

LEQ: What area is known as the “Crossroads” between Asia and Europe?



Europe is at the top left of this map. Asia is on the top right of this map. Africa is at the bottom left of this map. This image is courtesy of arabspringanditscontexts.wordpress.com.

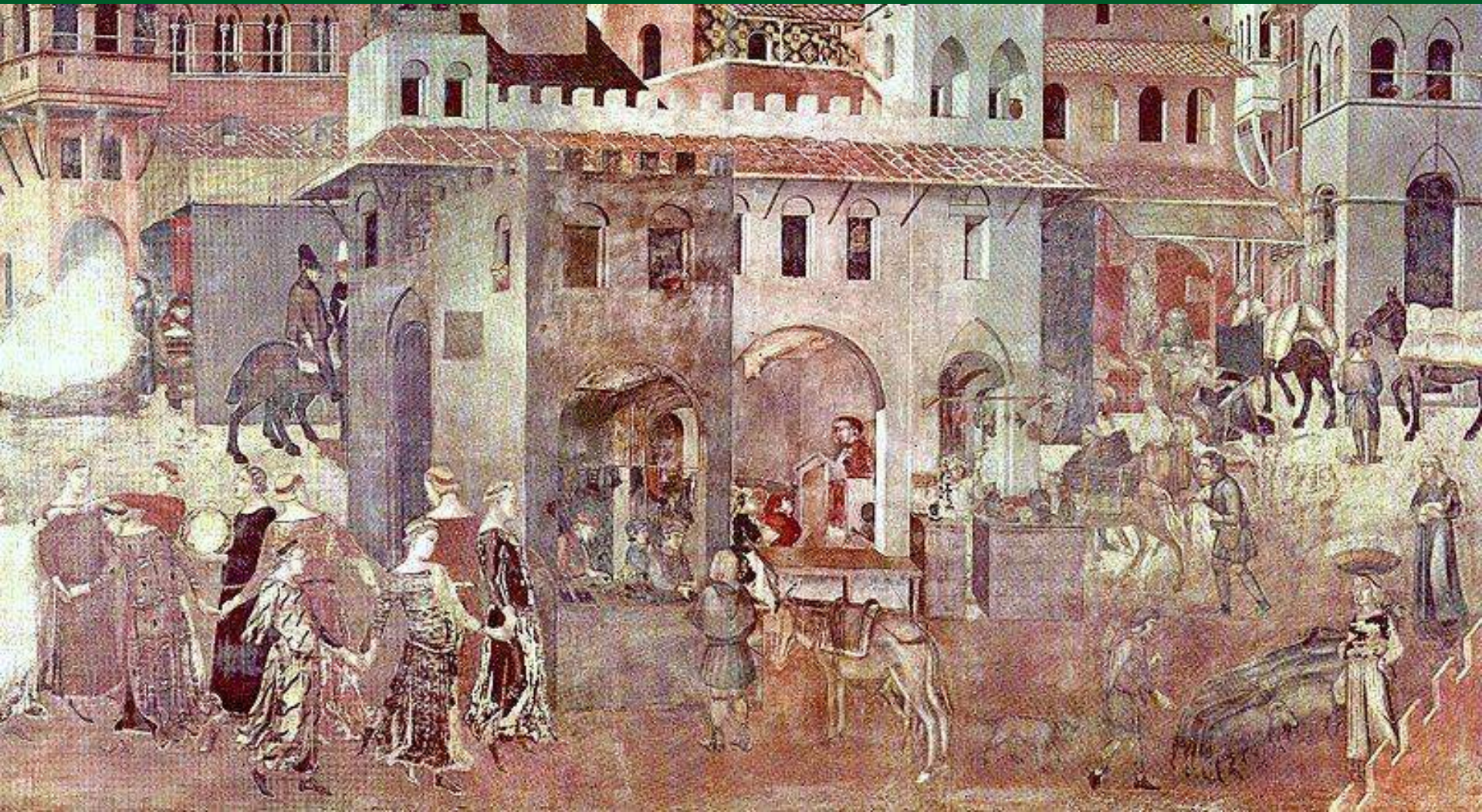
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Middle East



The Middle East region is now colored red. This image shows the continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa. This image is courtesy of arabspringanditscontexts.wordpress.com.

Influences on European Exploration Basics



This image shows the public plaza in Siena, Italy. This fresco by Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1285-1348) titled *The Allegory of Good Government*, was painted during the early 1300s.

Influences on European Exploration



The Cantino World Map has been called by some the most important manuscript map surviving from the Age of Discovery. It is named for Alberto Cantino, an Italian diplomatic agent in Lisbon, Portugal, who obtained it in 1502. It was covertly copied without authorization from the Portuguese government. It incorporated what were then extensive, new, geographical information based on voyages of four explorers: Columbus to the Caribbean, Pedro Alvarez Cabral to Brazil, Vasco da Game to Africa and India, and the Corte-Real brothers to Greenland and Newfoundland. Except for Columbus, all had sailed for Portugal. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Two events were very influential in stimulating European exploration:



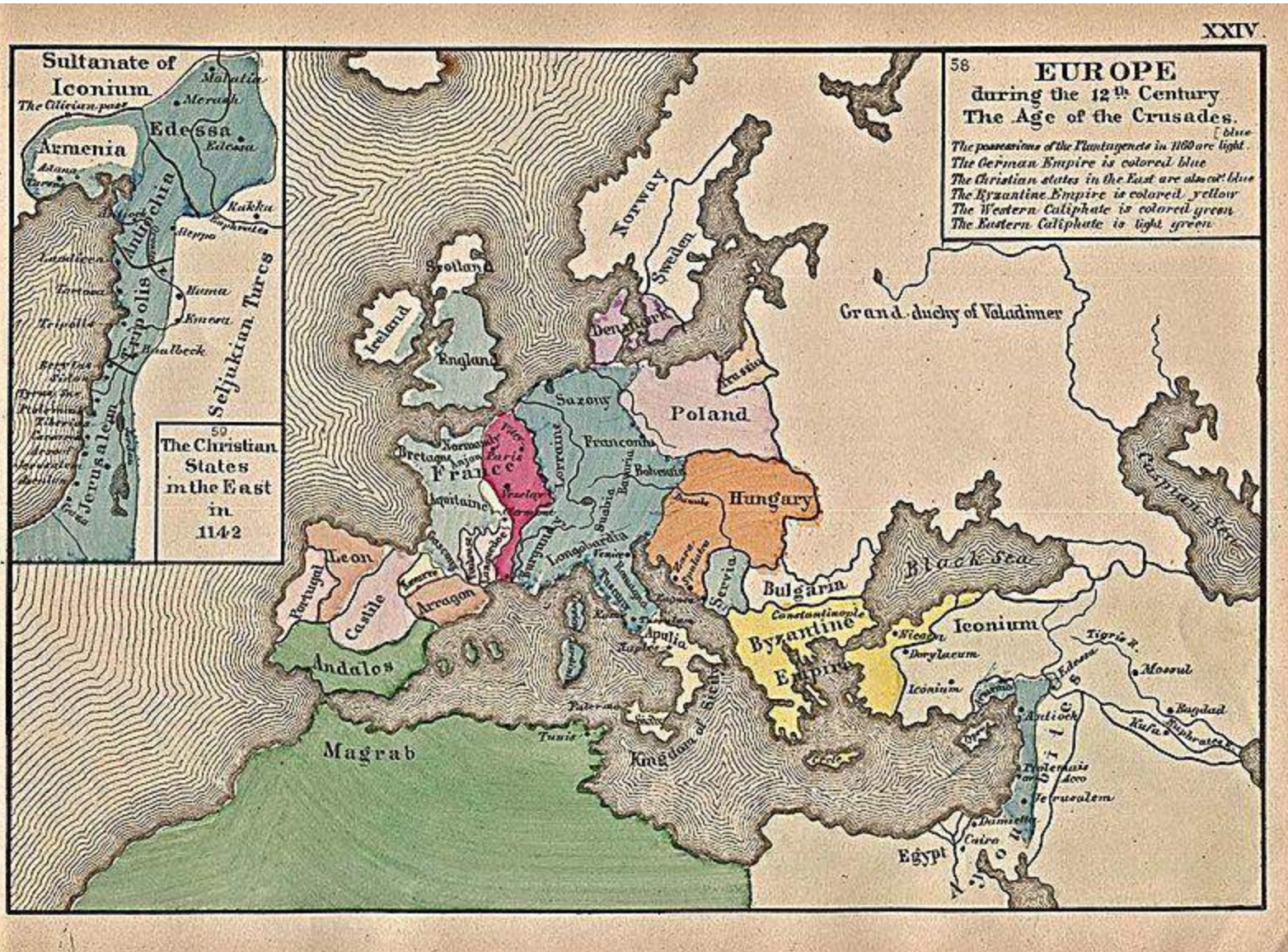
This image shows a Portuguese ship in Nagasaki, Japan circa 1600. This image is attributed to Kano Naizen (1570-1616) and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

First, the Christian “Crusades” from approximately 1000-1300 motivated Europeans to explore other lands.



This painting, by Jean Fouquet (1420-1481) titled, “Arrival of the Crusaders at Constantinople,” shows an event from the Princes’ Crusade. Here French Crusaders arrived outside the walls of Constantinople between November 1096 and April 1097. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

During the Crusades, thousands of Europeans invaded the Middle East's Palestine...



This map depicts Europe in 1142. Palestine is the light blue area in the bottom right. An enlarged image of Palestine is in the top left of this image. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...in order to save the Christian “Holy Land” from the Muslim “infidels.”



This image shows the capture of Jerusalem during the First Crusade, 1099, from a medieval manuscript. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Oh, and if they came away with a lot more riches from the Middle East, that would be very satisfactory.



This coin, a silver denier (a denier was roughly the French equivalent of the penny) depicts one of the Crusader Kings of Antioch, King Bohemond III (1162-1201 A.D.) On the left is a helmeted head of the king in chain-maille armor. There is also a crescent and star on each side of the king. On the right is a cross, symbol of the Christian Crusaders. This image is courtesy of ancientresource.com.

The Middle East is a crossroads between Europe and Asia.



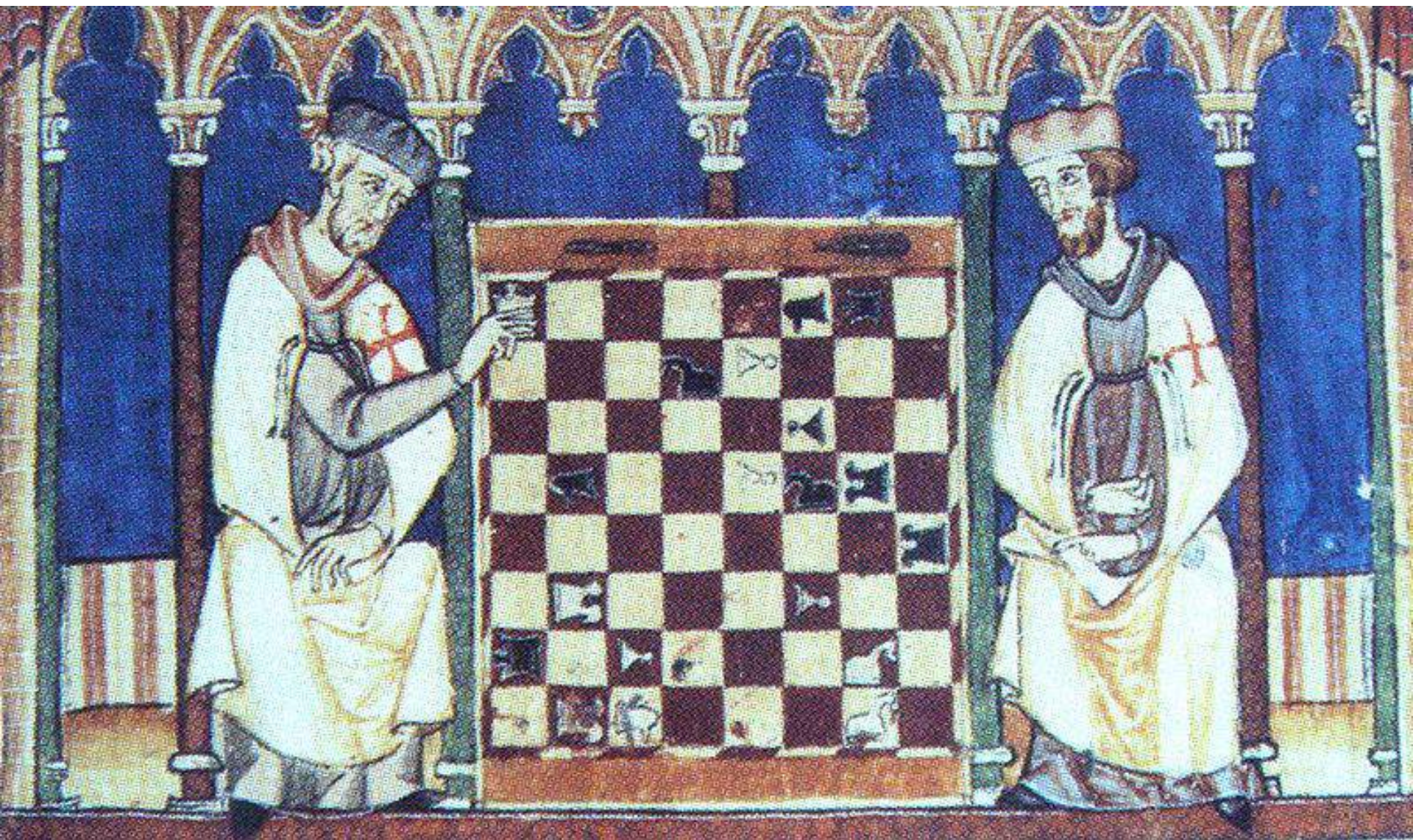
This map shows Europe on the left, The Middle East in the center, and the rest of Asia on the right of this image. This 2011 image is courtesy of Google.com.

Although the European “barbarians” were eventually defeated in their Middle Eastern adventures...



At the Battle of Hattin, in what is now Israel, Muslim forces under Saladin captured or killed the majority of the European Crusader army. After this Second Crusade battle, which took place on July 4, 1187, Islamic forces again became the preeminent military power in the Holy Land. However, other Crusades would still follow. This painting, from an anonymous 15th century artist, is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...their exposure to Asian culture drove them to acquire goods and materials from that region.



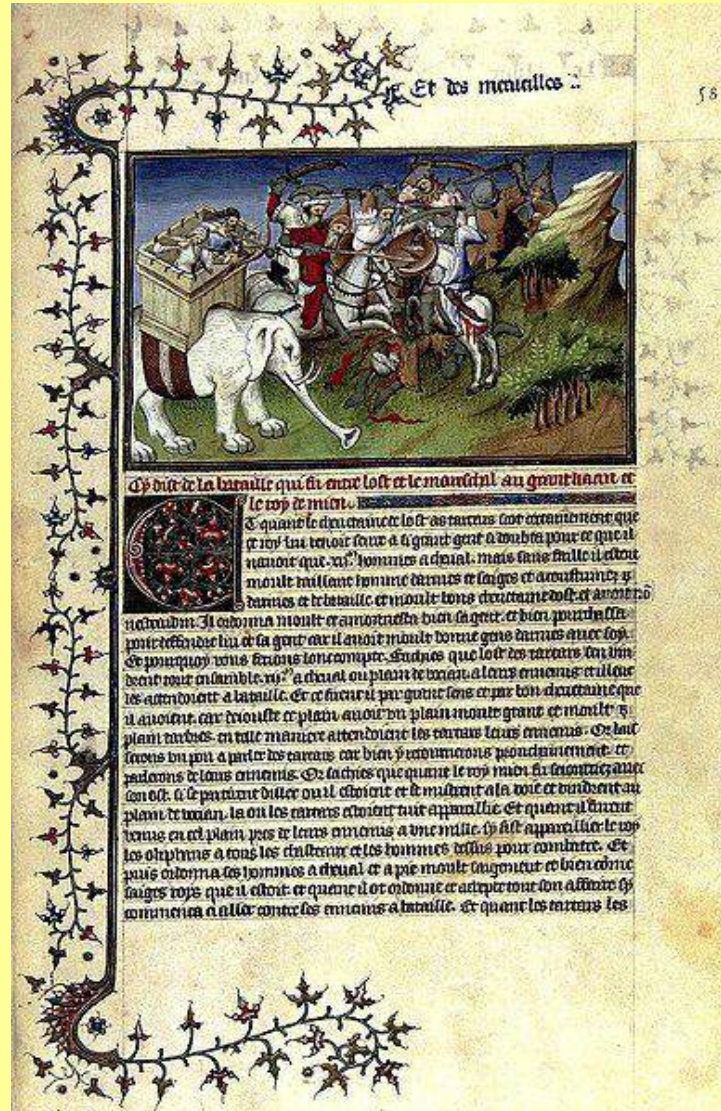
This image shows Knights Templar playing chess, a game that was invented in India. This image, circa 1283 was created by Alphonse le Sage. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

A second reason for Europeans to be motivated to trade with Asia was because of an Italian adventurer named Marco Polo.



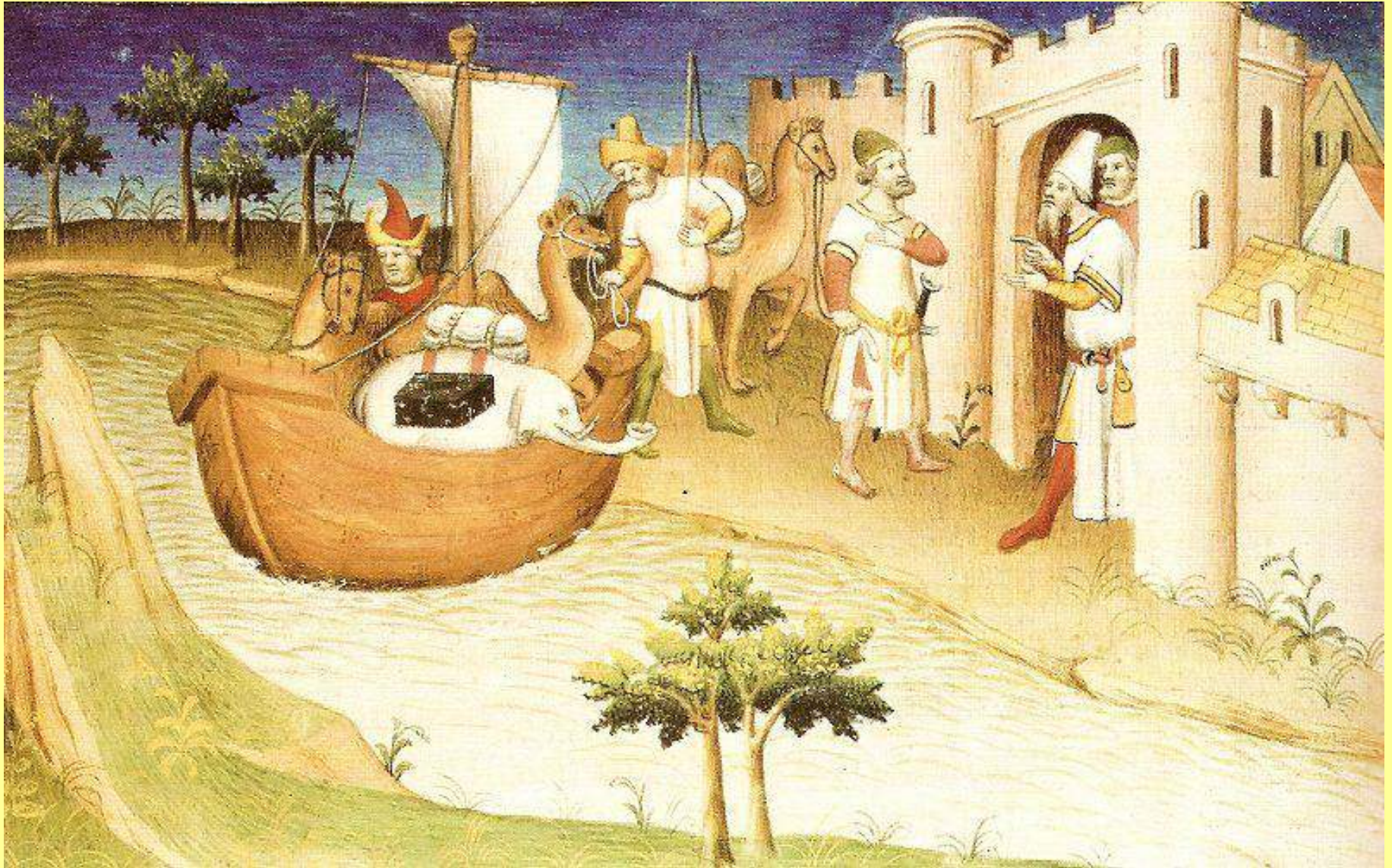
This image shows Marco Polo (c. 1254-1324) in a costume worn by the Mongolian Tartars. This image by Grevembroek was created on an unknown date. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Marco Polo wrote an account of the 24 years that he had spent in China, a land he described as having many riches.



This image is a page from one of the versions of Marco Polo's description of his life in Asia, *Il Milione*. This book helped to introduce Europeans to Central Asia and China. This page, produced between 1298-1299 is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Marco Polo's account of his stay in China was widely published and "embellished" throughout Europe.



This is a miniature from the book "The Travels of Marco Polo" or *Il Milione*. The book was originally published during Polo's lifetime (1254-1324) but was frequently reprinted and translated. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Some of the goods that Europeans wanted from Asia included:



This is a cloud-patterned silk from the Tomb No. 1 at Mawangdui, Changsha, Hunan province, China. It is from the Western Han Dynasty (202 B.C.E.-9 C.E.) This photograph by drs2biz is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...Spices to help spoiled and boring food...



This photograph shows spices in Mapusa Market, Goa, India. This image by judepics is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...silk and other cloths to softly cover their bodies...



This model shows a Viking combining oriental features with Nordic styles. This photo is by Annika Larsson.

...drugs for painful parts of their bodies...



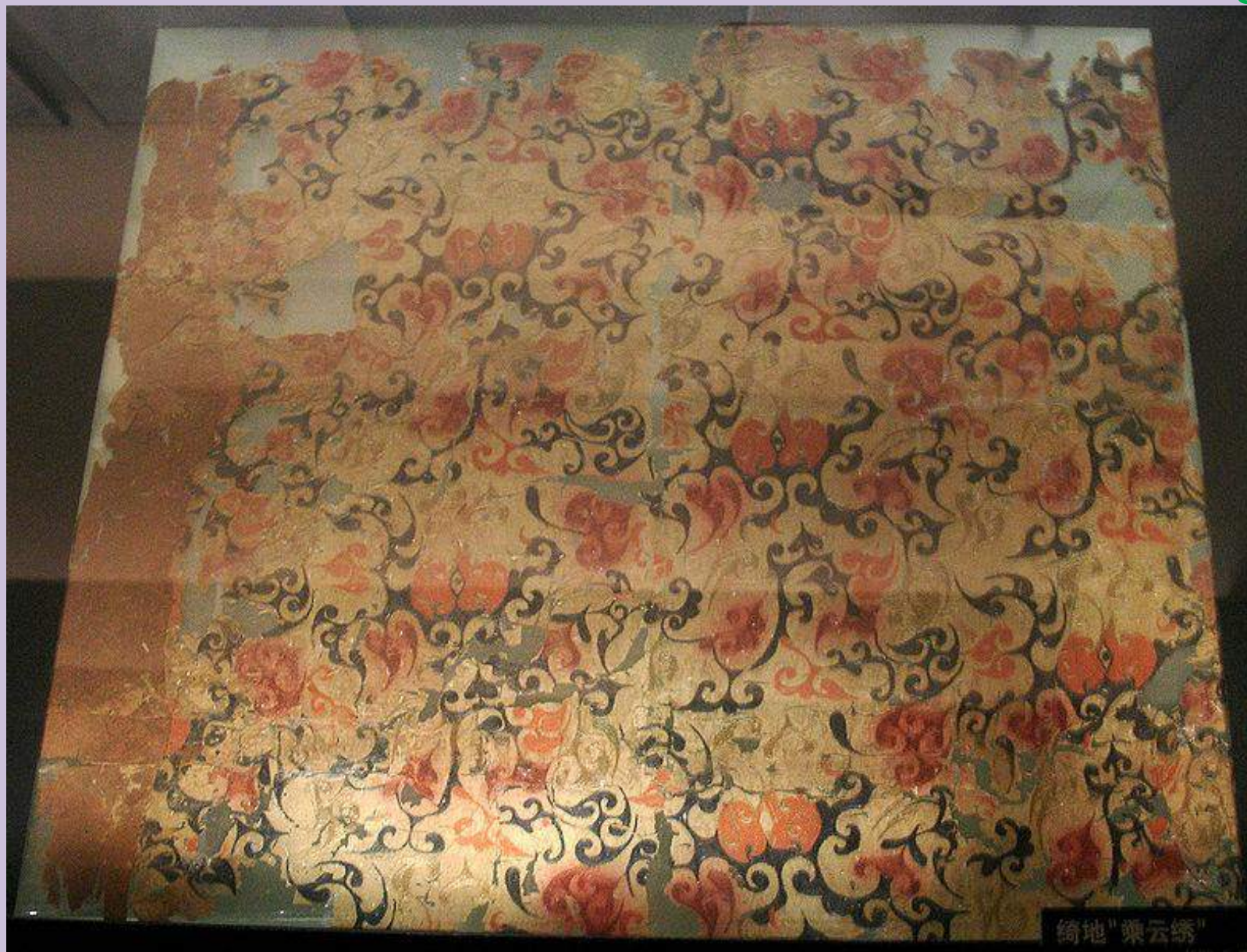
This image of raw opium is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...perfumes for bodies that infrequently took baths...



This photograph shows Chinese bottles from the Spinnaker Collection. These bottles date from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1912). This image is by the Crow Collection of Asian Art.

...colorful cloths to decorate the inside of their dwellings...



This is a flower-patterned silk from Tomb No. 1 at Mawangdui, Changsha, Hunan province, China. It was made during the Western Han Dynasty (202 B.C.E.-9 C.E.) This image by drs2biz is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...and ivory, gold, jewels, and other treasures said to be in abundance in Asia.



This photograph shows a gold Chinese bowl. This image is courtesy of worldtrade.com.

However, the luxuries of the “Far East” were very expensive in Europe.



This is an image of a Kashgar, China Sunday Market. This image is courtesy of airtreks.com.

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Some of the reasons that Asian goods were expensive included:



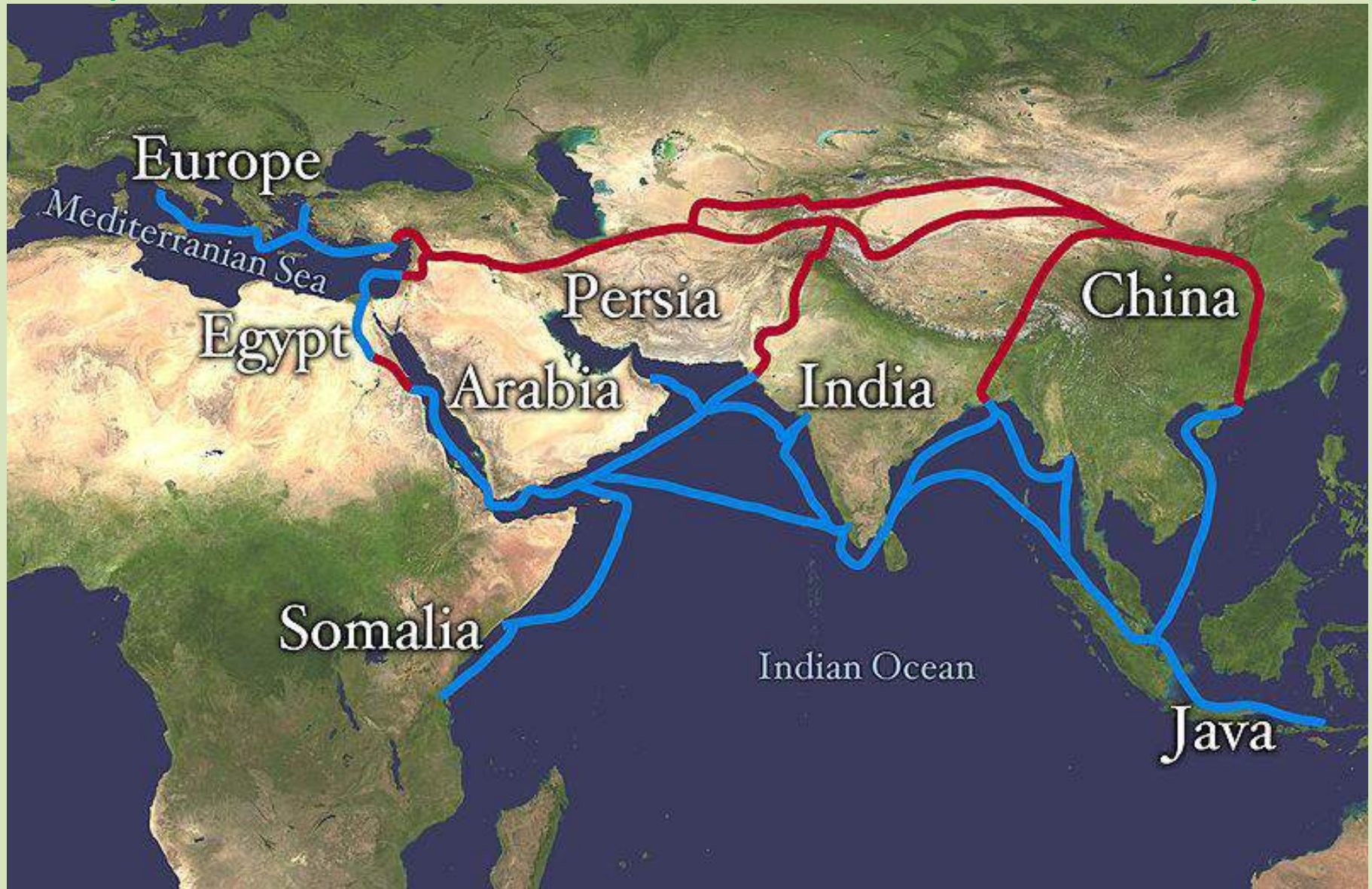
This Goldfish Vase was made of porcelain during the reign of the Jiajing Emperor (1521-1567). This image by Vassil is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Asian goods had to be transported mostly overland long distances from China and India, and many times by camel.



This drawing from the Catalan Atlas of 1375 depicts a caravan. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The items would be transported on the overland routes to ports in the eastern Mediterranean, such as in Italy.



There were a variety of trading routes between Asia and Europe. Red lines show land routes. Blue lines show sea/water routes. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Arab and Persian “middle men” placed a heavy toll/tax on the goods traveling across their lands from Asia to Europe.



This painting is titled, *Arab Traders, Cairo*. It was produced by Charles Robertson in 1875. This image is courtesy of artnet.com.

By the time the goods reached Italian ports such as Genoa or Venice...



This image is a woodcut of Genoa, Italy in 1493 from the *Nuremberg Chronicle*. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...they were so expensive only a few people could afford them.



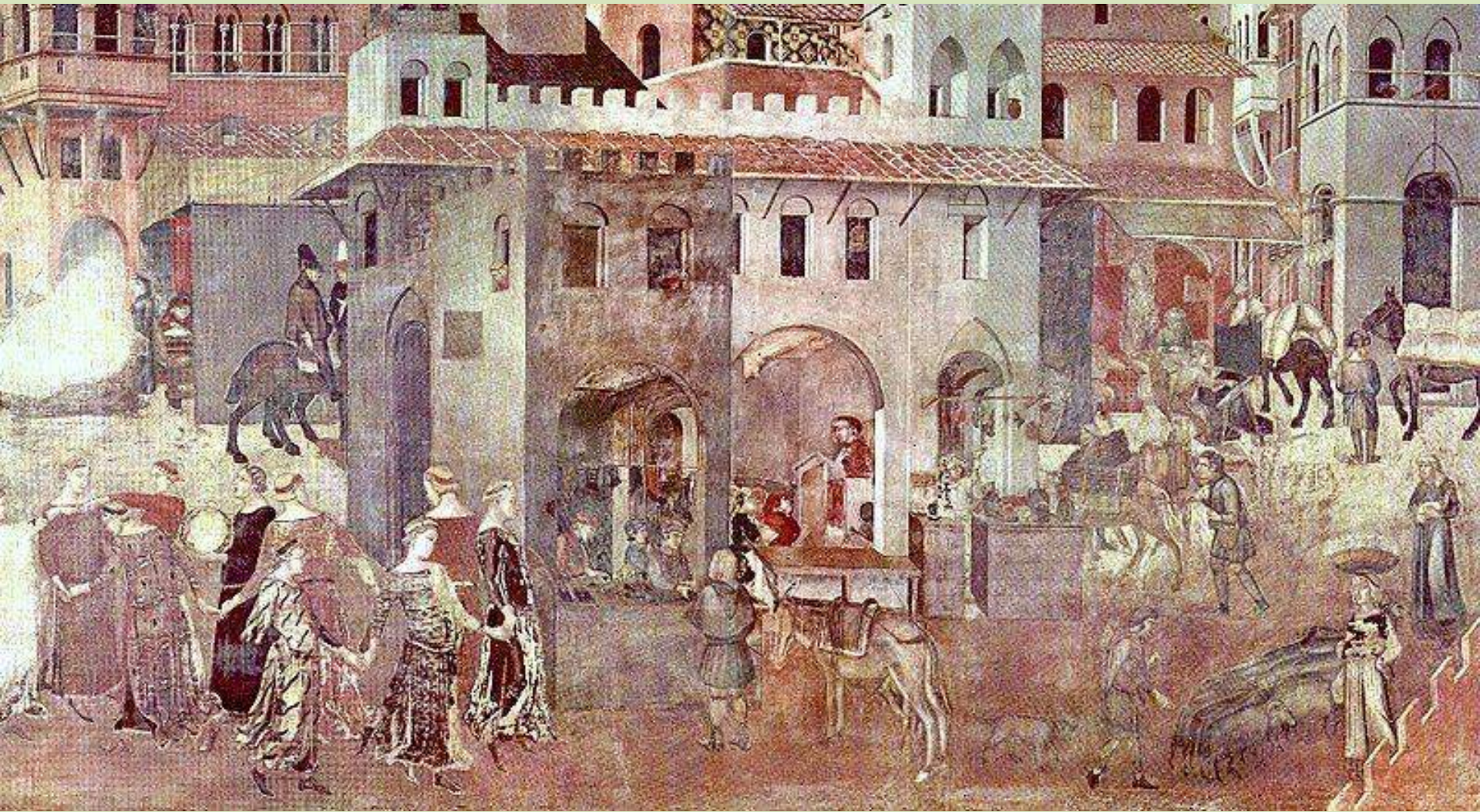
This is a portrait of Isabella of Castille, Spain in 1482. She was the Queen of Spain. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

There was an added cost to ship the goods from the Italian port cities to the rest of Western Europe.



The blue line represents the paths some ships would have taken after they left Italy to deliver their goods to other parts of Europe. This 2011 image is courtesy of google.com.

The profits for the businessmen selling the goods was too small to inspire them to consistently import these articles.



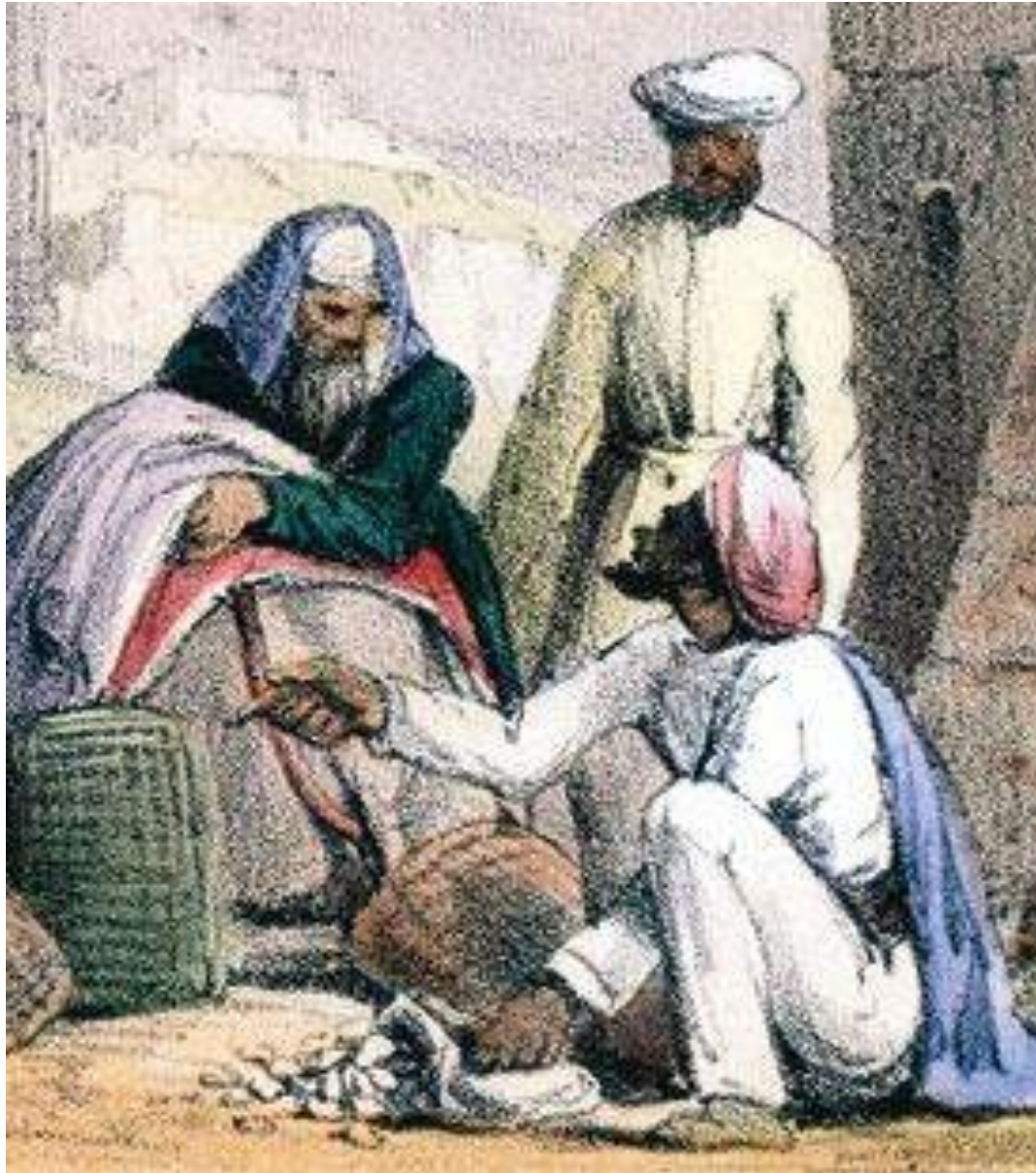
This image shows the public plaza in Siena, Italy. This fresco by Ambrogio Lorenzetti (1285-1348) titled *The Allegory of Good Government* was painted during the early 1300s.

Buyers and merchants in Western Europe were anxious to find a less costly route to the riches of Asia.



This image shows Camels with carriages on top known as howdahs. In Persia (Iran) camels frequently carried a howdah. In India elephants would carry a howdah. This image was painted in 1855 by Emile Rouergue and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Merchants in Western Europe wanted to avoid paying the Arab and Italian “middle men.”



This image shows Arab traders using cowry shells as money. This 1845 image is courtesy of Saudiaramcoworld.com.

The Renaissance (rebirth), which was a cultural movement, began in Europe in the 1300s and lasted until the 1600s.



This image is titled *The Adoration of the Lamb*. It was painted in 1432 by Jan van Eyck (1395-1441). It is located in the Cathedral of Saint Bavo in Ghent, Belgium. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Renaissance affected, among other ideas: architecture, philosophy, politics, science, and religion.



This image is a frontispiece of the book, *Rudolphine Tables* by the astronomer Johannes Kepler (1571-1630). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Renaissance created a spirit of optimism, self-reliance, and a desire to explore and have adventures.



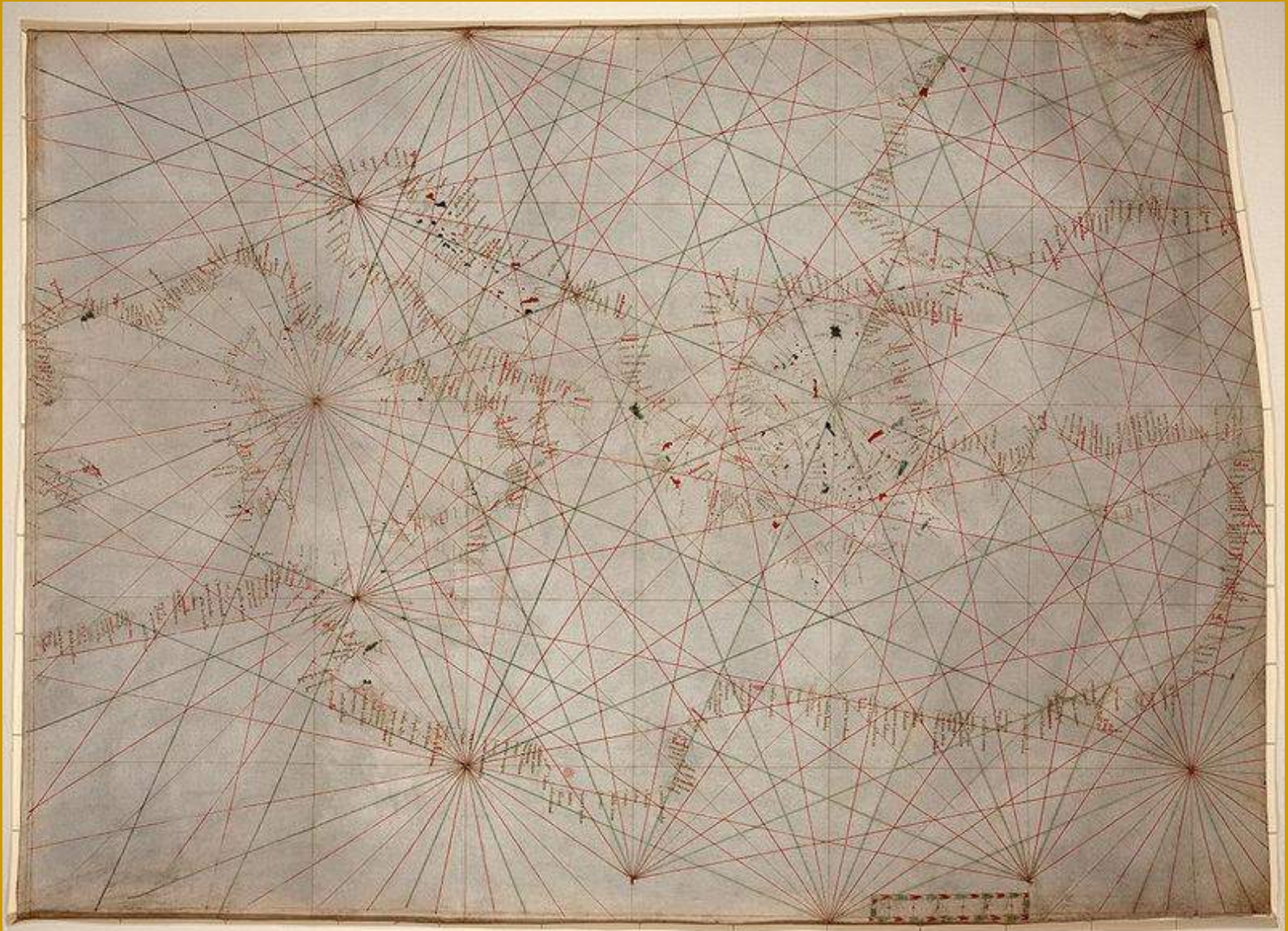
Queen Elizabeth I of England is shown in this circa 1588 portrait to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

During the Renaissance the following technological advances allowed European exploration to increase:



This image shows shipwrights constructing a ship in 1541. This small ship would be used in searching for food. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

First, better maps were produced which reduced irrational fears of previously unknown lands.



This nautical chart covers the Mediterranean Sea and the western part of the Black Sea. It was produced circa 1320-1350 C.E. possibly by a cartographer in Genoa, Italy. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Second, compasses, invented in China, eased some of the risky aspects of a voyage.



This image shows a Bearing Compass from the 1700s. The invention of the compass enabled the determination of heading when the sky was overcast or foggy. When the sun or other known celestial bodies could be observed, it enabled the calculation of latitude. This enabled mariners to navigate safely far from land and increased sea trade. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Third, printing presses advanced scientific learning and information to more people.



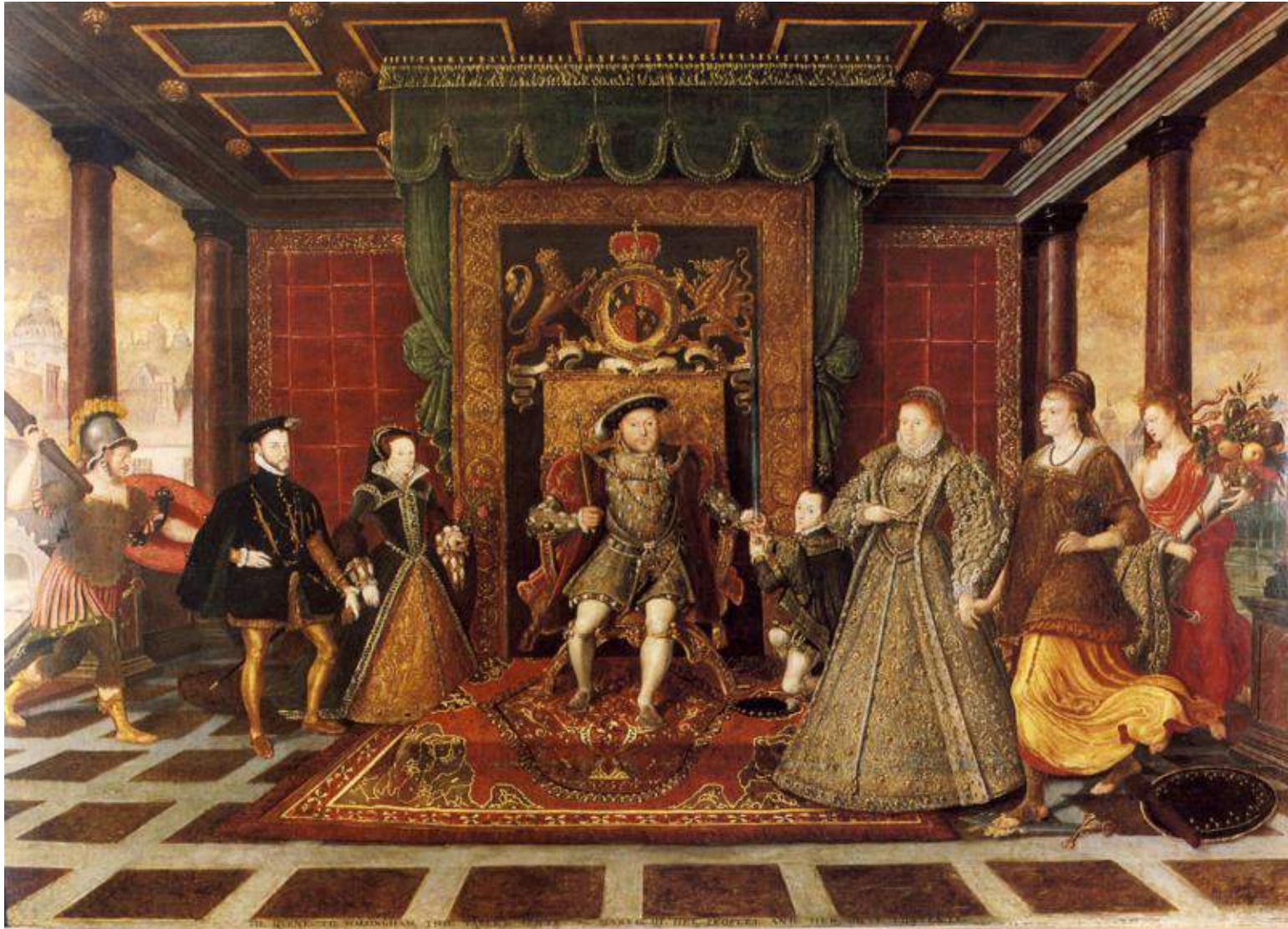
This image shows a printer operating an early Gutenberg letter press (this version is a screw press) in the 1400s. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The fourth technological advance was the building of better ships that could travel faster, for farther distances, and could eventually hold more goods.



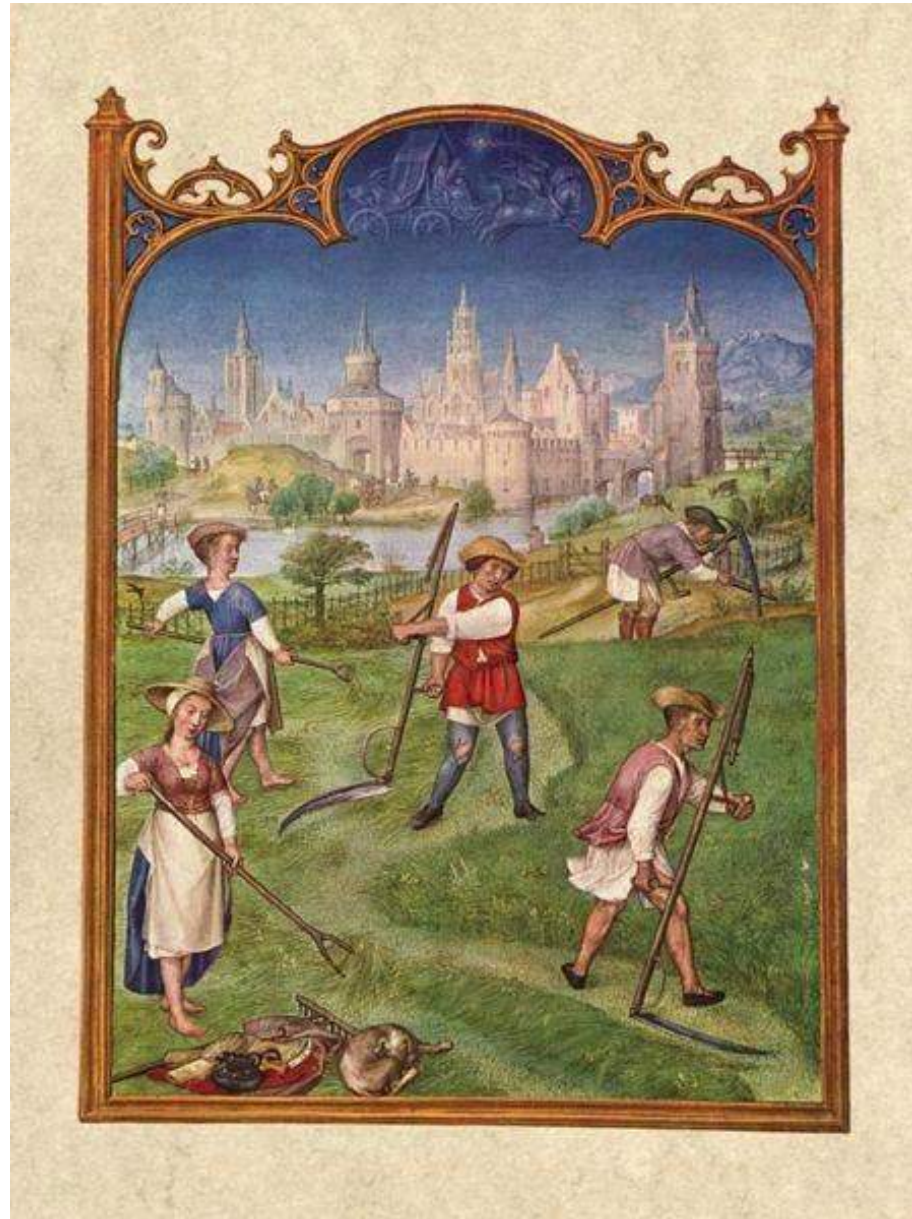
This photograph shows a replica of one of Ferdinand Magellan's ships, *Victoria*. Magellan led the first expedition that circumnavigated the world. (1519-1522). This image by Gnsin is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Politically, the Renaissance was important to Europe because modern nations began to emerge.



This image is a detail from the painting *Allegory of the Tudor Dynasty*. It is attributed to Lucas de Heere. The monarchs from left to right include Phillip II of Spain, Queen Mary I of England, King Henry VIII of England, King Edward VI of England, and Queen Elizabeth I of England. This image was painted circa 1572 and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Previously nobles controlled their own small areas or fiefdoms.



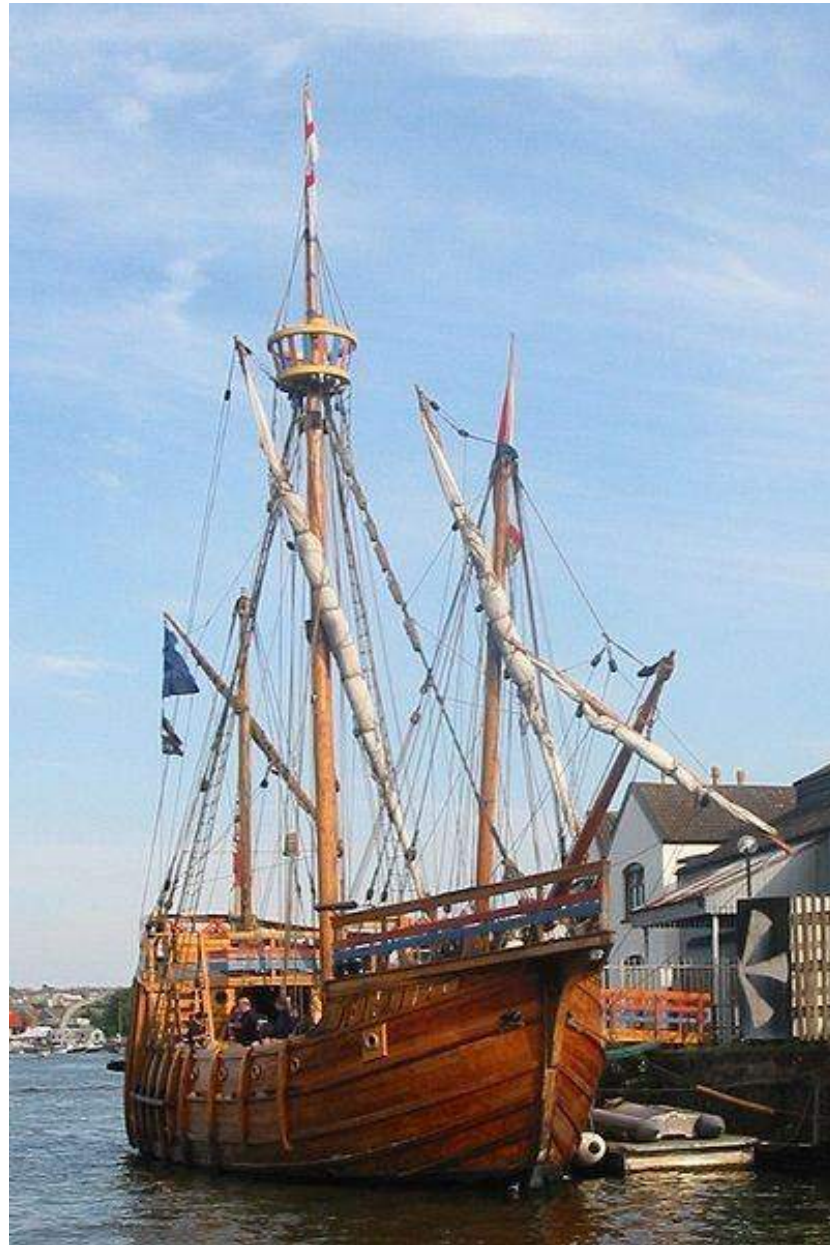
This image is a depiction of a fiefdom in *Brevarium Grimani*. This scene depicts June. This image was created circa 1510 and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

In the Renaissance, the nobles and their lands came under the control of a king who controlled the new nation.



This painting shows the ratification of the Treaty of Munster between Spain and the Dutch Republic in the town hall of Munster, May 15, 1648. This treaty resulted from the first modern diplomatic congress, thereby initiating a new political order in central Europe, based upon the concept of a sovereign state governed by a sovereign. This image was painted circa 1648 -1670 and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

These new nations had the power to take on the tasks of exploring...



This photograph shows a replica of English explorer John Cabot's ship *The Matthew*. It was photographed in Bristol, England Harbor on August 2, 2004 by Chris McKenna. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...invading...



This painting shows French explorer Samuel de Champlain arriving at the future site of the city of Quebec in 1608. This image was painted circa 1909 by George Agnew Reid and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

... and establishing colonies.



The Mexico City Metropolitan Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary is a legacy of the Spanish settlement in Mexico. It was constructed in sections from 1573-1813 around the original church that was constructed soon after the Spanish conquest of Tenochtitlan. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The first European nations to unite were the first to become colonial empire builders.



In 1469 the crowns of the Spanish Christian kingdoms of Castile and Aragon were united by the marriage of Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile. By 1492 the combined forces of Castile and Aragon captured the Arab Emirate of Granada ending the last remnant of a 781 year presence of Islamic rule on the Iberian Peninsula. Once Spain was united, it would fund explorations and colonies. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The nations that established the first colonies included Portugal, Spain, England, France, and the Netherlands.



New Amsterdam was founded by the Dutch in 1625. This image shows the area in 1664 when it was conquered by the English and renamed New York. This image, painted circa 1664 by Johannes Vingsboons, is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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