

## **History 104, Lecture 03: Islam, Europe, and the Riches of Asia**

### **1. Dar al-Islam, “The Abode of Islam”**

- a. The Basics of Islam: [Five Pillars of Islam](#)
- b. The Spread of Islam
- c. The Teaching of Islam
- d. Sectorial Conflicts and Syncretism

### **2. The Lure of Asian Riches**

- a. Economic Incentives for Europeans: Cut out the Muslim middleman
- b. Early Explorations to Atlantic Africa
  - i. Prince Henry “the Navigator” (1394-1460) from 1415
  - ii. Bartholomeu Dias rounds Cape of Good Hope, 1488

### **3. Portuguese Pioneer-Intruders in Asia**

- a. Vasco da Gama muscled into the Indian Ocean, 1497-98
  - i. Dealing with East African city-states
  - ii. Pepper and spices in Calicut
- b. The Introduction of Armed Trading in the Indian Ocean
  - i. Portuguese return with armed vessels and soldiers
  - ii. Control of choke points in Indian Ocean trade:
    - Kilwa, Mombasa, Sofala captured in 1505
    - Hormuz in 1508
    - Goa in 1510 (made into Portugal’s Asian capital)
    - Malacca in 1511
- c. How Did Poor Little Portugal Do It?
  - i. Desperate risk-taking to achieve economic benefits
  - ii. Took advantage of weak local governments
  - iii. Took advantage of differences in naval technologies
  - iv. Fortified networks of strategic defensive strongholds
- d. Fragmentation and Decline of Portuguese “Empire”
  - i. Breakup of royal monopoly on India trade
  - ii. Assimilation with local culture and economy
  - iii. Actions by emerging Asian states
  - iv. Competition with Dutch and English