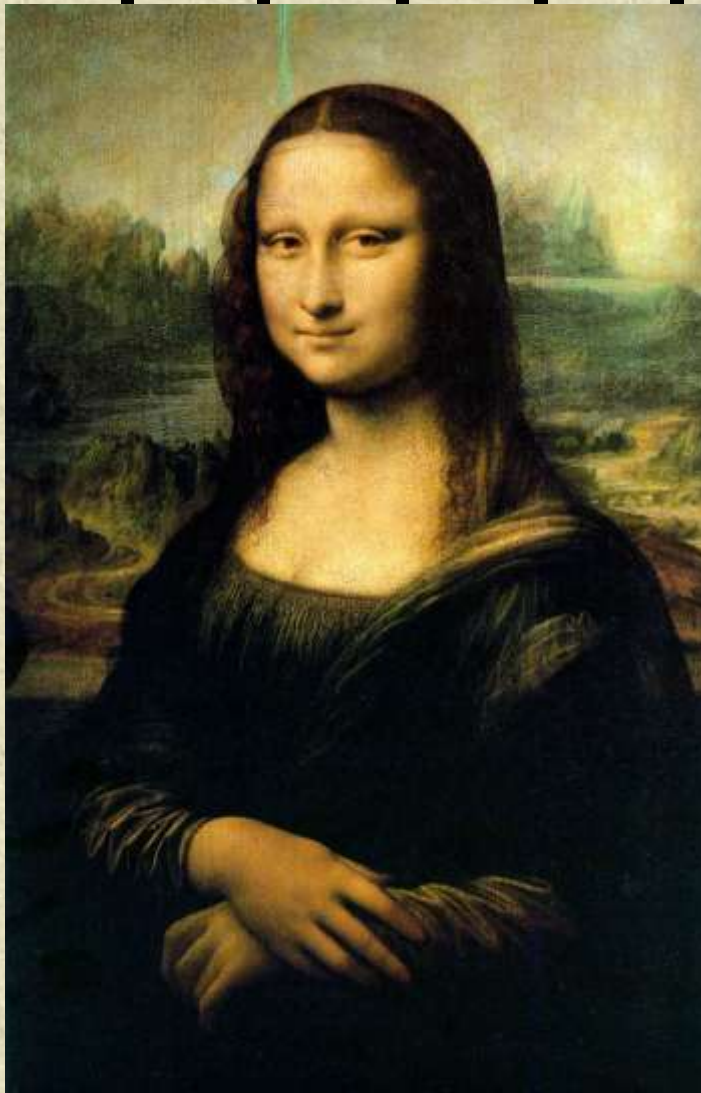
Leonardo Da Vinci's The Last Supper (1498)



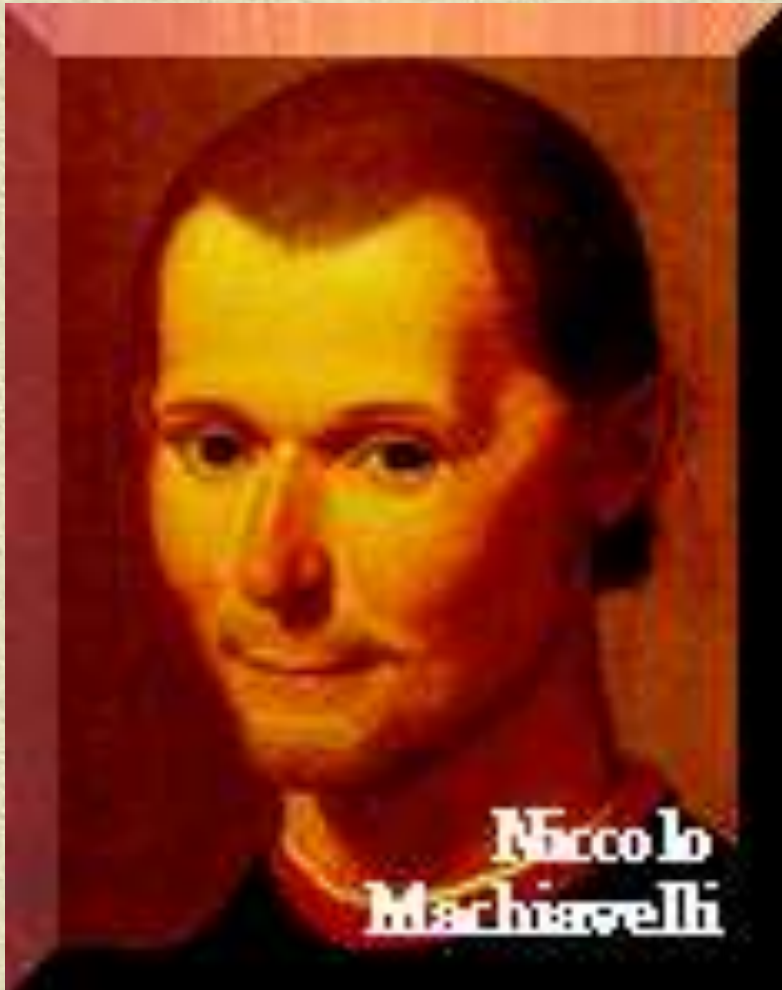
Botticelli's *The Birth of Venus* (1485);
Revival of classical themes



Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*



Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*



- ✦ Political expression of the Renaissance
- ✦ Real Politik; how to gain and maintain power
- ✦ Cynical about religion; a leader should use it if it helps

The Protestant Reformation

- ✠ Emergence of Protestantism which emphasized the role of the believer in salvation over the intercession of the church
- ✠ Divided Europe into a Protestant North and a Catholic South
- ✠ Led to a resurgent, militant, and reformed Catholicism

Problems with the Church

- ✠ Church corruption; the church was powerful, and became an avenue for men seeking power
- ✠ People resented the Papacy's secular power
- ✠ Tithes
- ✠ Indulgences: could bypass confession of sins for purchase of a document, or religious artifacts

Crisis in the Church

- ✠ Babylonian Captivity of the Papacy- 1305-1377 (Papal see in Avignon)
- ✠ Great Schism (1378-1415)—Two Popes
- ✠ Borgia Popes—such as Alexander VI (1492-1503)—were worldly and corrupt.
- ✠ Humanist critiques found fertile soil.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Author of the *95 Theses*

- ✦ Cried to St. Anthony for deliverance in a fierce storm and switched from law to theology.
- ✦ Came to question core Catholic doctrines because he couldn't find support for them in the text.



Events in Wittenberg, 1517

- ✠ Pope Leo X had an indulgence drive to rebuild St. Peter's
- ✠ Johan Tetzel spearheaded the drive
- ✠ Luther posted 95 Thesis on the church door, Oct. 31, 1517
- ✠ Samples:

95 Theses

✠ 43. Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better work than buying pardons;

✠ 45. Christians are to be taught that he who sees a man in need, and passes him by, and gives

[his money] for pardons, purchases not the indulgences of the pope, but the indignation of

✠ God.

Luther cont.

- ✠ In short, the Pope does not have the keys to heaven and he can't absolve the sins of the dead. The sale of indulgences takes away the true meaning of contrition
- ✠ Later, Luther emphasized three points:
- ✠ *Sola fide*-Salvation by faith alone
- ✠ *Sola scriptura*-Authority of God lies in scriptures alone
- ✠ "Priesthood of all believers"

Impact

- ✦ Fueled German nationalism, who resented the Italian pope and the Austrian Holy Roman Emperor
- ✦ Diet of Worms, 1520-papal committee asks Luther to recant. He refuses, asking priests where in the Bible is he wrong
- ✦ He is excommunicated
- ✦ Reformation moves to other parts of Europe, especially England

The Reformation Spreads

- ✠ King Henry VIII attacks Luther, but breaks with the Catholic church in 1533
- ✠ Other reformers like John Calvin continue the theological attack on the papacy

DIVIDED EUROPE

RELIGIOUS FAITHS IN 1650

LUTHERAN

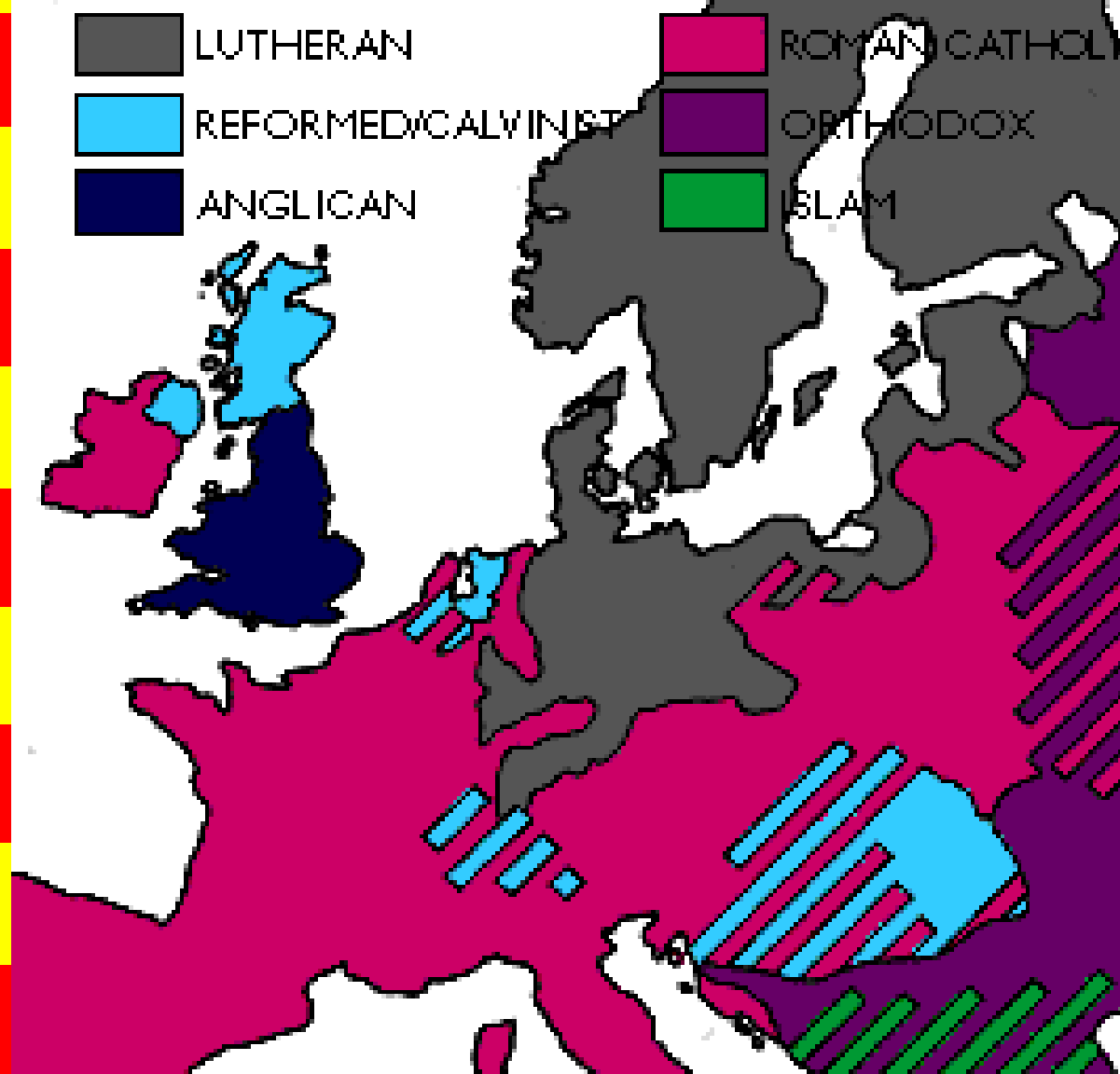
REFORMED/CALVINIST

ANGLICAN

ROMAN CATHOLIC

ORTHODOX

ISLAM



The Overseas Movement

- ✦ Renaissance and humanistic thought broke the hold of medieval thinking on Europeans; created the intellectual climate for exploration
- ✦ Opening of the European economy stimulated the need for trade
- ✦ The Reformation broke the hold of the church on Europe and contributed to the rise of national monarchies
- ✦ Primary explorers were Iberians (Spain and Portugal). Why?

Four Factors Propelling Overseas Expansion:

- ✠ Emergence of Nation states
- ✠ Emergence of capitalism
- ✠ Dynamic Judeo Christian culture; linear sense of history
- ✠ Technology, mostly borrowed from Muslims and far East
- ✠ Nowhere else did all of these factors come together as they did in Europe, in particular in Portugal and Spain

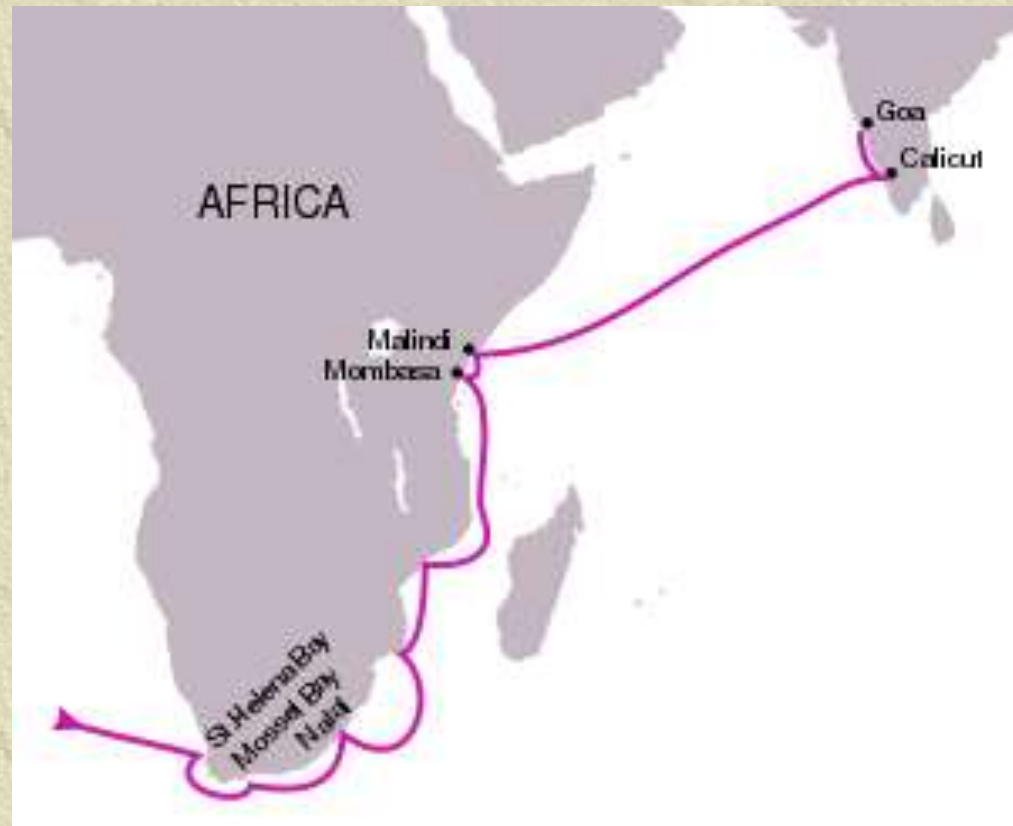
Portugal and Prince Henry the Navigator

- ✠ Portuguese Prince
- ✠ Set up school for explorers
- ✠ Knowledge from this school helped Portuguese and Spanish round Africa, sail to Americas



Portuguese Exploration

✧ Explorations of
Bartolmeu Dias (1487-
88) and Vasco de
Gama (1497-99)



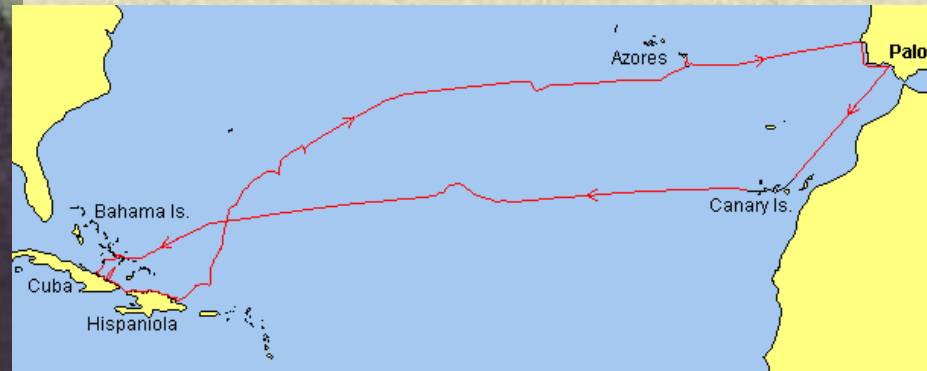
The Spanish Overseas Movement

- ✠ Spain is poised, more than any other country, to explore and colonize
- ✠ Spain had been unified with the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella in 1469
- ✠ The Reconquista of the Iberian peninsular (expulsion of the Moors) completed in 1492

