European Overseas Expansion
The Indian Ocean Spice Trade and the Afro-Eurasian Economy

I. A Better Route to the East

A. Venetian and Genoese Control of Eastern Mediterranean Trade

1. Portuguese Plan
   a. Prince Henry the Navigator (1394–1460)
   b. Gomes Eanes de Zurara (1404?–1474), *Crónica da Guiné*
   c. Paolo Toscanelli (1397–1482)
   d. Vasco de Gama (1469?–1524)
   e. Pedro Alvárez Cabral (1460?–1526?)

2. Spanish Plan
   a. Unification of Aragon (Ferdinand) and Castille (Isabella)
   b. Expulsion of Muslims and Jews from Spain (1492)
   c. Christopher Columbus (1451–1521)

3. Pope Alexander VI: Papal Bull (1493) and Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)

B. Economics of the Expansion into Indian Ocean and western Pacific area

1. The Spice Trade
   a. Pepper, ginger, and cardamom from Malabar
   b. cloves from Ternate and Tidore (North Moluccas)
   c. nutmeg and mace from Bandas (South Moluccas)
   d. cinnamon from Ceylon

2. Portuguese Trading-Post Empire
   a. Casa da India – royal trading firm
   b. Estado da India – political administration of trading posts

3. North European (English and Dutch) Competition Options (1600 on)
   a. interloping
   b. capture Portuguese trading posts
   c. create a parallel trading-post empire
   d. charter joint stock companies

Recommended Reading: