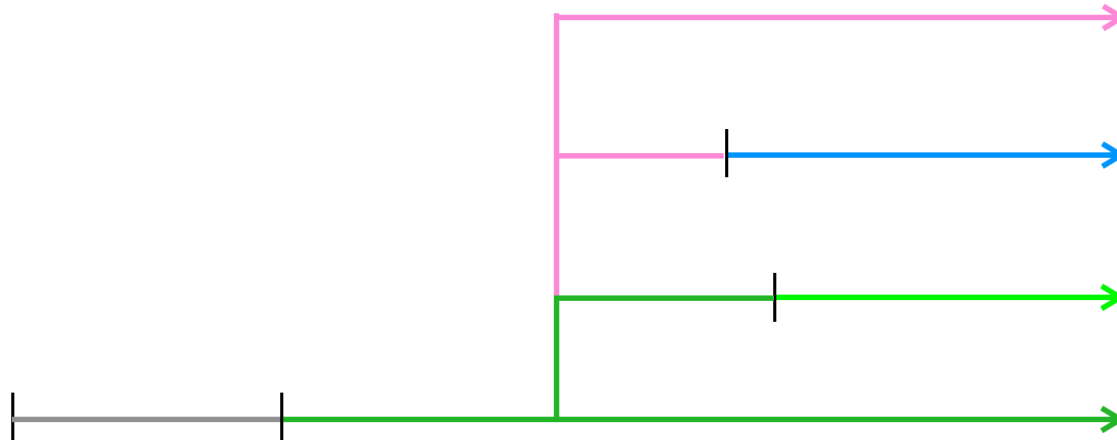


B. The Europe of Nations: The Core Element

1. If we take the lines for Western civilization and show them separately, we can draw them like this:



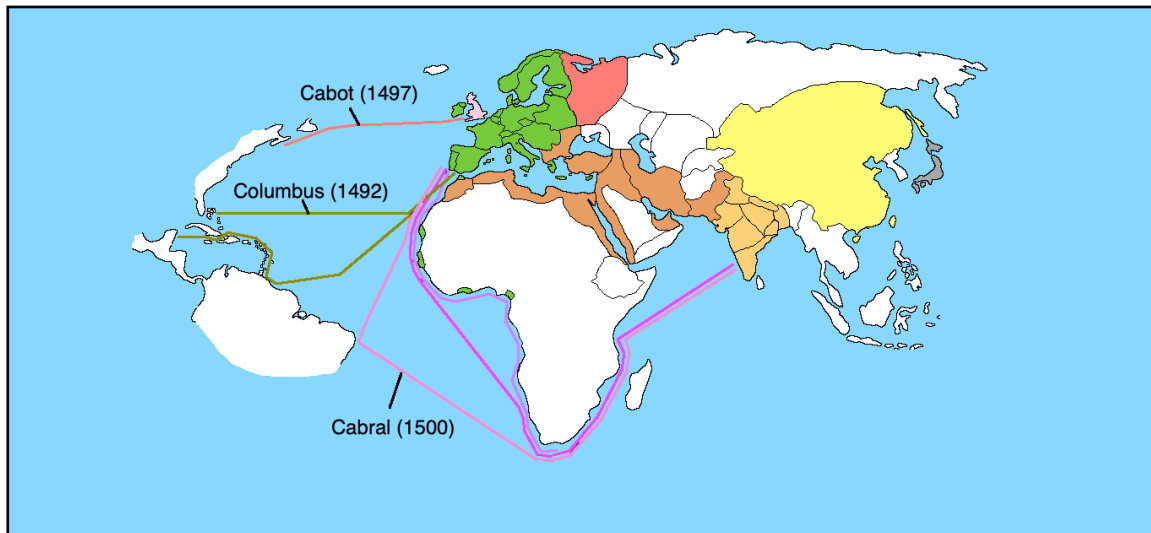
2. In this diagram, Europe is like the “trunk” of a tree, while the Anglosphere, America, and the Iberosphere are “branches,” and Greco-Roman civilization are the “roots.”

C. The Age of Discovery

1. The reason why there are so many branches is a chapter called the *Age of Discovery*.
2. During that chapter, the kings and queens of Europe wanted explorers to find a sea route to Asia, because of the exciting stories told by a merchant named Marco Polo.
3. The attempt to reach Asia by sea began with Portugal, under Prince Henry “the Navigator,” and proceeded slowly over decades. The Portuguese had not yet succeeded in finding a route when Christopher Columbus proposed a new way in **1492**.
4. After Columbus sailed west and discovered America in **1492**, England sent John Cabot in **1497**, who found the east coast of North America, and Portugal sent Pedro Alvares Cabral in **1500**, who found the land that is today Brazil (where Portuguese is spoken instead of Spanish as a result).
5. It is because of these explorers that Western civilization spread so far and wide.

D. The Europe of Nations

1. Columbus was sent by Spain, Cabot was sent by England, and Cabral was sent by Portugal. Why were there so many different nations competing like this?
2. The story of these nations begin with the **Fall of Rome** of **476 AD**. Europe barbarians destroyed Rome in that time and then started building their own culture.



Columbus (1492), Cabot (1497), Cabral (1500) and others revealed the “New World.”

3. One tribe called the Franks briefly managed to combine most of Europe into a single empire under its leader Charlemagne in **800 AD**, but the inheritance of his empire by three grandsons in **843 AD** resulted in wars between them and the break up of the core of Europe into a separate France and Germany. The **Failed Frankish Union of 800-43** resulted in Europe become a patchwork of nations, rather than a unity.
4. Meanwhile Spain and Portugal were becoming separate nations too, and they would be the ones to start the *Age of Discovery*.
5. The main parts of this story can go on our timeline now, to show how the lines and tick marks are part of the history we are learning:

