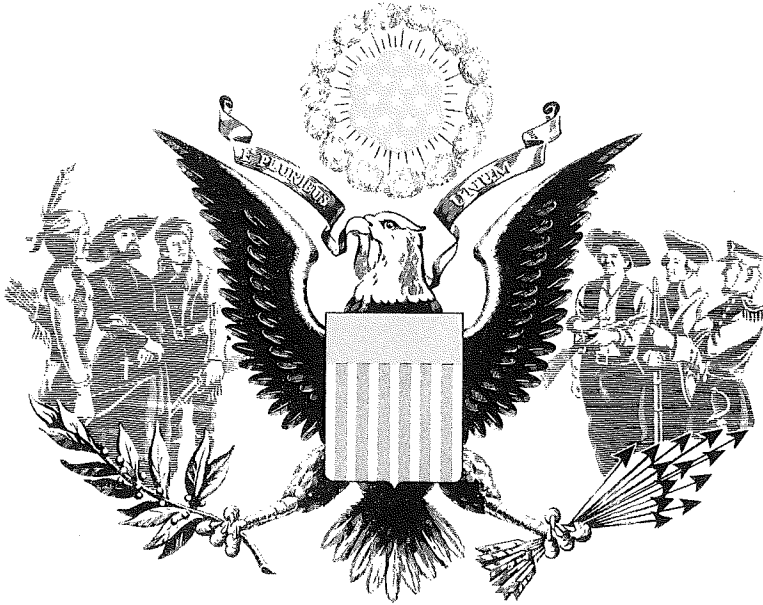


# A NEW NATION



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THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL HISTORY SERIES

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# Unit One HOW EUROPEANS DISCOVERED AND EXPLORED THE NEW WORLD

## Chapter I. Europeans Find a New World

Christopher Columbus stood on the deck of the *Santa Maria* and peered intently into the darkness. He could see nothing but the shadowed outlines of the other ships under his command, the *Nina* and the *Pinta*. Columbus prayed silently for some sign of land. He had led the small expedition out upon the vast waters of the Atlantic Ocean in the hope that by sailing west he could reach the rich treasures of the East. For five weeks now there had been no signs of land. The frightened crew had demanded that Columbus turn back, but he had pleaded with them to sail on just a little farther.

Suddenly, the anxious Columbus saw a light. There must be land ahead! The news spread rapidly, and there was little sleep on the three ships that night. As dawn approached, the men could make out a long, low coastline. They went wild with joy; Columbus' prayers had been answered.

After the sun had risen, Columbus and several of his men landed. Columbus was clad in armor over which he wore a crimson robe. In his hand, he carried the royal banner of Spain. The men gave thanks to God, "kneeling upon the shore, and kissed the ground with tears of joy for the great mercy received." Columbus drew his sword and named the island San Salvador which means Holy Redeemer. He took possession of it "in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ" for the crown of Spain.

What events led to this discovery? Why did Europeans wish to find a water route to the East? Why did Columbus believe that he could reach the East by sailing west? These are some of the questions that will be answered in this chapter.

### I. Life in Western Europe Begins to Change

**Christianity is threatened.** In the year 613, a man named Mohammed began to preach a new religion in Arabia. His followers were called Mohammedans. The Mohammedans raised large armies and conquered one land after another. In time, they controlled the western part of Asia and all of North Africa. They had also crossed the Strait of Gibraltar into Spain. The map on page 16 shows the

territory that was held by the Mohammedans in the year 1095. This included Palestine at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. It was in Palestine that Our Lord had lived, preached, performed His miracles, given up His life for us on the Cross, and been buried. Christians liked to make pilgrimages there and to pray at the places associated with Our Lord's life. The Mohammedans interfered

## CHAPTER REVIEW

**WHAT AM I?** On a sheet of paper, write the numbers of the following explanations. Next to each, write the term listed below which best fits the explanation.

1. This canal route to India did not exist in 1400.
2. This instrument tells the direction in which a ship is going.
3. We call all the eastern part of the world by this name.
4. This instrument helps to give the location of a ship.
5. Products that make your food taste better come from here.
6. Travelers can use this measure to tell how far east or west they are from Greenwich.
7. This was the sacred goal of Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land.
8. One of Columbus' ships had this name.
9. The Pope called for these expeditions against the Mohammedans.
10. This measure tells how far north or south we are of the equator.

<b>Crusades</b>	<b>compass</b>	<b>Holy Sepulchre</b>	
<b>astrolabe</b>	<b>Spice Islands</b>	<b>longitude</b>	
<b>Orient</b>	<b>latitude</b>	<b>Suez</b>	<b>Santa Maria</b>

**WHO AM I?** On a sheet of paper, write the numbers of the following descriptions. Next to each, write the name of the person listed below who best fits the description.

1. Encouraged the study of navigation to find a sea route around Africa.
2. First sailed around the Cape of Good Hope.
3. Ruled a Far Eastern empire.
4. Obtained an interview with Queen Isabella for Columbus.

5. European inventor of movable type.
6. Sponsored Columbus' expedition from Spain.
7. Called the Crusades to save Christian Europe.
8. Sailed west to the Orient and landed in the Western Hemisphere.
9. Leader of a non-Christian religion which threatened Europe.
10. An adventurer who told marvelous tales of his visit to the East.

<b>Marco Polo</b>	<b>Bartholomeu Dias</b>
<b>Pope Urban II</b>	<b>Friar Juan Perez</b>
<b>Johann Gutenberg</b>	<b>Queen Isabella</b>
<b>Kublai Khan</b>	<b>Mohammed</b>
<b>Prince Henry</b>	<b>Columbus</b>

**WHY SO?** Think carefully before you answer these questions.

1. Why did the Christians fear the Mohammedans? What enemy threatens Christianity today?
2. Why was Europe so united in answering Pope Urban's call to the Crusades? Would it be united today?
3. Why did the Italian cities become centers of trade with the East?
4. Why did the countries on the Atlantic coast have to pay so much for Oriental goods?
5. Why was a water route from Lisbon to India less expensive than the land route from Venice?
6. In 1400, why was the Mediterranean Sea more important than the Atlantic Ocean?
7. Why did Columbus call the inhabitants of the New World Indians?
8. How do we know that Columbus was a very religious man?