Treaty of Tordesillas

Overview:
During the Age of Exploration starting in the late 15th century, European countries began to send out explorers to map the world and chart out alternative routes to Africa, China and India that were not dominated by the maritime powers of the Mediterranean. At the vanguard of these expeditions were the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal who mapped out areas along the coast of Africa to establish possible trading posts as well as a sea route to India. It was at this time that Pope Sixtus IV who issued the Papal Bull Aeterni Regis which confirmed Spanish control of the Canary Islands and area below it. This gave Spain the grounds to send explorers like Columbus to the areas south of the islands.

With the discovery of the West Indies by Christopher Columbus in 1492 interest in what was being called the New World began to increase as European Powers began to try and claim these new lands for themselves. The Pope, who at the time had much influence in all the countries of Europe at this time became the arbiter of these claims and soon Pope Julius II issued another Bull that gave Spain control of all the mainlands of India. The Portuguese being obviously opposed to the agreement attempted to contest it and demanded at the very least they be allowed lands in the New World.
Eventually the region was divided between Spain and Portugal along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands off the west coast of Africa. This line of demarcation was about halfway between the Portuguese Cape Verde Islands and the islands discovered by Christopher Columbus on his first voyage and claimed for Spain, named in the treaty Cipangu and Antilia (Cuba and Hispaniola). The lands to the east would belong to Portugal and the lands to the west to Spain. Little is known of the region in the southern part of this division line and it is up to this committee to arbitrate the fairness of this treaty and what kind of adjustments, if any, are required.

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With very little of the New World discovered you must attempt to mediate the conflict and land dispute between Spain and Portugal during a time where it is still unclear as to how much land there is to be divided up. Both Spain and Portugal are hiring private explorers to map out and claim territory for their prospective, burgeoning empires. The Treaty of Tordesillas, just passed on June 7, 1494, involved agreements between King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile and King John II of Portugal establishing a new demarcation line between the two crowns, running from pole to pole, 370 leagues to the west of Cape Verde islands.
The Treaty was finally signed following complex diplomatic negotiations between ambassadors and barristers from both Kingdoms. Modification of a demarcation line dividing the world between Spain and Portugal is now up to delegates of this committee who will adjust it in relation to the continent and how these lands will be administrated including its indigenous populations, if any, and any profitable resources.

The treaty has only specified division of these lands in terms of leagues and not by degrees, so the setting of this line is arbitrary and must be agreed upon by the majority of this council. The original treaty suggested that these matters were to be settled by a joint voyage, with parties from both Spain and Portugal to mitigate any potential for a misleading outline of the land.

Because little is known of this area the possibility for failure, death and error is high. The land that Columbus discovered just a few short years ago, gives hope to the possibility of an entire new world which may not even exist. This committee should take special care in its exploration and send only the most capable of explorers out and make sure that they are well provisioned and supplied.

**Columbian Exchange:**
The Columbian Exchange greatly affected every aspect of society. The distribution of all sorts of items that were unique to the Americas such as a variety plants, fruits and vegetables led to a shift in trade centers as well as the introduction of new problems.
that faced those expanding in the New World. Once land has been distributed and agreed upon the colonizing powers are going to have to find a way to reconcile their differences and agree on how the future of the continent will be run.

This means that they are going to agree on trade routes and right to colonize various lands and the peoples which reside in them. Controlling these lands could be a valuable resource to those who can distribute them. It is necessary to come up with a way to set up trade peaceably and amicably if Europe is to prosper in the future.

**Procedure:**

The year is 1495 and because little of the New World has been discovered it is up to this committee to explore the lands around the line draws by the Treaty of Tortesillas. In order to do this an able bodied explorer must be sponsored by an official of the governments of either Spain or Portugal and then sent across the ocean along a set route. Depending on whether they hit any land they will reveal segments of the new world and report back to the committee on their findings. Be wary navigation tools are primitive and often unreliable and accounts of land distribution may be less than accurate.

An explorer must be sent out using an expedition order issued by a government official of the crown of either Spain or Portugal. These orders must give the goal of the explorer, point of disembarkation and embarkation and be signed by both the official issuing the order and the explorer taking on the journey. The explorer will then have a set amount of squares that he may discover and will report back to the whole of the committee on what he has found. These voyages are dangerous and the possibility of getting lost at sea always looms ahead but such risks are often necessary for the furthering of progress.

Every half hour of committee the chair will process all expedition orders and if any are issued after this time the delegates must wait until the next thirty minutes pass for the order to be executed. Slowly the committee will be able to get an idea of what the land.
mass looks like and only then will the committee be able to arbitrate the legitimacy of the Treaty of Tortillas.

The Spanish:

The Spanish Empire was one of the first global empires, reaching its height through the 17th century under Habsburg dynasty. After Ferdinand and Isabella secured the Spanish mainland they were quick to ally themselves with the Catholic Church and consolidated Christianity in Spain through institutions like the Inquisition. The following years would lead to a Spanish Golden Age of cultural efflorescence and power through the world.

After the War of the Castilian Succession, Spain had emerged with a personally unified monarchy, with the marriage of the Catholic Monarchs between the Queen of Castile and the King of Aragon. The internal and foreign policy was coordinated although the rule was separate. In 1492, the Spanish monarchs completed the Reconquista with the incorporation of Granada to the Kingdom of Castile. That same year Christopher Columbus commanded the first Spanish exploratory voyage west across the Atlantic Ocean, leading to the Discovery of America and Europe’s eventual colonial engagement in the New World. The Americas thereby became the focus of Spanish exploration and colonization.

It would be up to Spain to spread the word of God to the native populations of the new world. Having created a close bond with the church the Spanish would not consider taking many actions in the Americas without the support of the church.

The Portugese:

Portuguese sailors began exploring the coast of Africa in 1419, using recent developments in navigation, cartography and maritime technology such as the caravel, in order that they might find a sea route to the source of the lucrative spice trade. In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias rounded the Cape of Good Hope, and in 1498, Vasco da Gama
reached India. In 1500, Pedro Álvares Cabral discovered Brazil on the South American coast. Over the following decades, Portuguese sailors continued to explore the coasts and islands of East Asia, establishing forts and factories as they went. By 1571, a string of outposts connected Lisbon to Nagasaki along the coasts of Africa, the Middle East, India, and Asia. This commercial network brought great wealth to Portugal.

Spain and Brazil would be rivals in exploration of the Americas. Portugal would begin exploring along the Atlantic African coast and into the Pacific after Bartolomeu Dias rounded the Cape of Good Hope in, and in 1498, Vasco da Gama reached India. The Portuguese would have a great interest in the Pacific and India where there was less competition from other European powers. Just as Brazil would become a point of contention between Spain and Portugal in the Atlantic so would the Molluccas Islands in Indonesia be on in the Pacific.

Conquistadors:

Conquistadors were private adventurers from Spain and Portugal who lead armies of soldiers of fortune who were more loyal to their respective leaders than the crown. They were professional warriors, using European tactics, firearms, and cavalry against unprepared groups. Their units would often specialize in forms of combat that required longer periods of training that was too costly for informal groups. Their armies were mostly mounted mercenary soldiers of Iberian or Northern European origin. Native allied troops were largely infantry equipped with armament and armor that varied geographically. Such groups consisted of young men without military experience, Catholic clergy and soldiers or mercenaries with military training. These expeditions often involved African slaves and Native American men or women who often had more training than the troops. They served as interpreters, informants, servants, teachers, physicians, scribes, etc.

Typically outnumbered by the empires they attacked, the conquistadors subdued and eliminated the most powerful rulers, aided by superior technology, determination and
political circumstances. The conquerors also spread diseases, including smallpox, flu and typhus, which decimated the inhabitants of the New World. Conquest was typically done by private enterprises through a contract called by Castilla "capitulaciones", established with the king or his representative. This empowered the group to conquer a particular territory within a specified time. An army was organized, under a leader or chief, who received a title from the king, In Castilla those titles were "Capitán", "gobernador", or "adelantado" depending on the size of the army. In return, the expedition leader agreed to bear the expenses of the campaign and complete it within the time limit. Upon success, the land was exempted from tax and donated to future populations, and Castilian rights and freedoms were established. Even in victory, conquistadores often disputed amongst themselves and were executed or imprisoned.

The Church:

The Catholic Church, a thousand year old institution had ruled over Europe since the Dark Ages and by the Age of Exploration was just reaching the peak of its power. Through the late 15th and early 16th centuries, European missionaries and explorers spread Catholicism to the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania. During this period the Church faced colonial abuses from the Portuguese and Spanish governments. In South America, the Jesuits protected native peoples from enslavement by establishing semi-independent settlements called reductions. However many in the Catholic Church also attempted to use God as a rationale for conquest and domination of the indigenous peoples under the guise of bringing them the word of God. The church would eventually challenge Spanish and Portuguese sovereignty, by appointing bishops in administrative positions in the colonies and approving the ordination of native clergy in spite of government racism.

Pope Alexander VI, in the papal bull Inter caetera, awarded colonial rights over most of the newly discovered lands to Spain and Portugal. Under the patronato system, state authorities controlled clerical appointments and no direct contact was allowed with the Vatican. However there were those in the church who believed enslaving the natives was a mortal sin. King Ferdinand enacted the Laws of Burgos and Valladolid in
response. Enforcement was lax, and while some blame the Church for not doing enough to liberate the Indians, others point to the Church as the only voice raised on behalf of indigenous peoples. The issue resulted in a crisis of conscience in 16th-century Spain. Soon self-criticism and philosophical reflection followed among Catholic theologians, which led to debate on the nature of human rights and the birth of modern international law.

Delegate Roles:

**Ferdinand II of Aragon:** King of Aragon, who centralized power of the kingdom and with his wife pushed the Moors out of Spain to secure majority of the Iberian peninsula

**Isabella I:** Queen of Aragon, was an influential figure in Spanish unification along side her husband and anf the driving force of the conquest and exploration of the Americas.

**Blasco Núñez Vela:** the first Spanish viceroy of Peru, was charged by King Charles I with the enforcement of the controversial New Laws, which dealt with the failure of the encomienda system to protect the indigenous people of America from the rapacity of the conquistadors and their descendants.

**Luis de Santángel:** Jewish finance minister to Ferdinand II who made the case to Isabella I in favor of Christopher Columbus' voyage in 1492.

**Francisco de los Cobos y Molina:** Secretary of State and Comendador for the kingdom of Castile and later the Spanish Empire. He was a patron of the arts and intrigued by the cultures of Latin America.

**Ramón de Cardona:** Spanish general and politician, who served as the viceroy of Naples

**Joanna of Castile:** First queen regnant to reign over both the Crown of Castile and the Crown of Aragon. Also ruled a vast colonial empire in the Americas and had a good relationship with the Netherlands thus initiating Spanish interests there.

**Juan Lopez:** Spanish jurist who pushed for legislation legitimizing the Spanish conquest of the Americas as a mission of spreading God's authority and called them to submit peacefully.

**Vasco de Balboa:** Spanish conquistador and explorer. He was the first European to see the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean, 1513, after crossing the Isthmus of Panama overland.
Diego de Ordaz: Spanish explorer and soldier who participated in the earliest exploratory expeditions to Colombia and Panamá.

Juan Ponce de León: Spanish explorer and first Governor of Puerto Rico. He led the first European expedition to Florida, which is the purported location of the fountain of Youth.

Francisco Pizarro: Spanish soldier and conquistador who explored Peru and conquered the Incan empire.

Diego Alvarez Chanca: Physician who accompanied Columbus on second expedition who wrote a treatise on infectious diseases he encountered in the new world.

Christopher Columbus: Genoan explorer hired by Spain to explore the Atlantic ocean and credited with discovering the New World when he landed in Cuba. He would later be reprimanded for his cruel treatment of natives during his time as governor of the West Indies.

Vasco de Quiroga: Spanish bishop who supported indigenous rights and did his best to gather them into congregated Hospital-towns.

John II of Portugal: King of Portugal who is known for re-establishing the power of the Portuguese throne, reinvigorating its economy, and renewing its exploration of Africa and the Orient.

Álvaro Caminha: a knight of the king's household and was told to settle and "Christianize" the then deserted island with his family and friars.

Afonso de Albuquerque: Portuguese nobleman, and admiral whose military and administrative activities as second governor of Portuguese India conquered and established the Portuguese colonial empire in the Indian Ocean. Thinks Brazil is a diversion and stresses importance of India as colony.

Fernão Gomes: Portuguese merchant and explorer who had a monopoly of trade in the Gulf of Guinea, meaning that alternative routes from the New World would significantly reduce his influence.

Henry the Navigator: member of the Portuguese royal family and an important figure in the early days of the Portuguese Empire. He was responsible for the early development of European exploration and maritime trade with other continents.

Manuel I: cousin of King John II who although bitter about the king’s murder of his brother was satiated by being next in line should the king die.

Francisco de Almeida: Portuguese nobleman and soldier who served as councilor to King John II against the Moors and was first Viceroy of Portuguese India.

Pedro Álvares Cabral: Portuguese explorer who discovered areas of Brazil.

Alberto Cantino: Cartographer who mapped out most of Portugal’s holdings.

John Cabot: Italian Explorer hired by Portugal to explore a route around the Americas.

Luís Teixeira: Portuguese cartographer who made map of Brazil.

Pêdro da Covilhã: Portuguese diplomat and explorer who charted routes to India and later served as scribe to John II of Portugal.

Ferdinand Magellan: Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition that sailed around the Earth (1519-1522). Magellan also named the Pacific Ocean (the name means that it is a calm, peaceful ocean).
João Gonçalves Zarco: Portuguese explorer who established settlements and recognition of the Madeira Islands, and was appointed first captain of Funchal by Henry the Navigator.

Giuliano della Rovere: Italian Cardinal bitter about loss to Pope Alexander who conspired with France to contest Spanish Naples
Mercurino Gattinara: Italian statesmen, jurists and Catholic cardinal who argued for Christian imperialism, based on a united Christendom, which would then combat or convert the Protestants, Turks, and the infidels of the New World.
Alessandro Farnese: Catholic cardinal who was a patron of the arts and pushed for a Papal Bull that would stop slavery of indigenous peoples in the Americas.
Antonio de Montesinos: Spanish Dominican friar on the island of Hispaniola who, was one of the first to preach against the enslavement and harsh treatment of the Indigenous peoples of the Island.
Francisco de Vitoria: Spanish Renaissance Roman Catholic philosopher, theologian and jurist, founder of the tradition in philosophy known as the School of Salamanca, noted especially for his contributions to the theory of just war and international law.

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