

Prompt: Compare and contrast the oceangoing ventures of China and one of the following European countries between 1000 and 1600:

Portugal, Spain, England

Paragraph 1:

Thesis: must address a similarity(ies) AND a difference(s), have the time period and the locations():

Between 1000 and 1600, China and Portugal both took to the seas exploring many of the same costal cities along the Indian Ocean by using an abundance of the same technology, but they did so for very different reasons. While the Portuguese sought wealth from trade and exploitation of the people of Africa and Asia, the spread of their religion, and an expansion of their control through colonies, the Chinese explored to answer their curiosity about the world around them.

*Note that I have given the SPECIFIC way they are similar and the SPECIFIC way they are different. For the difference, I must say that area X was this way and area Y was this way. If I don't, I don't get the thesis point.

Paragraph 2:

1 Broad statement of a similarity:

They both explored the Indian Ocean.

Evidence: Specific and DIRECT example of similarities related to the broad statement above

Chinese explored the coast of modern-day Vietnam, through Straits of Malacca, along the coast of India, Arab Peninsula, and the eastern coast of Africa WHILE the Portuguese began by exploring modern-day Morocco, the western coast of Africa, through the Cape of Good Hope. (De Gama) Then into the Indian Ocean, to India and through the Straits of Malacca. Went beyond Indian Ocean into the Pacific and traded with China and Japan.

Reason: One reason for the SPECIFIC SIMIARITY above. Why were they similar? (IF YOU DON'T HAVE A REASON, DON'T GIVE AN EXAMPLE!)

They both found themselves in the Indian Ocean because it was the place to be during the time period. The Muslims controlled trade there after their rise between the years of 600CE to 1000CE, and it was the most active sea trade route in the world. Also, for the Chinese, it was the safest route, because the north was too icy and the east had no coastline.

Paragraph 3:

1 Broad statement of a difference:

They explored for very different reasons.

Evidence: Specific and DIRECT example of similarity related to the broad statement above

a. Portugal explored for economic gain, spread of religion and to gain more land/influence WHEREAS China explored to learn more. (made maps), similar to later European explorers of the Americas.

Reason: One reason for the example above. (IF YOU DON'T HAVE A REASON, DON'T GIVE AN EXAMPLE!)

a. Portugal could make tons of money from price hikes on Asian stuff, wanted to convert after all the drama with the Crusades (saw world as barbarians who need Christ) and wanted influence by taking colonies and controlling trading ports, BUT China wasn't interested in the gains that Portugal was because they were Chinese. They had a superior culture and superior goods. Any trading they made would not benefit them, but the people they were trading with. Any spiritual or religious aspects of the Chinese government was not missionary at all and they did not take over lands because they stopped exploring abruptly after only a few voyages. Maybe if they returned later on, they would have become imperial on the seas, but we'll never know.

*Note that the only thing I am doing in the “Reason” part of the paragraph is saying why they were different. I can do this by simply comparing them regarding this aspect, which is their motivations for exploration.

Paragraph 4:

ANOTHER broad statement of a difference or similarity:

(Another similarity) They used similar technology

Evidence: Specific and DIRECT example of similarity related to the broad statement above

a. They both used the compass which was created by the Chinese and they both used ship building technology and maps that were attributed to the Arabs.

Reasons: One reason for the example above. (IF YOU DON'T HAVE A REASON, DON'T GIVE AN EXAMPLE!)

a. China used the compass because they invented it. Portugal used the compass because it was slowly diffused to Europe through the Arabs on the Silk Road. They both interacted with the Arabs because of the location of the Arabs in relation to Europe and China (it was between them) and because the Arabs controlled the Indian Ocean and central Asia land trade routes between 600 and 1500CE.

Paragraph 5:

Restatement of the thesis that is NOT an exact copy of the thesis in paragraph 1.

The Chinese and Portuguese both set sail for the Indian Ocean using a great deal of the same innovations in the first part of last millennium though they had very different motivations for doing so.

Global Context: A description of how these similarities or differences have impacted history. (How did it change the world? OR How did it impact somewhere else in the world? OR How did it impact the world at a later time? OR How did it impact the world today?)

The Portuguese played an important role in starting the flood of Europeans into the Indian Ocean. Europeans controlled the Spice Islands (Dutch), Spanish make for Catholics in Philippines. Tea from China is now thought of as a British thing.

China's exploration might have made for some very impactful history considering their technology, state organization and resources, but, it was reigned in shortly after it began and had very little impact on global history. What if it was not reigned in?