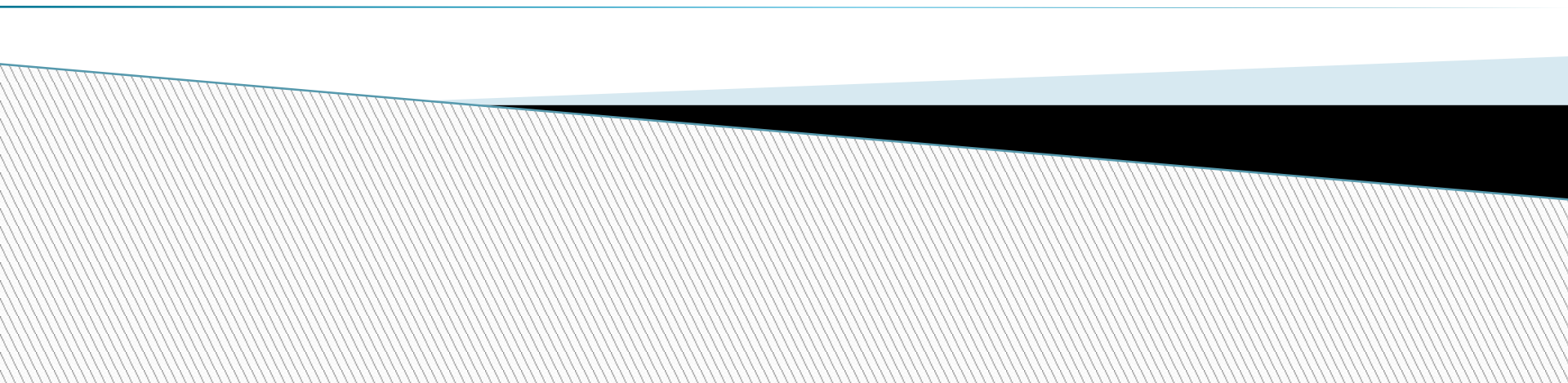


THE AGE OF DISCOVERY




During the first half of the 15th Century, the Portuguese were encouraged by Prince Henry the Navigator to explore the coasts of Africa.

In 1492 Christopher Columbus sailed further west into the Atlantic Ocean and discovered islands that he thought were close to Asia.

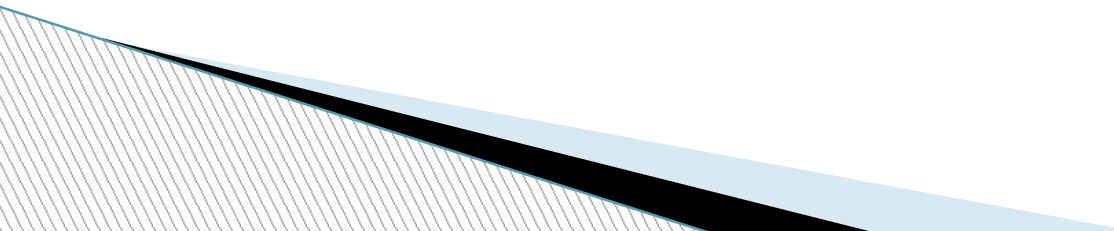
A few years later, Vasco de Gama reached India by sailing around Southern Africa.

In 1522, one of the ships in Magellan's fleet returned to Europe and brought proof that it was possible to circumnavigate the Earth.

In a few decades, the way that Europeans saw the world had been completely transformed.

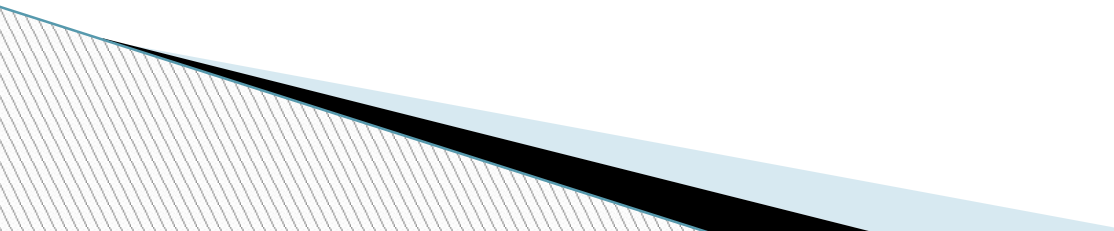


The Age of Exploration (also called the Age of Discovery) began in the 1400s and continued through the 1600s. It was a period of time when the European nations began to explore the world. They discovered new routes to India, much of the Far East, and the Americas. The Age of Exploration took place at the same time as the Renaissance.



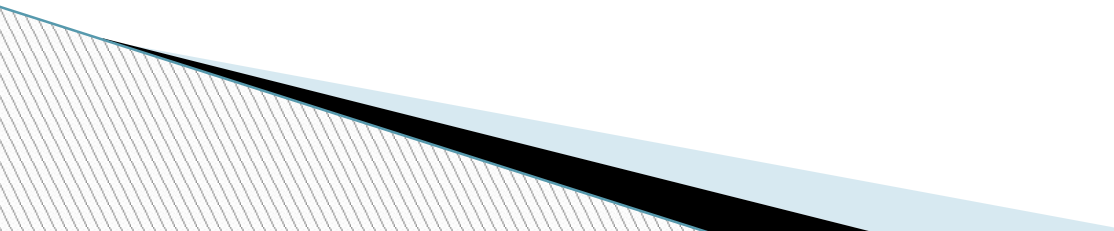
Why?

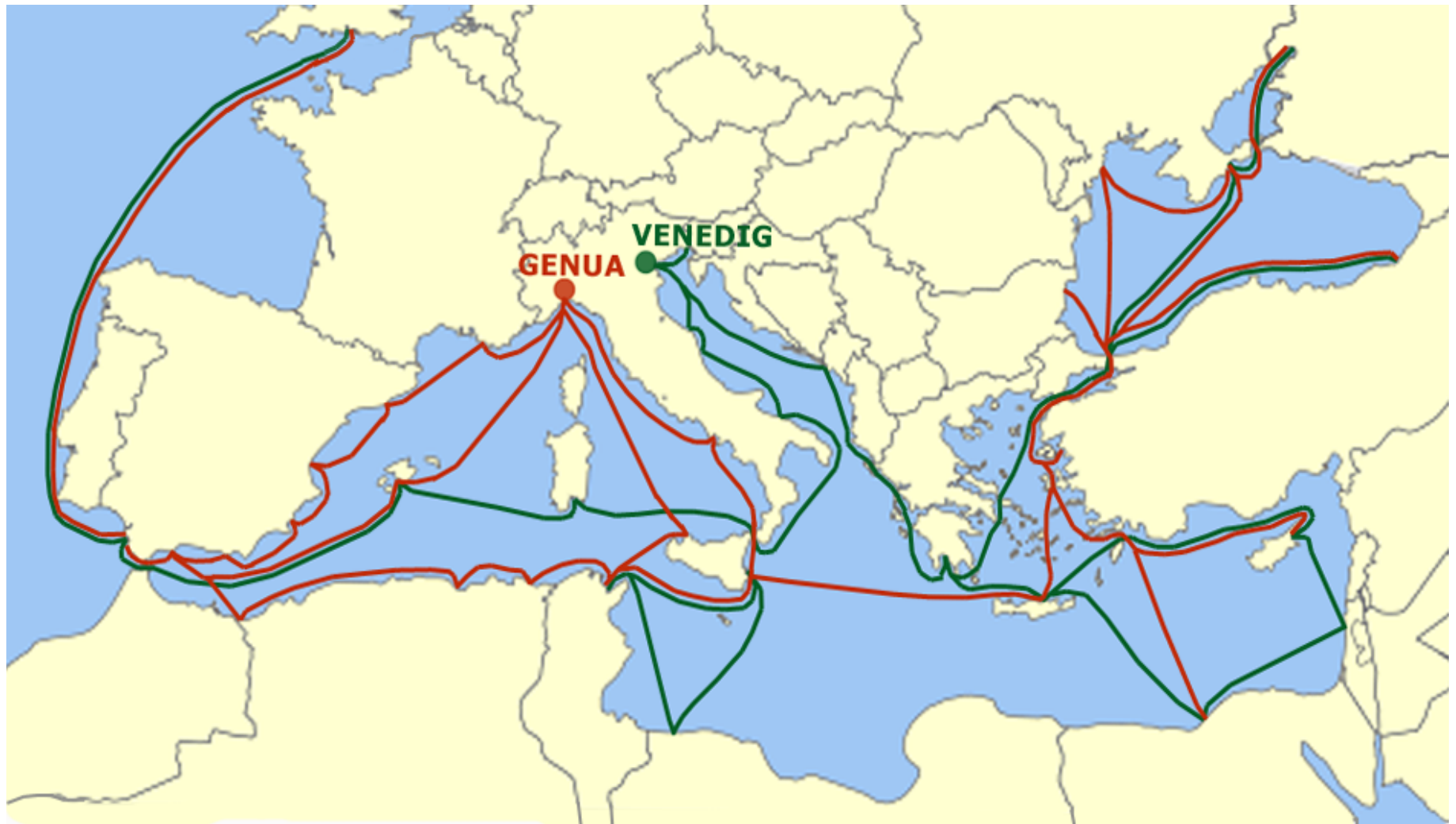
Outfitting an expedition could be expensive and risky. Many ships never returned. So why did the Europeans want to explore? The simple answer is money. Although, some individual explorers wanted to gain fame or experience adventure, the main purpose of an expedition was to make money.



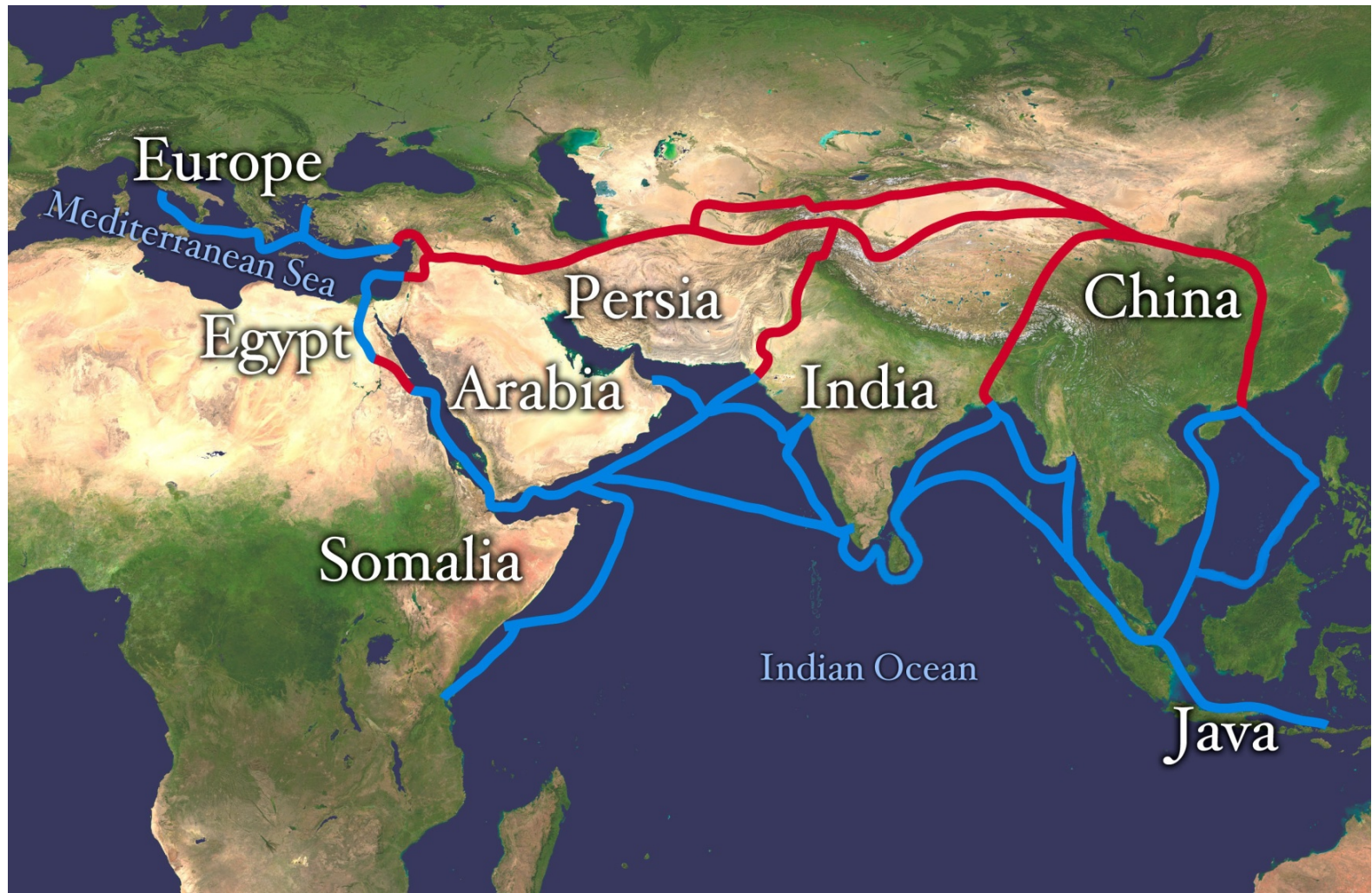
How did expeditions make money?

Expeditions made money primarily by discovering new trade routes for their nations. When the Ottoman Empire captured Constantinople in 1453, many existing trade routes to India and China were shut down. These trade routes were very valuable as they brought in expensive products such as spices and silk. New expeditions tried to discover oceangoing routes to India and the Far East.






Venice and Genoa major trades and sea routes



The Silk Route was the most important way for trades between Asia and Europe

Main causes that give start to the the age of discovery:


- Affirmation of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East;
 - Land routes became dangerous because of thieves and bandits;
 - Travels from Europe to Asia over land were too long and expensive;
 - Explorations and conquest of new territories made European monarchies very rich;
- 

Portugal

Henry the Navigator

The Age of Exploration began in the nation of Portugal under the leadership of Henry the Navigator. Henry sent out ships to map and explore the west coast of Africa. They went further south than any previous European expedition and mapped much of western Africa for the Portuguese.

In 1488, Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias was the first European to sail around the southern tip of Africa and into the Indian Ocean.



Vasco da Gama



Vasco da Gama (1460 - 1524) was born in a small coastal town in Portugal named Sines. His father was a knight and an explorer. He followed in his father's footsteps and soon commanded ships in the king's name.

Vasco da Gama left on his first voyage from
Lisbon, on July 8, 1497.

The expedition rounded the southern tip of
Africa at the Cape of Good Hope on
November 22. They then headed north up the
coast of Africa. They stopped at trading ports
along the way including Mombasa and Malindi.

With the help of a Monsoon wind they were
able to cross the Indian Ocean and arrive in
Calicut, India in less than a month.



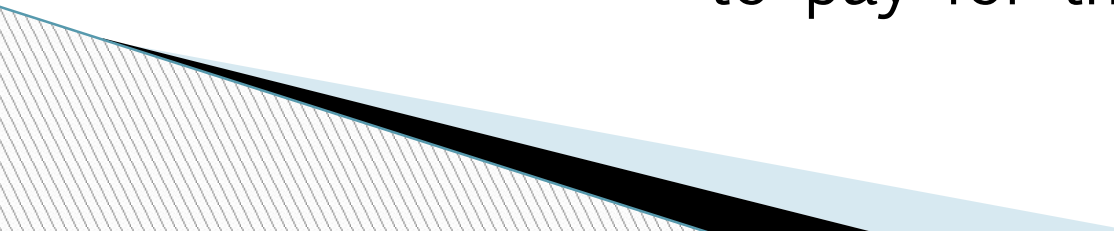


Vasco da Gama found the much needed trade route to India at that time

Spain

Christopher Columbus

Soon the Spanish wanted to find a trade route to the Far East. Explorer Christopher Columbus thought that he could sail west, across the Atlantic Ocean, to China. He could not get the Portuguese to fund his expedition, so he went to the Spanish. Spanish monarchs Isabella of Castile (1474 – 1504) and Ferdinand II of Aragon (1479 – 1516) agreed to pay for the trip.



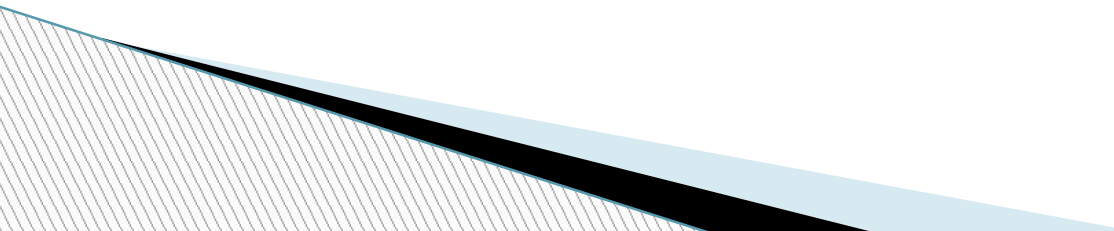


Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451. He later lived in Lisbon where he worked as a trader. He learned how to make maps and navigate a ship.

The First Voyage of Christopher Columbus, 1492-1493

Columbus set sail from Spain in 1492, with his fleet of three ships - the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

About five weeks later, Columbus and his crew arrived at an island in the Bahamas that he named San Salvador, believing he had reached the Indies, as the lands of China, Japan and India were then known in Europe.





25 DEC 1492

**'SANTA MARIA' SHIPWRECKED
CAP-HATIER**

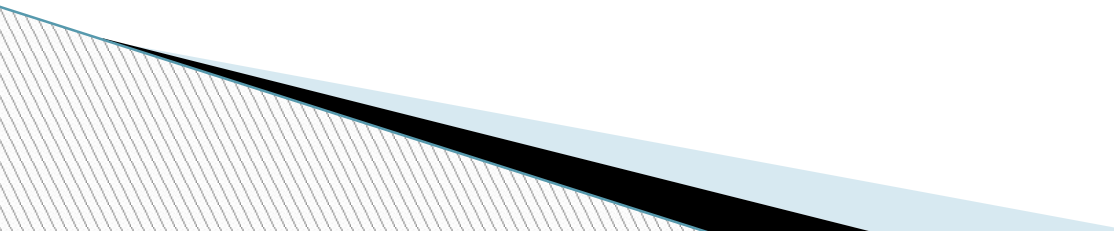
**THE FIRST VOYAGE:
DEPARTS: 3 AUG 1492
RETURNS 15 MAR 1493**

ATLANTIC OCEAN

The Second Voyage of Christopher Columbus, 1493-1496

Columbus returned to Hispaniola (Haiti), where established a new community.

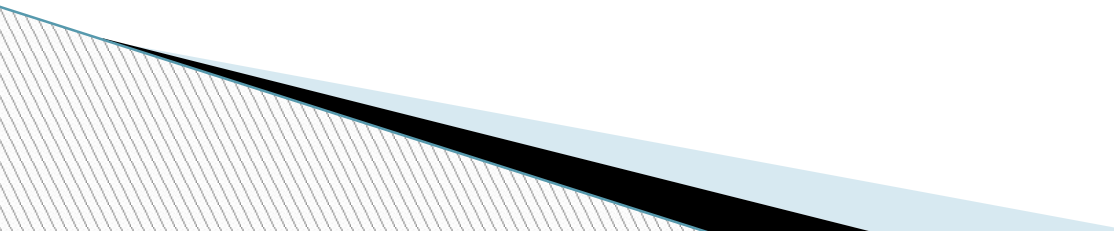
He went on to explore many more islands, such as modern day Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



The Later Voyages of Christopher Columbus, 1498-1502

Columbus built more forts and even brought women from Spain to ensure the permanence of the settlements.

He realised that the new world had huge quantities of spices and gold, even more than Asia, so the Spanish started to impose taxes in gold to all the indigenous people



Christopher Columbus' Voyages



Spain and Portugal began a massive colonization of the New World

Portugal and Spain became the early leaders in the Age of Exploration. Through the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) the two countries agreed to divide up the New World along a meridian commonly said “raya”. Spain got most of the Americas while Portugal got Brazil and India.



The “Raya” divides the Spanish (West) and the Portuguese (East) territories



Sources:

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By Thomas Di Stefano

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