

# A Rush of New Ideas

In the 1400s, a new age of learning, science, and art began in Europe. Historians call this time of new ideas the Renaissance (REH-NUH-SAHNS), which means, "rebirth." It began in Italy, and would then spread throughout Europe.

Europeans were fascinated by the idea of traveling to Asia. A famous traveler, known as Marco Polo, had visited the country and had written a book about his experience. People all over Europe bought the book, and merchants began purchasing goods such as silks and spices from China. Europeans bought or wanted to buy many of these goods due high demand for these products. This would eventually lead to other countries trying to find a quicker route to this popular country so they could make more money.

At the time, no Europeans had traveled to Asia by sea. They had no maps that showed the world correctly. Sailors lacked the technology, the scientific knowledge and tools, needed for such a long trip. But, that all began to change the day when Prince Henry of Portugal open a school of navigation.

Prince Henry's school of navigation was extremely beneficial for people wanting to find a quicker way to Asia. Students of the school came up with ways to make newer, faster ships that were capable of carrying more goods or merchandise. Compasses, astrolabes, and real maps were developed during this time as well. Eventually, students of the school led expeditions, or trips, to test the things they created and they found a way to Asia. The route taken was around the tip of Africa. The country of Portugal ended up making a lot of money during this time period.

Opinion -

Factual Support

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