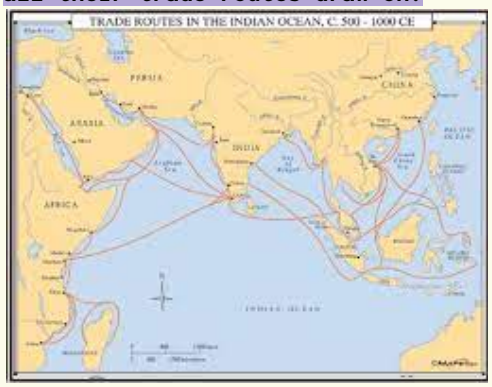
How Europe Stole the World, Part 1

SCRIPT

Chapter 1 (1450 - 1500)

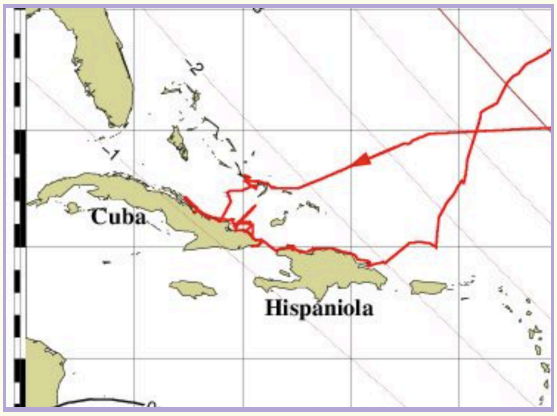
[INTRO MUSIC] **Big explorative adventurous, Kind of dark**	
[Intro scene is cutting between super high quality map renders and studio b roll of Johnny studying maps, contemplating the topic. Building curiosity]	
ONCAM The world you live in today was sketched on paper by European men. Men who looked like me. Men who at first were curious, adventurous, but whose motives morphed into an insatiable greed. A confidence that their way was better. ONCAM This confidence led to the arguably the most influential series of events in human history, at least the history that affects you and me, a 500 year project of moving people, weapons, germs, language, and violence to every corner of the world, and in the process gathering and taking home metal, rubber, tea, sugar, and human bodies. **[sound up for moment of contemplation as we see imagery of these]**	**[Johnny with maps in front of him]** STUDIO SHOOT: **Johnny studying maps.** **Wide shot of johnny intently looking at maps** **Close up shallow DOF glides over maps** **Intercutting with animation renders of the same.**
VO This isn't a history lesson. You won't hear a lot of dates and names. Instead, this is the first of three videos where I want to show you how this happened. How Europe, a continent of poor, miserable farmers, took over the entire planet, shaping it to fit their way of thinking, of speaking, of doing things. This is part one of the story of how Europe stole the world. **[music hits and we have title sequence with teaser imagery and SOT of some british colonizer talking about going to the ends of the earth or something.]**	**Teaser of future renders cutting through a preview of what we're gonna see.**
Intro title sequence	

MUSIC: pensive/Thinky **Starting our journey. Bell Valse Vibes. Or more**	
CHAPTER SLATE: **CH1. Exploration**	
ON CAM-johnny with lots of maps on the table. Looking for the right one Ok where to start. Well, lets rewind to when Europe was absolutely not powerful in any way. Back in like 1450. **[johnny grabs blank piece of paper that is out "map"]** Back then the borders looked like this **[puts blank paper on table, we cut to TOP DOWN and animation composites on mapcomp and we zoom into it** STUDIO SHOOT MC: We should have a big ish blank paper for this maybe like 24 inches wide	
It was just a bunch of kingdoms that were pretty small potatoes.	
[Music cuts, back to on cam] Well, there *were* no potatoes, Those wouldn't arrive in Europe for another 50 years.	
In fact there wasn't an abundance of anything. Instead europeans barely scraped by as farmers or laborers, often in constant debt to a few rich landlords. Life in Europe was scarce and miserable.	
Meanwhile there were a bunch of other empires around the world that were THRIVING. The empire in the middle east (Ottoman Empire), with its silk and furs, India, which would soon form an empire with its wealth from spices and luxurious cotton fabrics, and of course China (Ming dynasty) which had already invented gunpowder, porcelain and advanced sailing ships by now. Oh.. AND all of these empires were trading with each other making them even richer!	**-zooms from europe (with all its kingdoms highlighted) and highlights each of these empires as we slowly drift east and within the shading of each empire we see the imagery of the technology we're describing. You could cut out images of tobacco leaves and silk and plop that png on top of ottoman in a nicely composed way.** **On the line about trade we We also see**

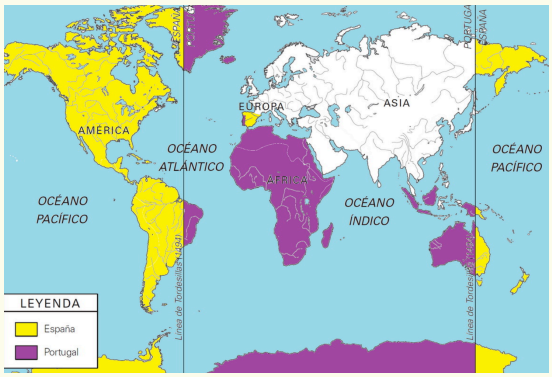
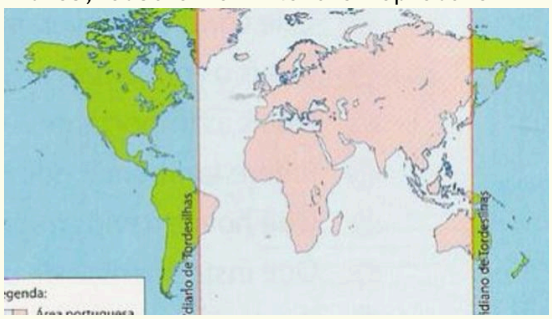
These powers had better.... everything than europe And miserable Europeans wanted in.	**all their trade routes draw on.** 
[on cam, no music] So that's the context here. The story of how Europe took over the world really starts when the countries we know as spain and portugal today set out to get in on all this trade happening in on the east.	**-spain and portugal are highlighted and labeled and we're slowly zooming out**
[music cue. Higher energy. Shits heating up as we zoom into the iberian peninsula]	
So they start looking for a land based trade route, and-- **[record scratch, music cuts]** NOPE.	**-lines draw out of portugal east and get to the ottoman empire which is shaded and labeled. We don't need to see every other european border. Just spain, portugal and ottoman empire. But we see that ottoman empire is "blocking" spain's path to the east. Big old "NOPE!" Pops when they get to ottoman** 
Look, it's the big middle east empire **[map labels ottoman empire]** which is run by Muslims. And portugal and spain were hella catholic, and the ottoman empire is "No way are we're letting you catholic countries who are	**-labeled ottoman empire** **-slowly zooming into ottoman empire blocking portugal.**

super mean to jews and muslims, pass through our land to trade. Oh and you can't even afford are taxes, your miserable europeans without a lot of money. Go away. **Music starts back up**	
Spain and portugal are gonna need to find another way to get to the east. Portugal decides to Portugal work around was literally to go AROUND the continent of africa, stopping along the coast to trade with wealthy African empires along the way.	**Focus on portugal then zoom out and show the route draw on. Da Gama's route moving along coast of Africa into Indian ocean. But also show some thinner lines going into ports alon gthe west coast of africa. 6 of them throughout the coast.** 
And this is a big moment for our story, because this...works. Its near the end of the 1400s, soon The Portuguese are going nuts sending ships on this route and trading with the east and suddenly they are	**-showing lots of transit between portugal and their first trading destinations (macau, malaysia, indonesia) thin lines going back and forth along the route. Giving the feel of lots of voyages**
dressing in luscious fabrics, using cloves cinnamon, and black pepper to make their food taste better and last longer.	
JH riffs something like "..wait wait hold on.. you mean they didn't have black pepper before this??? What? No pepper? Can we let that sit for second? Man the food must have been atrocious. Life in europe was miserable..]	
and The age of exploration has begun! Miserable Europe is doing something about their situation, going out to get in on the thriving trade in the east. But remember this isn't about conquering land...its about trading..for now.	

[Music cue montage moment:] **-drum solo energy. Shit is REAL NOW. and we're up and running. High energy. Very thinky. We need to really feel thinky** **5 sec**	
So Spain sees Portugal hitting the jackpot and they're jelly. They want in on this. They need to establish their own trade route to Asia.	**Zoom into spain**
But they wanted to do things differently. Instead of following Portugal's lead around Africa, they listen to a pitch from an Italian sailor who wants them to fund his big start called: "what if we sailed WEST to get to Asia instead of east"	**Show render from before with portugal route then..** **We see icon of Christopher Columbus and approaches spain and we first pan to see portugals route and then when he proposes going west we look west and we dont see north or south america its just fuzzy but we see text: "China??" "India?" to the west.** -zoom out and we see portugals route to asia. Proposed route lines crossing the Martellus 1491 Map that Columbus used
Remember at this point these people think with world looks like THIS, its like europe, africa and asia **[flash to cloth map in right column]**	
So Spain was like "yeah this is great. High risk, high return. Do it Columbus."	**-spain"do it columbus"**
[music cue: we go from jazz drum to out on the sea. Adventure.	
Well it turns out that the world does NOT look like THIS **[same cloth map]** and instead over HERE there's a couple massive land masses. But like many of us overly confident men, when columbus his land and didn't know where he was he just pretended he had it all under control. I do it all the time. He's like...yeah this is..indonesia. We're in the indies right now..i can feel it. Look over there, those are indians. But instead he was actually in like...CUBA.	**-then we pan west and composite with geolayers accurate map, real map of north and south america composites on where they geographically should go. And we see his route** **Icon of columbus in cuba saying what I say in my Oncam "we're totally in the indies"** **The whole time we're zooming slowly into caribbean and old map map is now out of sight.** **Like this (but no return route, just columbus on cuba mansplaining)**

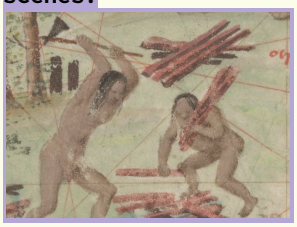
	
But despite the mansplaining, Columbus kinda found what he was looking for: great empires rich in culture, foods, and precious metals that weren't available to them back home, they were right on target.	
ONCAM so he's like Let trade! Says columbus...but waitttt a minute. These people don't have big armies or navies protecting their stuff.	**and speech bubble says "lets trade Then fast zoom into columbus and maybe try to cut out a hand and have it scratch his head. Or change facial expression (puppet tool, can look cheesy.**
They dont seem to be connected into the big economy happening with all the other big empires. So this must be different. Different land, different rules.	**Flash back to the renders at the beginning showing all the big empires trading.**
And this is where the biggest light bulb of the century goes off in this guys head. Change of plans boys. Says columbus. We're going to claim this lands. And everyone's like wait what? You heard me, We are going to CLAIMMMM this land And the boys are like "Aren't we trying to trade with great empires like portugal has been doing.. Yeah yeah but look. They don't have armies. They are just here letting us show up without a fight. Obviously that means this land is up for grabs right?	**light bulb popping on. Text bubble.**
I mean im filling in the blanks here but you can read his actual words in this letter columbus wrote back to	Possibly highlight quotes from translated letter stating 1. the new

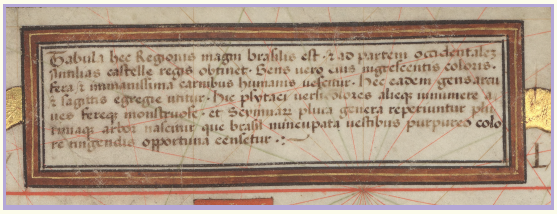
the king where he's like we "discovered many islands inhabited by numerous people. I took possession of all of them for our most fortunate King by making public proclamation and unfurling his standard, no one making any resistance."	resources he described, 2. that he had taken possession of them. (3. that "numerous" people were already there"
Music: needs to this is a giant turning point in the story. starts to get kinds scary and disturbing.	
[Everything goes black and the words "no one is making any resistance" stay on the screen.]	
Music: subtle hits to heighten the tension	
ONCAM: Spain and Portugal didn't set out to conquer, but simply to get in on all the trading happening in Asia. But Columbus's realization was that instead of trading, they could actually just take the land for themselves changed everything. After all, "no one is making any resistance"	**Text on screen: "no one is making any resistance"**
Music: punctuation evolves to something bigger. Maybe really simple simple synth.	
This is the foundation upon which european conquest was built, a first division, of many where europeans started to think of the world as having two status, Old and New **[label old world and new world when I say "old and new"]** the new world being basically anything that europeans saw as fair game to go conquer because they didn't have big armies or a Christian king. Forget trade with the east, there's a bunch of land we can go take to the west. The race was on.	STUDIO SHOOT: Top down of THIS PRINTED MAP **Animation on the top down footage zoom slightly (We still see the desk on the edges) labels, old world and new world**
and Spain and Portugal didn't want to fight with each other over all the new land, "there's enough for all of us" they said. So soon after columbus' big light bulb moment they drew these two lines.all of THIS would be up for grabs for spain. And all of THIS would be up for grabs for portugal.	-we're zoomed into spain and portugal. No other borders are on the map. Then we zoom out and see these two lines and color in these regions just like this map (not these colors tho lets do Spain = red and portugal =green and we start to see dashed lines representing ship voyages and as dashes lines arrive to new land that land turns the color of the empire and slowly the map starts to fill up with the colors of each empire, in their sphere.

	 I like this treatment below but I wanna shade the regions like africa, east indies, australia like the map above 
Im being literal here. They seriously just drew two straight lines. Look, this is the original map from the 1400s. Line, line, all this is spains, all this is portugals. They didn't ask anyone. They didn't negotiate with the locals. They were just like they dont have an army, i guess they're just ASKING us to come claim it. The pope actually helped broker the treaty. classic.	STUDIO SHOOT: ORIGINAL TORDESILLAS top down of original map printed. STILL NOT SURE WHICH ONE **and animation highlights and shades the map.** 
ONCAM **[JH big scattered energy. Maybe abrupt cut and music cut]** But a huge thing i wanna explain in this series is	**Maybe some clever editing that pairs**

that These lines weren't just lines! They were a paradigm shift, a new way of thinking about the world, a story that europeans could now tell themselves. Old world and New World, Claimed and unclaimed. A new way of thinking.	**with the rhythm of the writing like During "a new way of thinking about the world,story they could tell themselves" maybe we've rewound and are going through the columbus renders and archive, letter, "making no resistaance" again like we're doing a replay of those events like a story is now becmong engrained. And then during "old and new world, claimed and unclaimed" hard cut the map renders so like "old world" = map of europe "new world" = north america And then the exact same hard cuts for "claimed" and "unclaimed" the repetition could be a powerful motif**
Think i'm being too simplistic? I mean Don't take my word for it. Look at this! **[goes to map drawer and pulls out all the nautical maps]** This is a nautical atlas that official cartographer of the portuguese royal navy whipped up a few years after the straight line divide the world up treaty.	Then johnny gets out the nautical atlas prints STUDIO SHOOT: NAUTICAL ATLAS
[STUDIO SHOOT: TOP DOWN and Gimbal montage of johnny getting out atlas and sifting thru it]	
Hybrid Top Down moment (which means we have B roll map beauty shots from studio shoot but we also have these maps rigged up in the paper map template and we cut between the two. We use animation environment to really get up close to highlight certain feature. For paper animation, the best strategy is to just do a bunch of un timing animation moves for each of the things we want to emphasize. Output one big render and use it as footage to cut up with the shot B roll.	
MUSIC **MAGICAL "Enchanting" music. Like a ferry tale. But we're mocking it.** **Static close ups on all the parts of all the nautical altas maps. Showing the most fantastical parts.**	NAUTICAL ATLAS

	 Cut through some fantastical imagery.
This thing reads like a story book. It's like the portuguese were so giddy that they gave themselves permission to steal half the world that they had to write a children's story about it.	**-close up on castles, dragons etc**
The title page of this atlas is basically their half of the world. You see all of africa, little bit of south america, so now we know why Brazil speaks portuguese.	**Starts wide and 0 pitch then zooms in and focuses on african, the brazil**
Then you've got these angels around the perimeter, blowing the winds to help the portuguese sail harder and faster toward their land grab.	**-one simple glide up close on the angels** 
Sound up and hard cut to other close up details like the ships sailing. The ocean waves	**-2 close ups on ships in the ocean**
Flip the page and you see some closeups on brazil and the caribbean africa. All "UNCLAIMED"	**-glide along the coast of brazil and to see all the ports.**

here our little story depict all these flags, some spanish flags on the islands on their side of the line, and portuguese flags on their side. The status of this land, according in the fantasy of the portuguese, changed from “unclaimed” to “claimed” by men on ships with christian crosses on their sails, showing up and planting a flag, It’s alike a game of risk. **[music comes up as we look at this map both the render and the studio shots we got of it.]**	**And along the islands of the carribean and [hard cut] africa and now we’re seeing all the flags planted on the island)** **One glide of spain flags**  **Hard cut one glide of portguese flags** 
Ahh and look! There are people on this land. Dark skinned naked people with primitive tools and no homes.	**zooms in on these people on left side** 
Or down here in Brazil, the people here spend their time chopping wood naked and dancing, all while being gazed upon by fantastic birds and....dragons??	**-wide, and then zoom into brazil** **Pan around really close to all these scenes.** 

	
This was an official naval atlas drafted for the king and as if the message wasn't clear enough on how these people should be depicted, the atlas has a little info box that says that brazilians are “savage and very brutal”	
But yeah this atlas, really one of the first atlases ever made, was less of a navigation tool and more of a declaration of a new way of seeing the world. Unclaimed territory, subhuman people, all of it up for grabs by christian boats	**Hard cut recap to studio shots and renders of each of these elements. End on a nice white shot that we can take in.**
New music CONCLUSION TIME. Kinda sad	
So yeah this is how it all started. under this new paradigm, both empires expanded quickly forcing the spanish and portuguese languages across oceans, and mining vasts quantities of silver, creating plantations for tobacco and sugar. And in the process massacring the people living here both with weapons and with their European city germs that these people had no immunity to.	
It started with curiosity, with a thirst to get in on trade in asia. But soon as the fantasy of “unclaimed” land came into the picture, the goal shifted, the project pivoted. And soon europe had told themself a story that they, enlightened christians were entitled to claim it. And while it started with portugal and spain, soon other	

european countries poked their head up from their farm work and said, hey we’re white christians who know how to sail, we want in on this unclaimed land story too. And that’s the next chapter in the story. One that I will tell you in the next part of the series.	