

ASTR 308 "Into the Final Frontier"

The Discovers: BOOK VI

1. In "Ptolemy Revived and Revised"

- (a) Ptolemy was revived about the same time as what other major event? For what great historical period was the revival of Ptolemy a prologue?
- (b) Describe Ptolemy's view of Africa in relation to the "Great Southern Continent". What was the significance of this relationship?
- (c) Who was Fra Mauro? What contribution did he make to map making? What is the name of the Venetian who may have influenced Fra Mauro (though not directly)? What was the influential information?

2. In "Portuguese Sea Pioneers"

- (a) Identify at least three reasons Portugal was so well set up to make an organized effort for sea voyages. Elaborate on each and why it was important.
- (b) Name as many accomplishments of Prince Henry as you can. Provide some type of time line when appropriate.
- (c) Why was the Caravel such an important technological achievement?

3. In "Beyond the Threatening Cape"

- (a) What is the name of the "threatening cape" and where was it located?
- (b) How many expeditions failed to pass this cape and how many years did it take? Who finally passed it and what year did this happen?
- (c) Who took over after Prince Henry's death? What year? Who did he hire to lead the explorations and briefly describe the outcome?
- (d) Who was the second monarch to inherit Prince Henry's program? What year? What was this era of Portuguese exploration characterized by (what did they accomplish economically, politically, etc)?

4. In "To India and Back"

- (a) What was the accomplishment of Bartholomeu Dias? Why was he so disappointed with his accomplishment?
- (b) Who, of historical importance, witnessed Diaz's return to Portugal? What were the implications historically (mentioned what this led to in the coming years- think June 7, 1494 as a start).
- (c) Why did a ten-year hiatus happen before Diaz's discovery was capitalized upon? What was the major problem? Who resolved the problem and what was the outcome of the resolution?
- (c) Who then was the third monarch to take the crown and Prince Henry's program? What year? Who did he hire to continue what Diaz did not?
- (d) Describe the voyage of Vasco de Gama? What did Gama do when the Samuiri of Calicut delayed in surrendering? When Gama left India, what did he leave behind (first time ever in history!)?

5. In "Why Not the Arabs?"

- (a) In short, explain why the Arabs were not a sea faring empire?
- (b) What were some of the consequences mentioned by Boorstin?

6. In "The Chinese Reach Out"

- (a) Briefly explain the class struggle between Eunuch's and Intellectuals in China and their relative relationships to the Emperor.
- (b) Who was Cheng Ho? How many voyages did he make and to where did he v voyage? Briefly describe his Navy and compare it to that of the Portuguese?
- (c) What were the political and economic goals of the Cheng Ho voyages? What was this political/economic system called? Compare to the Portuguese.
- (d) Describe the political power struggle and change of Chinese regime that stopped the Voyages of Cheng Ho? What were some of the reasons for this change?

7. In “An Empire without Wants”

- (a) What were the reasons for the Great Withdrawal of the Chinese?
- (b) What did the new controlling bureaucrats put in as new policy regarding the use of state money and the rules governing shipping on the oceans?
- (c) What were the long-term consequences of the Great Withdrawal? How did the self-concept of the Central Kingdom hurt the Chinese?