

1275
Marco Polo leaves Venice for China.

1325
Aztec people settle at Tenochtitlan.

1405
Zheng He begins his first voyage.

1438-1471
Inca Empire rises to power in South America.

1505
First slaves arrive at Hispaniola.

Trade in the Indies

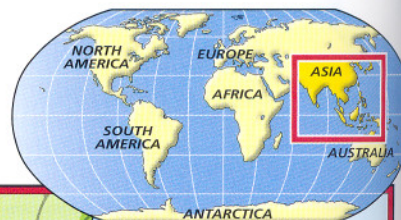
Exotic trade goods from southeast Asia—the **Indies**—and from East Asia were highly desired by Western Europeans. These goods were extremely expensive.

- Travellers from Europe brought back stories of wealth and technology from the East.
- Travel on the Silk Road became dangerous as the Mongol Empire fell apart (see page 51). People began to look for another route.
- Middlemen in Central Asia and the Mediterranean region marked up the price of goods, making them too expensive for all but the richest people.
- Zheng He, a Chinese captain, led seven voyages to expand Chinese power and find a replacement trade route for the Silk Road.



A Marco Polo travelled the Silk Road and across the Indian Ocean. His stories excited European interest in Asia. This illustration from his *Book of Marvels* shows him in India with pepper farmers.

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B

Merchants in Central Asia and the Middle East controlled trade between the Indies and Europe (see pages 44-45 and 75). Merchants and rulers in China and Western Europe wanted to bypass them and increase their own profits.



The Riches of the Indies 1400-1500

- Gold
- Silver
- Precious stones
- Ivory
- Porcelain
- Perfume
- Spices
- Cotton
- Silk
- Trade route

1535

New Spain extends from Mexico to Chile.

1600

Horses from Spain are first raised by Native Americans.

1667

French Guiana becomes a French colony.

1721

Recolonization of Greenland begins.

1788

Australia is colonized by the British.

1600

1550

Taino Indians of Hispaniola die out.

1607

Jamestown is established by the English.

1700

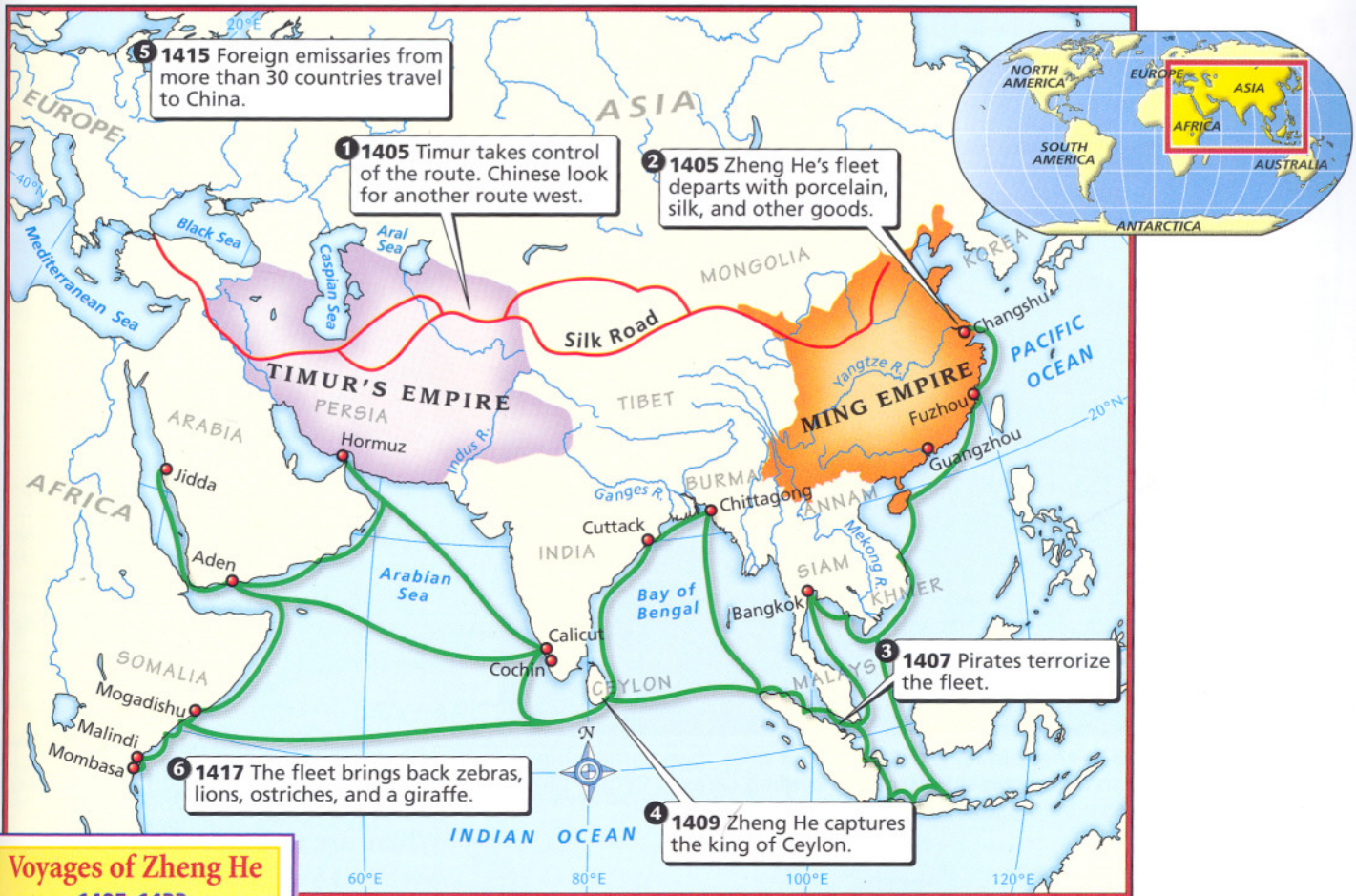
1750

European powers claim most lands in the Americas.

1800

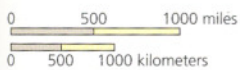
1763

France loses its largest colonies in North America.



Voyages of Zheng He 1405-1433

- Routes of Zheng He
- Major port
- Trade route
- Ming Empire
- Timur's Empire, 1405
- INDIA Culture region



C The new Ming dynasty in China (see page 53) wanted to demonstrate its power and find sea routes to the west. Using the largest sailing ships ever built, Zheng He commanded 27,000 men on seven voyages.

Why stop?

After several of Zheng He's expeditions, many officials felt they cost too much and produced too little. As a result, the ships were left to rot and Zheng's journals were burned.

D Spices from the Indies, such as cloves, cinnamon, and pepper, were worth as much as gold to Western Europeans. Kings sponsored explorations to win control of the spice trade.