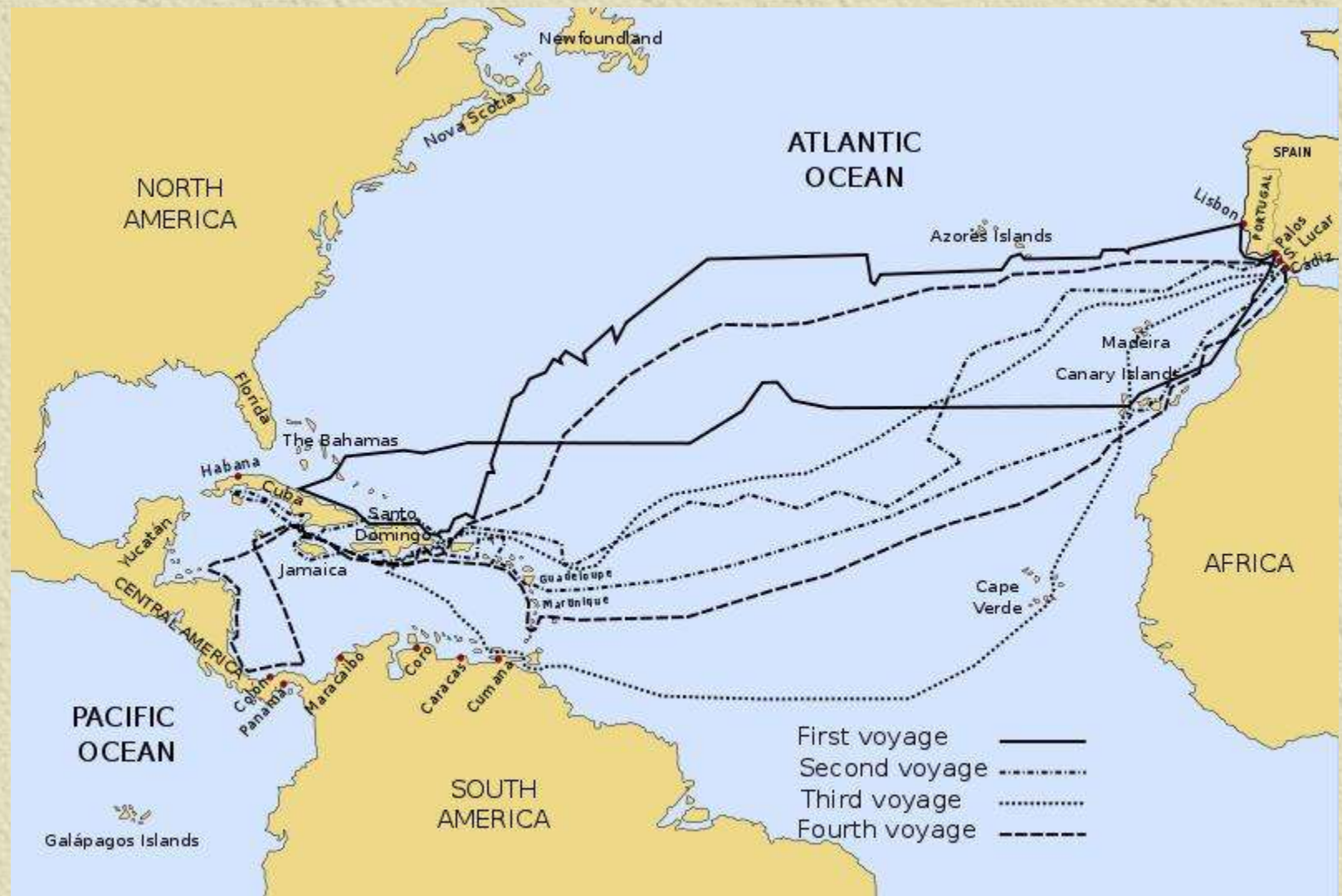
Christopher Columbus



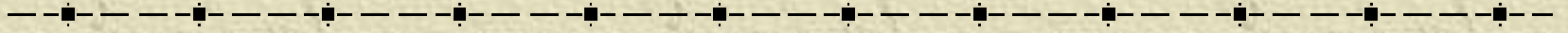
✠ Convinces Ferdinand and Isabella to fund his westward expedition



Columbus' Four Voyages



Reaction to Columbus



The Spanish in the Southwest

✠ What are our general impressions of the Spanish in the Southwest?

✠ Two key figures:

✠ Ponce de Leon;

✠ Coronado



Spanish Southwest

✧ Image of Spanish: Ponce de Leon and Coronado are known primarily for their brutality or their foolishness (or both)

✧ Black Legend

- Product of European Rivalries

- Jealousy

- Used throughout history against Hispanic peoples:

- Mexican-Am. War; Spanish-Am War

- Statehood for New Mexico and Arizona

“White” Legend

Qualifications:

- Spain came over early with Medieval minds
- Spanish hit the high population areas
- Disease had not done much damage
- Spanish always planned inclusion
- Black Legend masks other depredations by the English and French

Columbian Exchange

- ✧ Key biological exchange
- ✧ Europe to the Americas: Horses, gunpowder, the wheel, cattle, Christianity, mule, thistles; numerous diseases
- ✧ Americas to Europe: Chocolate, tobacco, potatoes, corn, gold, silver, gems; Syphilis