

# The Treaty of Tordesillas

## Duration

Two or three class sessions of approximately 40 minutes each

## Resources

### 1. Teacher Commentary



### 2. Student Handout



### 3. Homework



## Objectives of Lesson

- To explain how European nations used coercion and negotiation to establish overseas empires
- To practice identifying and explaining the significance of perspective and bias

## College Board Objectives from the 2020–21 CED

- **Topic 1.7:** Rivals on the World Stage (p. 47)
- **Learning Objective 1.I:** “Explain how and why trading networks and colonial expansion affected relations between and among European states.”
- **Key Concept 1.3.III.B:** “The Spanish established colonies across the Americas, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, which made Spain a dominant state in Europe in the 16th century.”
- **Key Concept 1.3.III.D:** “The competition for trade led to conflicts and rivalries among European powers in the 17th and 18th centuries.”

## Student Activities

- Discussion of the Treaty of Tordesillas and European negotiations over territories in the Americas
- “Dinner Party” activity to explore how perspective and bias contributed to European rivalries

## NOTES

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## How to Use This Lesson

The ultimate goal of this lesson is for students to develop a stronger understanding of European rivalries over claims in the Americas and their effects from 1450 to 1648. It focuses on the Treaty of Tordesillas as a concrete example of how these rivalries were negotiated through diplomacy and conflict. Students are asked to engage with a range of different historical perspectives in order to better understand how European claims to territory in the Americas affected both other European nations and American Indians. By the end of this lesson, students will have a stronger understanding of Topic 1.7 and more experience identifying the role of perspective in the study of history.

The main component of this lesson uses a “dinner party” exercise to help students explore different perspectives. The conversation at the “dinner party” will focus on the Treaty of Tordesillas. As part of this task, students will be assigned a character representing an ideological perspective of a group that had a stake in the outcome of the treaty, a series of questions, and a table seating chart. After answering the questions for their character, students will need to complete the seating chart and correctly identify what their character would agree with or disagree over with the seatmates on either side. Based on the size of your class, you can either have multiple “tables” or have students work in small teams for each character.

The “dinner party” exercise works best if students have some historical context before they begin answering the questions for their particular figure. To help with this, we have provided some brief notes to guide your discussion.

This lesson also includes a homework assignment that uses the content from Topic 1.7. It continues the idea of finding similarities and differences through a series of review exercises.

## Historical Context

When Christopher Columbus returned from his voyages across the Atlantic in 1450, his claim to have discovered new lands for the Spanish crown led almost immediately to intra-European conflict. The Spanish monarchs asserted that all of the land that Columbus claimed in their name was now the exclusive territory of Spain that they could decide to do with as they wished. At this time, the Spanish monarchy was facing financial challenges, so Columbus’s reports of rich agricultural lands that could produce profitable trade goods were seen as an incredible boon by the king and queen. These lands would allow them to repay their debts with enough surplus to build up their military fleet and trading empire.

## NOTES

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The Portuguese monarchy received the reports of Columbus's voyage with less enthusiasm. In the subsequent years, they found themselves in constant conflict with Spain. Under the Treaty of Alcáçovas (1479) and the papal bull "Æterni regis" (1481), Portugal attempted to settle the conflicts with Spain by agreeing on a territorial border. Between these two, "Æterni regis" (1481) had the greatest impact in intra-European conflict because it stated that all lands south of the Canary Islands belonged to Portugal. All of the lands where Columbus made contact during his voyages fell below this latitude, so Portugal cited the "Æterni regis" (1481) to claim that all the newly "discovered" lands in the Americas belonged to the Portuguese monarchy. In order to support this claim, the Portuguese king publicly informed other European monarchs (including the Spanish king and queen) that they would be sending an armed naval fleet to secure the lands for Portugal.

Spain, eager to maintain its new claims in the Americas, turned to the pope to mediate the conflict. Pope Alexander VI issued a series of decrees that set different points as the border between Spanish and Portuguese claims. This may be difficult for students to understand if they are used to thinking of the Roman Catholic pope solely in religious terms. At this time, the pope functioned as both a religious and political leader. If individual European nations disagreed, they often asked the pope to step in to resolve the situation because his unique spiritual role was understood to give him more authority to resolve conflict. If you have time, consider exploring this aspect with your class. What does it say about European culture at the time that the pope mediated conflict? What does it say about the role of religion? How was this precedent challenged in the Reformation?

When the papal decrees issued by Pope Sixtus IV and Pope Alexander VI failed to resolve the tension between Spanish and Portuguese claims, the two nations turned again to direct negotiation. Portugal was willing to cede its claim to some of the lands in the Americas as long as its exclusive claim to the west African coast and the Indian Ocean was respected. This was a calculated move for Portugal given the economics of the time because the trade routes to India were a major source of wealth for the Portuguese monarch. They had no way to know that, by ceding much of the Americas to the Spanish, they would enrich the Spanish Empire so significantly.

The Treaty of Tordesillas divided the world based on an arbitrary line of demarcation set in leagues from the Cape Verde Islands. As part of the treaty, representatives of Spain and Portugal were supposed to take a joint journey to determine the actual line in degrees, but that journey never took place. Various Portuguese and Spanish cartographers proposed slightly different lines of longitude, but the minor differences did not seem to cause any great conflict between the two nations. In practice, they

## NOTES

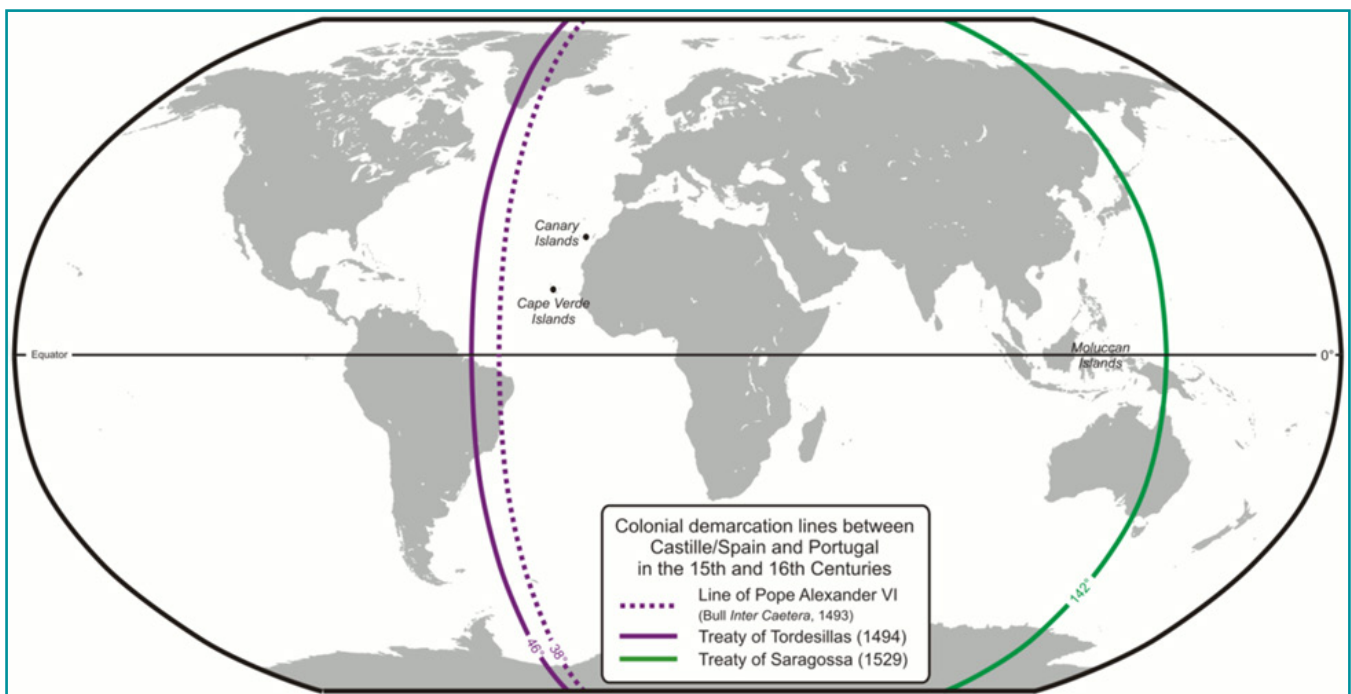
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recognized a line just east of Hispaniola. Brazil, east of that line, was claimed by Portugal. Everything else in the New World was claimed by Spain.

As a study of how European nations negotiated claims in the Americas, the Treaty of Tordesillas provides an interesting case example of how these claims were managed. It was the product of fraught, high level negotiations between Spain and Portugal, negotiated by the highest recognized authority in Catholic Europe. Even though the treaty ended up giving Portugal significantly less land, the Portuguese monarch continued to honor it as a result of its diplomatic history. Other European nations, such as England, France, and the Netherlands, simply chose to completely ignore the Treaty of Tordesillas. What does it say about Europe if this was an option? Who had the authority to negotiate competing claims? Why?

## NOTES

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*This image shows the demarcation line for the Treaty of Tordesillas.*

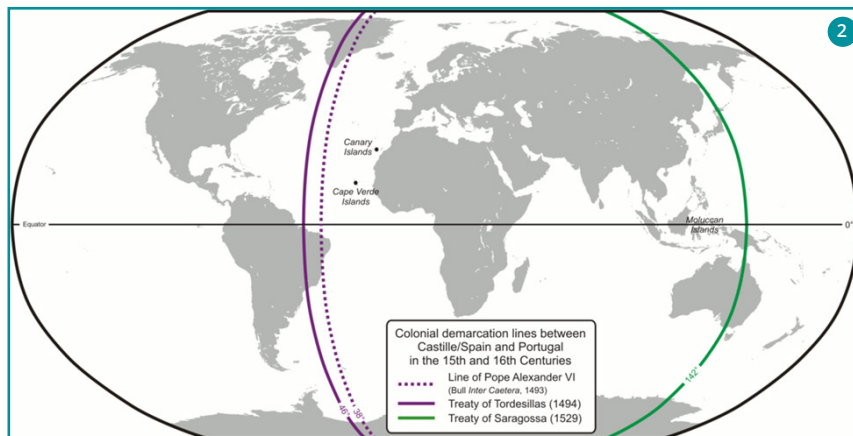
# Treaty of Tordesillas

## Directions

For this task, you will be planning a dinner party that features guests with vested interests in the Treaty of Tordesillas. For each guest, read their biography and complete the questions that follow. Then, fill out the seating chart. Note at least one thing that your guest would agree with and disagree over with the person to their right and left.

## The Treaty of Tordesillas

The Treaty of Tordesillas divided the world based on an arbitrary line of demarcation set in leagues from the Cape Verde Islands. As part of the treaty, representatives of Spain and Portugal were supposed to take a joint journey to determine the actual line in degrees, but that journey never took place. Various Portuguese and Spanish cartographers proposed slightly different lines of longitude, but the minor differences did not seem to cause any great conflict between the two nations. In practice, they recognized a line just east of Hispaniola. Brazil, east of that line, was claimed by Portugal. Everything else in the New World was claimed by Spain.



## Commentary

- ① Each character has a brief bio and a few questions to prompt close discussion.

After answering the questions for their character, students will need to complete the seating chart and correctly identify what their character would agree with or disagree over with the seatmates on either side.

Based on the size of your class, you can either have multiple “tables,” or have students work in small teams for each historical character.

- ② **Questions for discussion**

This map shows different treaty lines because the lines of demarcation were constantly being negotiated. In fact, the Treaty of Tordesillas does not include a longitude or degree line to mark the split between Spanish and Portuguese territory.

Ask your students the following:

1. What conclusions can we draw based on the fact that these treaties do not include exact lines of demarcation?
2. What does it say about the approach of Europeans to the world if they are dividing something they do not know?

## The Dinner Party

### Example

Christopher Columbus secured funding for his voyages from Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile, whose marriage united their respective kingdoms into Spain. The Spanish Catholic monarchs funded his expedition, despite the fact that their court scholars had deduced that his calculations were incorrect, because they felt that it would provide an important opportunity to spread Christianity. They were also concerned that their rival, Portugal, could claim lands or people in new territory. These concerns were merited because Columbus had attempted multiple times to secure funding from Portugal, which would have meant that Portugal would have received the wealth and glory from anything he discovered.

In addition to benefiting his sponsors, Columbus’s voyages should have made him extraordinarily rich. Based on the language of his agreements with the king and queen of Spain, the monarchs would reward Columbus out of the riches he found in the Americas. His wealth would come as a percentage of the resources he brought back to the monarchy, which they then were to distribute back to him.

### Questions

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Christopher Columbus be most likely to have supported?

④

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

⑤

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- ③ We recommend that you work through this example as a class before assigning students their historical figures.
- ④ Christopher Columbus would have personally benefited from the Treaty of Tordesillas because it would have shored up Spanish claims to a large swathe of territory. Because his personal wealth and rewards were tied to how much Spain was able to profit from the land, he would have been an enthusiastic supporter of a treaty that granted most of the Americas to Spain. Although there were some significant financial entanglements toward the end of his life that prevented him from receiving all of his promised funds, he was still in a position where he could only benefit if Spain did.
- ⑤ The goal of this question is to encourage students to think about broad cultural movements of the historical era. There is a tendency when doing exercises like this for students to think about the figures as somehow unique. Encourage them to think about how they are representative of broader historical movements or developments.

GUEST TO THE LEFT	GUEST TO THE RIGHT
King John II of Portugal	Pope Julius II
Would agree that: European claims over newly discovered territories need to be formalized	Would agree that: Negotiations between European nations over territorial claims should be negotiated through a diplomatic process instead of armed conflict
Would disagree over: Which European nations should benefit the most from the territorial demarcations	Would disagree over: Whether nations should be allowed to negotiate territorial claims themselves

## Dinner Party Guests

- Pope Julius II
- Queen Isabella of Spain
- King John II of Portugal
- King Henry VIII of England
- Hatuey, a Taino Chieftain

### Pope Julius II

6

Pope Julius II, while he did not directly lead the negotiations for the Treaty of Tordesillas, helped validate the treaty. The rivalry between Spain and Portugal had been negotiated by a series of Roman Catholic popes in the decades after Columbus’s initial contact with the Americas. The papal bulls issued by the pontiffs provided a negotiated solution that helped Spain and Portugal avoid armed conflict while also ensuring that Roman Catholicism would spread into newly identified areas. Since both Spain and Portugal were ruled by Roman Catholic monarchs, they looked to the pope as the highest temporal authority in Europe.

### Questions

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Pope Julius II be most likely to have supported?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

### 6 Questions for discussion

Pope Julius II is included in this lesson plan to provide an opportunity to discuss different kinds of authority in Europe. At this time, the pope functioned as both a religious and political leader. If individual European nations disagreed, they often asked the pope to step in to resolve the situation because his unique spiritual role was understood to give him more authority to resolve conflict.

Ask your students the following:

1. What does it say about European culture at the time that the pope mediated conflict?
2. What does it say about the role of religion?
3. How was this precedent challenged in the Reformation?

GUEST TO THE LEFT	GUEST TO THE RIGHT
<i>Write or type your response in this area.</i>	<i>Write or type your response in this area.</i>
Would agree that: <div style="text-align: center;"><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></div>	Would agree that: <div style="text-align: center;"><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></div>
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## King Henry VIII of England

King Henry VIII of England, as a Protestant king, did not accept the authority of the Roman Catholic pope to make European regulations. The Treaty of Tordesillas was part of fraught negotiations between Spain and Portugal, but it was largely ignored by other European nations—especially Protestant nations that did not recognize the authority of the Roman Catholic pope. By the 17th century, France, England, and the Netherlands had all created colonies in the Americas on land claimed by Spain according to the Treaty of Tordesillas.

### Questions

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would King Henry VIII be most likely to have supported?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

⑦

⑦ The Treaty of Tordesillas, while it was predominantly an economic and political document, also encapsulated the religious conflicts of its historical era. It was a treaty, worked out between two Roman Catholic nations, about claims to territory in which each were committed to spreading Roman Catholicism. It was endorsed by a Roman Catholic pope, who stood to benefit by dividing the known world between two nations who both recognized his authority.

Use this opportunity to have a broader conversation with your class about how cause and effects in European history are multifaceted and complex.

GUEST TO THE LEFT	GUEST TO THE RIGHT
<p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>
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## King John II of Portugal

The relationship between King John II of Portugal and Atlantic exploration was complicated because Portugal was mostly focused on African coastal routes to reach the Indian Ocean. Christopher Columbus had initially approached the Portuguese king for funding but was turned down when his court scholars determined that Columbus’s distance calculations were inaccurate (they were). Columbus turned to the king and queen of Spain as a second choice, but did not give up trying to get Portuguese funding. In fact, he requested a meeting with King John II of Portugal on his return visit—before he had even returned to Spain. When King John II learned that Columbus had reached unknown lands, he immediately claimed that the new territory rightfully belonged to him rather than the king and queen of Spain because he had been formally granted all the lands south of the Canary Islands by the Roman Catholic pope by the *Treaty of Alcáçovas* and the later papal bull *Æterni regis*.

8

8 King John II of Portugal is included in this lesson plan because he represents the predominant point of view of the time that exploration could be incredibly lucrative, but should focus on finding a way around Africa.

You may want to consider reminding students that, despite persistent rumors to the contrary, early modern scholars knew the Earth was round. The focus on African trade derived from the fact that it was known to be profitable, not that Europeans thought they would fall off the edge of the planet.

## Questions

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would King John II of Portugal be most likely to have supported?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

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## Queen Isabella of Spain

When Queen Isabella I of Castile married King Ferdinand II of Aragon, they united the two kingdoms into a single united Spain. As joint rulers, they were known as the “Catholic Monarchs” because of their enthusiastic support for Roman Catholicism. They led the Reconquista, which forcibly removed all Muslims and Jews from Spain. She agreed to fund Columbus’s journey for a variety of reasons, including her strong desire to spread Christianity and her determination that Portugal should not be able to expand at Spain’s expense. When Columbus returned to Spain with captives from the Americas to serve as slaves, Queen Isabella I was reportedly deeply disturbed by their treatment. In her will, she states that her descendants should “not give rise to allow the Indians to receive any wrong in their persons and property, but rather that they be treated well and fairly, and if they have received any wrong, remedy it.”

9

9 It is easy to read the Treaty of Tordesillas as a political document, but it also needs to be thought of as a religious manifesto. Queen Isabella of Spain is included in this dinner party to give students an opportunity to think through the many reasons why European nations may want to claim exclusive rights to a territory. In the case of Queen Isabella, her own writings suggest that she thought claiming and subduing foreign lands was in the best interest of the people who lived there because they could be forcibly converted to Christianity.

## Questions

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Queen Isabella of Spain be most likely to have supported?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- How does her opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

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## Hatuey, a Taino Chieftain

The Treaty of Tordesillas was a high-level political agreement between two European nations, but it had a direct impact on the lives of the people who lived in the Americas. Under this agreement, the Spanish claimed the island that Columbus reached on this voyages. In the course of his first voyage, Christopher Columbus described the native Taino people saying “they should be good servants,” seized several people, and brought them back to Spain as slaves. On the second journey, the Spanish began to demand tribute. Every adult was required to produce either a hawk’s bell of gold or 25 pounds of spun cotton for the Spanish every three months. If a Taino person did not pay this tribute, the Spanish would cut off their hands and lead them to bleed to death. Hatuey, a Taino chieftain, led a rebellion against the Spanish in 1511. He was burned at the stake in 1512.

⑩

⑩ When reviewing the Treaty of Tordesillas in the classroom, it is helpful to remember that these decisions affected people in the Americas who were “claimed” by different European nations.

If you have time, consider a small break-out activity that considers how and why historical sources demonstrate perspective and bias. What gets preserved? Why? For example, historians know the name of Hatuey only because he was executed by the Spanish. How many other leaders’ names have been lost to history?

### Questions

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Hatuey be most likely to have supported?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

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## The Dinner Party

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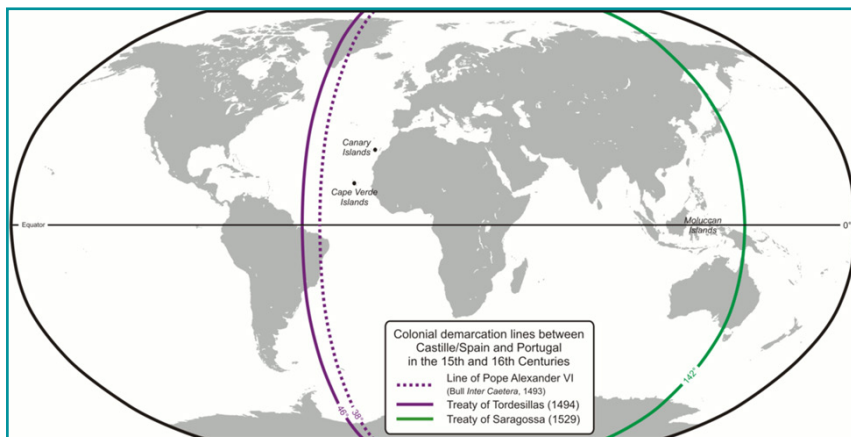
# Treaty of Tordesillas

## Directions

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## The Treaty of Tordesillas

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## NOTES

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## The Dinner Party

### Example

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### Questions

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*Write or type your response in this area.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

## NOTES

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## Dinner Party Guests

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## Pope Julius II

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## Questions

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## NOTES

*Write or type in this area.*

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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></div>
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- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

### NOTES

*Write or type in this area.*

#### GUEST TO THE LEFT

*Write or type your response in this area.*

Would agree that:

*Write or type your response in this area.*

Would disagree over:

*Write or type your response in this area.*

#### GUEST TO THE RIGHT

*Write or type your response in this area.*

Would agree that:

*Write or type your response in this area.*

Would disagree over:

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## King John II of Portugal

The relationship between King John II of Portugal and Atlantic exploration was complicated because Portugal was mostly focused on African coastal routes to reach the Indian Ocean. Christopher Columbus had initially approached the Portuguese king for funding but was turned down when his court scholars determined that Columbus’s distance calculations were inaccurate (they were). Columbus turned to the king and queen of Spain as a second choice, but did not give up trying to get Portuguese funding. In fact, he requested a meeting with King John II of Portugal on his return visit—before he had even returned to Spain. When King John II learned that Columbus had reached unknown lands, he immediately claimed that the new territory rightfully belonged to him rather than the king and queen of Spain because he had been formally granted all the lands south of the Canary Islands by the Roman Catholic pope by the *Treaty of Alcáçovas* and the later papal bull *Æterni regis*.

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## Questions

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*Write or type your response in this area.*

- How does her opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

## NOTES

*Write or type in this area.*

GUEST TO THE LEFT	GUEST TO THE RIGHT
<p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>
<p>Would agree that:</p> <p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p>Would agree that:</p> <p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>
<p>Would disagree over:</p> <p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p>Would disagree over:</p> <p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>

## Hatuey, a Taino Chieftain

The Treaty of Tordesillas was a high-level political agreement between two European nations, but it had a direct impact on the lives of the people who lived in the Americas. Under this agreement, the Spanish claimed the island that Columbus reached on this voyages. In the course of his first voyage, Christopher Columbus described the native Taino people saying “they should be good servants,” seized several people, and brought them back to Spain as slaves. On the second journey, the Spanish began to demand tribute. Every adult was required to produce either a hawk’s bell of gold or 25 pounds of spun cotton for the Spanish every three months. If a Taino person did not pay this tribute, the Spanish would cut off their hands and lead them to bleed to death. Hatuey, a Taino chieftain, led a rebellion against the Spanish in 1511. He was burned at the stake in 1512.

### Questions

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Hatuey be most likely to have supported?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

### NOTES

*Write or type in this area.*

GUEST TO THE LEFT	GUEST TO THE RIGHT
<p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>
<p>Would agree that:</p> <p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p>Would agree that:</p> <p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>
<p>Would disagree over:</p> <p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p>Would disagree over:</p> <p><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>

## The Dinner Party

Write or type the guest's name in this area.

Write or type the guest's name in this area.

Write or type the guest's name in this area.

Write or type the guest's name in this area.

Write or type the guest's name in this area.

# Treaty of Tordesillas

## Directions

Choose one of the historical figures from the list below to join the Treaty of Tordesillas dinner party. Write out a short description of the figure before answering the dinner party questions.

- Hernán Cortés
- Ferdinand Magellan
- Investor in the Dutch East India Company
- Sailor in the Portuguese naval fleet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Write or type your response in this area.*

## Questions

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would \_\_\_\_\_ be most likely to have supported?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- How does your chosen figure’s opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*Write or type your response in this area.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Write or type your response in this area.*

GUEST TO THE LEFT	GUEST TO THE RIGHT
<i>Write or type your response in this area.</i>	<i>Write or type your response in this area.</i>
<p>Would agree that:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p>Would agree that:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>
<p>Would disagree over:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>	<p>Would disagree over:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Write or type your response in this area.</i></p>

**HOMEWORK**

Example:

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Christopher Columbus be most likely to have supported?

*Christopher Columbus would have personally benefited from the Treaty of Tordesillas because it would have shored up Spanish claims to a large swathe of territory. Because his personal wealth and rewards were tied to how much Spain was able to profit from the land, he would have been an enthusiastic supporter of a treaty that granted most of the Americas to Spain. Although there were some significant financial entanglements toward the end of his life that prevented him from receiving all of his promised funds, he was still in a position where he could only benefit if Spain did.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*Christopher Columbus was not an entirely unique figure in European history, he just happened to be uniquely successful. He represents the point of view of an explorer during the time period of those who sailed under the sponsorship of a particular nation's flag. Supporting a particular nation's claim to a territory (even if it was not their home nation) would be personally enriching to these explorers.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Christopher Columbus would have personally benefited from Spain being able to claim more territory. Since the Treaty of Tordesillas gave Spain the larger claim in the Americas, he would have supported it.*

## Pope Julius II

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Christopher Columbus be most likely to have supported?

*While he did not negotiate the treaty, Pope Julius II provided his official support of the line of demarcation in a subsequent papal bull. His support of the treaty shows that he supported a negotiated approach to intra-European rivalry.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*As European tensions increased as a result of competition of newly acknowledged lands and resources, leaders developed two distinct approaches to the conflict. Some favored negotiated solutions, while others suggested armed conflict. Pope Julius II's approach represents a perspective of those trying to avoid war.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Pope Julius II, like many popes during the era, was recognized by Catholic monarchs as having a supreme authority over European political affairs. The Treaty of Tordesillas would have bolstered his claim to that authority.*

## King Henry VIII of England

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would King Henry VIII be most likely to have supported?

*King Henry VII, as an English Protestant monarch, would have been unlikely to support anything about the Treaty of Tordesillas. While the treaty was important to Spain and Portugal, other European nations generally ignored it because they did not recognize the authority of Spain and Portugal to claim the globe or the authority of the Roman Catholic Pope to endorse the treaty.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*The Treaty of Tordesillas was signed in the early stages of the Protestant Reformation so the perspective of King Henry VIII of England would become increasingly common.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*King Henry VII would have been interested in developing his own lucrative colonies in the Americas. Ignoring the Treaty of Tordesillas would clear the way for him to do that.*

## King John II of Portugal

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would King John II of Portugal be most likely to have supported?

*King John II agreed to the Treaty of Tordesillas, despite the imbalance it created in the Americas because it ensured that Portugal had exclusive claim to the African coastline. At the time, this was considered a much more profitable avenue of trade because it included a known route to India.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*King John II's perspective represents a point of view of monarchs making decisions based on current cartographical information. It shows a desire to reach India using known methods in order to profit from trade.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*King John of Portugal, like most monarchs at the time, wanted to create as much profit as possible under mercantilism. Using known routes was one way to ensure profits.*

## Queen Isabella of Spain

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Queen Isabella of Spain be most likely to have supported?

*Queen Isabella would have supported the Treaty of Tordesillas because it gave her and her husband a large stake in the Americas. Based on what Christopher Columbus brought back from his expeditions, she could be assured that the land would be profitable.*

- How does her opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*In addition to representing mercantilism in the sense that she was profit focused, her desire to claim the Americas also stems from her desire to spread Catholicism. Many monarchs, including those of Portugal, were influenced by religious motivations.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*The Treaty of Tordesillas would have helped Queen Isabella of Spain achieve her religious, economic, and political goals.*



## Hatuey, a Taino Chieftain

- What specific aspects of the Treaty of Tordesillas, if any, would Hatuey be most likely to have supported?

*Hatuey would have not supported the Treaty of Tordesillas because it shows a level of disrespect and disregard for the opinions of American Indians. By not incorporating American Indians into the political negotiations, the treaty disregarded their agency and treated them as objects that could be seized by European forces.*

- How does his opinion about the Treaty of Tordesillas represent a common perspective during this historical era?

*The perspective of Hatuey represents the broader perspective of indigenous peoples whose rights and agency were ignored during Europe's early modern period.*

- Explain your reasoning.

*Hatuey would have been concerned that the treaty denied him and his people their humanity. However, the treaty was not translated into any language used by native people in the Americas, so it is highly unlikely that they were familiar with the text.*