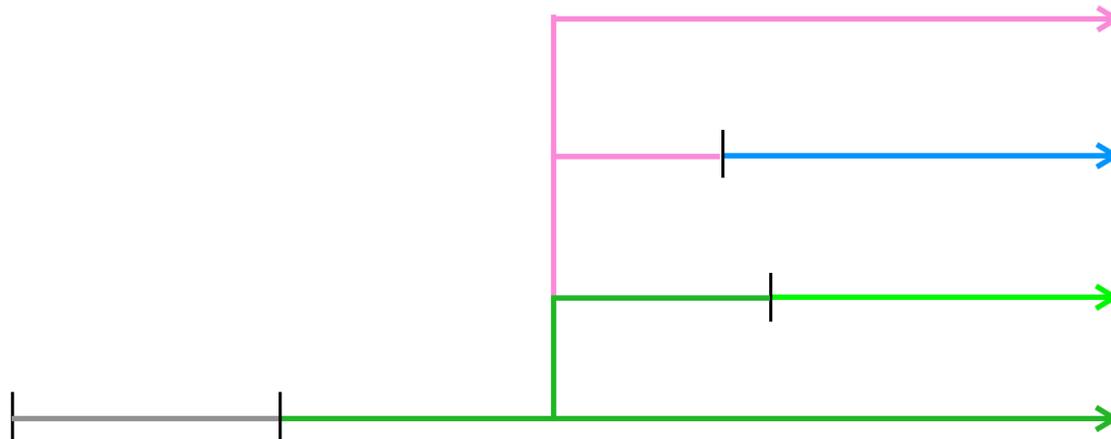


## B. The Europe of Nations: The Core Element

1. If we separate the parts of Western civilization from the rest, and draw them as just straight lines, we can make a diagram as follows:



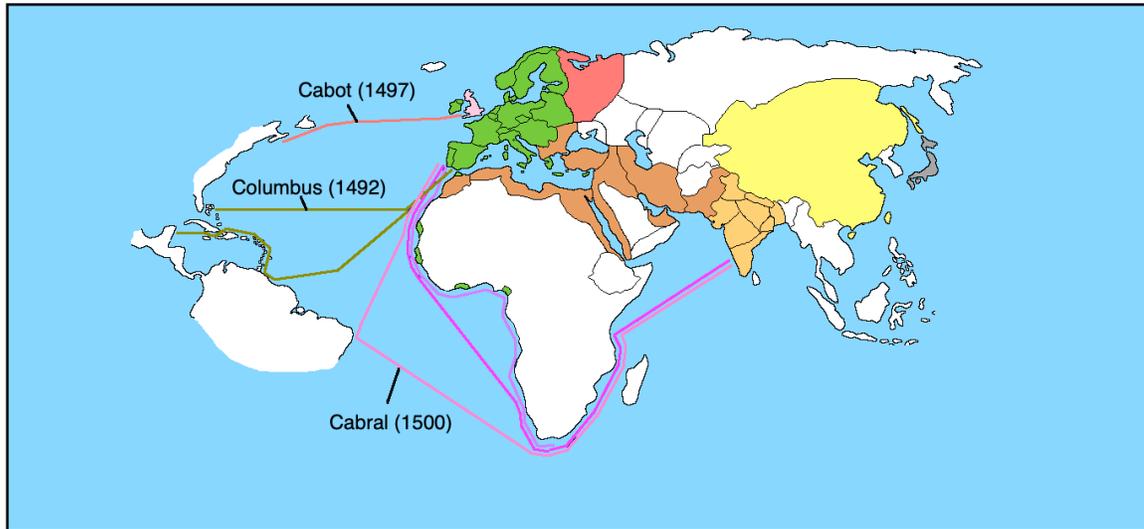
2. In this diagram, Europe is the “trunk,” while the Anglosphere, America, and the Ibersphere are “branches,” and Greco-Roman civilization are the “roots” of the *family tree* of Western civilization.

## 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—China mainly, but also Japan and India—because they believed the stories of an Italian merchant named Marco Polo who had been there, and they hoped to trade with those people.
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**, all the seafaring nations and were inspired to be the first to send explorers to actually reach Asia. At the time, the exact nature of Columbus’s discovery was unclear. England, for one, sent an explorer named John Cabot in **1497**. Cabot sailed down the east coast of North America from Newfoundland to some undisclosed point, thus confirming there was a lot of land to be revealed.
5. The growing knowledge of Europeans about the Americas was capped off by the Portuguese explorer Pedro Alvares Cabral in **1500**, when he was blown off course as he

rounded Africa, and found the land that is today Brazil (where Portuguese is spoken instead of Spanish as a result).

6. The collected efforts of these explorers can be seen on the following map, along with the Portuguese voyages around Africa that revealed so much new land and would result in the spread of Western civilization.



The voyages of Columbus (1492), Cabot (1497), Cabral (1500) and others collectively revealed the scope of the “New World,” which European civilization would soon colonize.

#### 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.
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 forming into new nations too, in a war known as the “Reconquista,” from **711 to 1492**. They were fighting to regain control of Iberia from invading Muslims.
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:

