

It's the 1400s, and what a time is it to be alive, just kidding it probably sucked. During this time, people really wanted more stuff, and you know where you could get more stuff, Asia! The Silk Road is and spice trade from Asia to Europe was booming. Spices, silk, and other precious goods were being taken from Asia, and brought back to Europe for money. However there was a problem with the Silk Road, it was really long and dangerous. It took people and goods around 1 full year to just to travel from China to Rome, but people kept using the route, because the it was the only way to get to the expensive stuff. Consequently, with an increase of expensive stuff, there was also an increase in bandits and thieves who were setting up taxes and stealing goods. That along with the muslims occasionally closing down the trade, it was becoming obvious that the Silk Road was not the most ideal way of traveling.

You see, people wanted more. More spices, more silk, and more gold and glory. So people started exploring by sea, in hopes that they could be the first to find a quicker, cheaper way to Asia. The first country to try this, was Portugal, in which they successfully found a route to Asia. Other countries saw their success, and started exploring as well, including the one and only Christopher Columbus.

In 1492, Christopher Columbus, with help from Queen Isabella, went west in hopes of finding Asia . Whereas today, we know that there's a giant rock in the way called America, they didn't know that. So instead of making it to Asia, he became the first European, to discover "the New World."

Europe realized the value of this new land, and started exchanging stuff with the indigenous peoples. They traded many things including food, animals, religion, and diseases. This exchange in things, also know as the Columbian Exchange, created a lot of good and bad events. The good events were the trade in food and animals, in which Europeans got many new foods like tomatoes and potatoes, while America got new domesticated animals like horses and goats. The bad events were the trade and transmission of diseases, which led to 80% to 95% of the indigenous population being completely wiped out.

The Europeans continued to colonize the land, creating fields called cash crops. These cash crops used slaves, to work and maintain fields of high demand goods, like sugar. This turned out to be highly profitable, with over 12 million people being forcibly taken to work the fields.

In the end, both Europe and America had been changed drastically due to the age of exploration and the columbian exchange. Europe managed to colonize America and exchanged goods that have changed the lifestyle of both worlds. America got more animals like horses that changed how they travel and fight, as well as a huge economic boost. While Europe got more money and food that allowed their population to continue to grow. Because of all this, the Age of Exploration has been one of the most influential and important event in human history.