

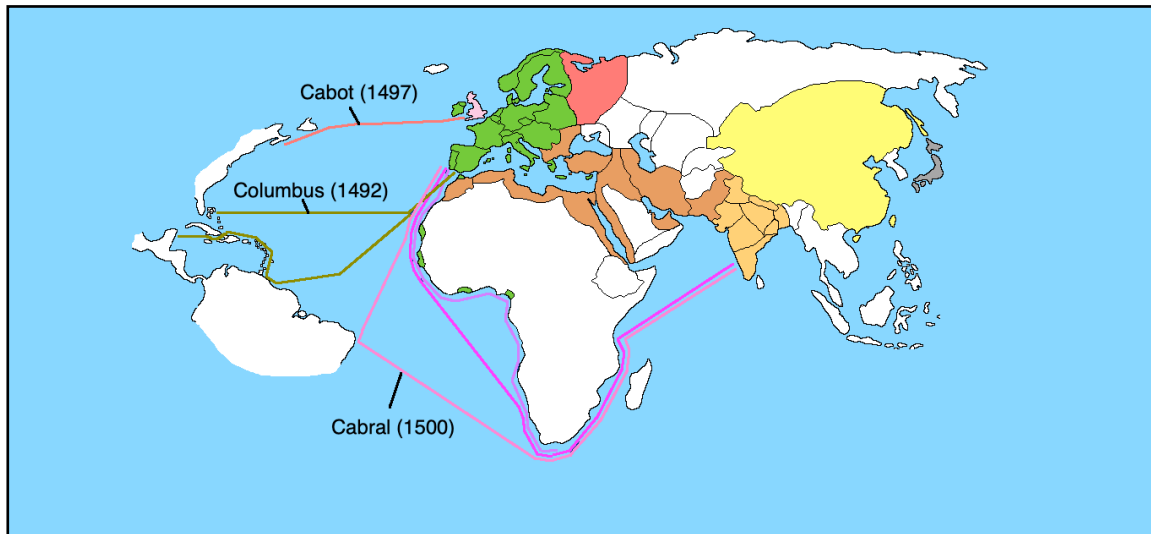
C. The Rise of the Europe of Nations

1. One way to think of the timeline is that Europe is the “trunk,” while the Anglosphere, America, and the Iberosphere are “branches,” and Greco-Roman civilization is the “roots” of the *family tree* of Western civilization.
2. Europe became the trunk with the **Fall of the Roman Empire** in **476 AD**. Rome had already conquered Greece, but now they were both attacked by Asians called the “Huns.” When Rome finally fell, it was not obvious what would rise to take its place.
3. Just before the fall, the Romans had received the help of a Germanic tribe called the “Franks” to defeat the Huns at the *Battle of Chalons*. If they had lost, there might never have been a Europe.
4. Because they won, it was the Franks who became the leaders of Europe in **476 AD**. They built an empire that later broke into the two important countries, France and Germany. Other tribes called the Angles and Saxons, and later the Normans, settled in England, making it a separate country.
5. Meanwhile the tribal people of Iberia (Spain and Portugal) were fighting another invasion of Europe by the Muslims which began in **711 AD**. It was known to them as the “Reconquista” (which means “reconquest”) and it lasted nearly 800 years! Only in **1492** did the Reconquista end.
6. By this point in Europe’s history, Iberia had become a separate set of cultures. France, Germany, and England had as well. Europe had become a cultural block of separate nations (i.e. people with a long history, and different languages and traditions that gave them a sense of belonging together).

D. The Age of Discovery

1. The reason why there are different blocks in the same “family” of cultures is that the different nations of Europe engaged in a unique contest to explore the world during the period known as the *Age of Discovery*.
2. The main goal of the explorers and their royal patrons during this time was to find an efficient trade route to Asia, especially China.
3. The attempt to reach Asia by sea began with Portugal, under a leader named Prince Henry “the Navigator.” The Portuguese had not yet succeeded in finding a route when Christopher Columbus proposed a different approach to the monarchs of Spain. Based on the ancient Greek sciences of geography and astronomy, Columbus proposed to go *west* in order to reach Asia. He was successful, but not in the way he expected.
4. Instead of discover a route to Asia, Columbus discovered America in **1492**. Soon the other nations sent explorers to see if they could actually reach Asia. 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. Columbus himself returned four times to the “New World,” and learned of the land mass of South America, then the Portuguese explorer Pedro Alvares Cabral in **1500** discovered what is today Brazil (where Portuguese is spoken instead of Spanish as a result).
6. The efforts of these explorers can be seen on the following map. They had found a huge new area for Western Civilization to spread.



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

E. Mexico and the Bolivarian Ibersphere

1. Following the discovery of the Americas by Columbus in **1492**, it became clear that there were actually civilizations in Mexico (the Aztecs and Mayans) and Peru (the Incas).
2. When it was learned that these empires possessed gold and silver, Spanish adventurers known as “conquistadors” (which means “conquerors”) set out to conquer them and plunder the resources of these newly discover peoples.
3. The Aztec empire of Mexico became the target of a conquistador named Hernan Cortes, who from 1519-1521 recruited other native tribes (who hated the Aztecs) and took advantage of his more advanced weaponry and tactics to defeat and enslave them.
4. The same pattern played out in South America, and in most cases, the tribal people of the various regions were too primitive to be able to resist the tide of European colonization.
5. For nearly three hundred years, the Ibersphere was like a copy of Europe, with military conquerors owning the land, a large caste of poor peasants working for them, and with the natives slaves and also slaves imported from Africa.
6. Then Spain and Portugal were conquered by the French general Napoleon. The military rulers of the Ibersphere, called “caudillos” (“strongmen”) decided to take advantage of the situation and make themselves independent of their mother countries in the **Iberian-American Wars of Independence (1808-33)**.

7. In Mexico, the military commander who led the charge for independence and took over the government was Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. In Venezuela, it was a general called Simon Bolivar. In Brazil, it was Prince Pedro I.
8. The culture that arose was dubbed “Bolivarianism” by one of the later leaders of Venezuela. It is evidently named after Simon Bolivar. The motto of that culture was perfectly stated by Prince Pedro I in his *Cry of Ipiranga*: “Independence or death!”
9. What the *Cry of Ipiranga* reveals, unfortunately, is that unlike the American Revolution, where the motto was “Give me *liberty*, or give me death!” the **Iberian-American Wars of Independence (1808-33)** did not believe in liberty as much as the United States.
10. Independence itself has always been the main priority of this cultural group, with some countries like Cuba and Venezuela especially independent, and others like Mexico and Panama accepting closer relations to the United States.
11. Mexico and the Iberosphere have lagged behind America in terms of freedom and prosperity since becoming independent. Mexico itself only experienced a genuine revolution about a hundred years ago. The **Mexican Revolution (1910-20)** finally produced a relatively democratic system, but it has taken nearly a century for that system to provide anything close to the political freedom that Americans have always known.
12. Mexico, like the rest of Iberosphere, was so focused on its independence from the rest of the world, that it played only a very minor role in the world wars.
13. Unfortunately, in modern times, the focus of *Bolivarianism* has mainly been to avoid become too connected to America—the self appointed world police power. This was especially the case when America helped a new generation of caudillos to create military dictatorships in the Iberosphere to prevent the rise of communism there.
14. Ever since the fall of communism, the relationship between America and the Bolivarian Iberosphere has become gradually smoother. The future should generally be one in which these two cultural blocks become more closely linked, if America can avoid being too bossy!
15. Here is our full timeline so far:

