The Age of Exploration

There were many reasons for the European Age of Exploration. A spirit of inquiry encouraged by the Renaissance and the conquest of the Byzantine Empire by the Ottoman Turks in 1453 which temporarily cut Europe off from trade with East Asia encouraged Europeans to search for new trade routes to Asia. In addition, monarchs created incentives for explorers to find all-water passages to Asia. Believing that by controlling trade with Asia a nation became powerful, monarchs invested time and money in exploration. Ever since the Crusades and Marco Polo’s reports of Asian delicacies, European interest in Asian goods like spices, perfumes, and silks had greatly increased. Of course, better navigation skills and instruments, like the compass and the moveable rudder, allowed Europeans to sail farther than ever before. Finally, Christian rulers in Europe wanted to spread their religion through overseas exploration. All of these motives led to an explosion of exploration. Ultimately, the Age of Exploration led to increased global interactions as Europeans encountered the peoples of the world, particularly the Americas, and global cultural diffusion increased.

Questions:
1- How did the Renaissance contribute to the European Age of Exploration?

2- How did the Ottoman conquest of the Byzantine Empire encourage exploration?

3- Why did monarchs encourage exploration?

4- What historical events increased the European appetite for goods from Asia? Why?
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1. Before European explorers circumnavigated the globe, 9-20-1-12-25 had a monopoly on trade with Asia.


3. A magnetic 3-15-13-16-1-19-19 was used to guide ships in the right direction.

4. An 1-19-20-18-15-12-1-2-5 was used to measure latitude.

5. The European trade route to Asia had gone through Constantinople, which was captured by the 20-21-18-11-19 in 1453.


7. Portuguese explorer 4-9-1-26 sailed to the southern tip of Africa.


9. The Americas are conventionally called the 14-5-23 23-15-18-12-4.

10. 8-21-4-19-15-14 was the first European to explore the Hudson River.