

"Discovery"

- "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue ..."
- Yeah, yeah – we know Columbus didn't "discover" America ...
- But it's a lot more than that ...



"Doctrine of Christian Discovery"

Under laws of Spain and of Christendom, Christopher Columbus laid claim to Guanahani and subsequent lands on the basis of the Doctrine of Christian Discovery.



Early Antecedents Bull Romanus Pontifex



- 1452, Pope Nicholas V. gave permission to King Alfonso of Portugal "to capture, vanquish, and subdue, all Saracens [nomads – wcf], Pagans, and other enemies of Christ..."
- To take all their possessions and property and "to put them into perpetual slavery."

Intent of Romanus Pontifex

- Declare war against all non-Christians throughout the world.
- All *"infidels"* [non-believers] are enemies, to be treated as wild animals or beasts of prey.
- Under Christian International Law, heathens and infidels were considered less than human.



"Vacuum Domicilium"

- Empty land
- Empty Continent?



Under this papal privilege, Portugal continued to traffic in African slaves, and expended its royal dominions by making "discoveries" along the western coast of Africa, claiming these lands for Portugal.

Columbus' Voyages

- Thus, in Columbus' mind, he understood that he had authorization, from the highest authority (the Church), to *"take possession"* of any lands he *"discovered"* if those were *"not under the dominion of any Christian rulers."*



Voyages of Columbus
 First Voyage (1492) — Third Voyage (1498) —
 Second Voyage (1493) — Fourth Voyage (1502) —

Bull *Inter Caetera*

- *Inter* – “among”; *caetera* – “the rest”
- Pope Alexander VI, May 3, 1493
- *"granting"* Spain, at the request of Ferdinand and Isabella, the right to conquer the lands which Columbus already *"found,"* as well as the right to conquer those that might be *"discovered"* in the future.

Pope Alexander's Desire

- *"the Catholic faith and Christian religion be everywhere increased and spread ..."*
- *"barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself."*

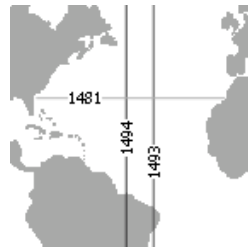


“Line of Demarcation”

Two months later, two other Bulls, confirmed the first "*Inter Caetera*" Bull, and established **a boundary 100 leagues West of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands** - all to the East was to belong to the Portuguese, all to the West, to Spain.



The King of Portugal protested, and a compromise was arrived at by the **Treaty of Tordesillas**, signed on 7 June 1494, by which **the imaginary line drawn by the Pope** should be shifted to a position 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands and approximately half way between the most westerly portions of the "Old World", and the island of Hispaniola, the most easterly of the discoveries of Columbus in the "New World".



So, what does this have to do with anything?

Huh?