

Columbus's first voyage

- Isabella wished to spread Christianity - agreed to **sponsor** Columbus
- Challenges included: finding enough food, ships and crew; possible obstruction by Portuguese rivals; **Martin Pinzón** disagreed with navigation plans
- Columbus won over Pinzón, who helped him find three ships
- Oct 1492 - Columbus discovered land across the Atlantic - claims **San Salvador** for Spain



Catholic Church had great influence over everyday life

Emerging as powerful country but rivalled by France and Portugal

Church supported **crusades** to spread Christianity to foreign countries

Ruled by **Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand**

Spain in the 1490s

Exploration to expand influence, trade and wealth

Initial contact friendly and resulted in trade - Columbus described **Tainos** as 'good slaves' but **Caribs** as 'ferocious'

Contact with 'Indians'

Gold, cotton and tobacco found



First incident of violence at **Samana** between natives and Spanish, who were looking for gold

SPAIN REACHES THE 'NEW WORLD', c1490-1512

Columbus as governor

- Columbus became 'Viceroy of the Indies' (**governor**)
- He had 17 ships for the purpose of founding settlements across the Caribbean and sending gold back to Spain
- He could appoint officials to act on his behalf

The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)

- Portugal wanted to claim the **New World** - war became likely
- **Pope Alexander VI** intervened with the **Treaty of Tordesillas**, which divided the land between Spain and Portugal (most went to Spain)

Santa Domingo

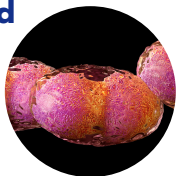
- Columbus's brother Bartholomew built a settlement at **Santa Domingo** - Columbus returned to rebellion and hung Spaniards and natives
- Spanish government sent new leader, **Francisco de Bobadilla**
- Columbus and Bartholomew imprisoned

→ **Encomienda system** saw natives exploited as slaves - natives provided labour in exchange for 'protection'

→ Natives required to pay **tribute** to Spanish in gold, cotton or produce and work in gold mines

→ Spanish brought **smallpox** with them which killed many natives who did not have immunity

→ Natives who revolted were brutally killed



Catholic **missionaries** sent to convert the native population

Santa Domingo developed as Spanish centre of territorial rule

Ferdinand and Isabella **regulated exploration** in the New World through fees and ship registration

The Laws of Burgos (1512) maintained the **encomienda system** - turned natives into slaves

Casa de Contratacion established a Spanish monopoly on trade in the Caribbean

Imperial policy