

Hello viewers,

In this paper the rise of the Modern West, we study Prince Henry the navigator. This module helps us to understand the voyages of exploration carried out under the able leadership of Prince Henry of Portugal in the 15th century. This module will be able to understand the background of Prince Henry's interest in exploration. Secondly, a viewer will be able to gain knowledge about the places explored by the sailors of Prince Henry the Navigator during his lifetime and Thirdly, it will help them to understand the impact of these exploration on Europe and the world at large. Can you see the image flashed in the background? This is Prince Henry the Navigator. He wears a very composed and a regal look. Why do I say regal? That is because he was born a Prince. His parents were King John of Portugal and his mother were Queen Philippa of Lancaster. During his lifetime he achieved several laurels and titles. He was popularly addressed as the *Enrique*, *Infante* or the Duke. Apart from the above, we must remember that he is popularly best remembered as the navigator, which, according to researchers, is a misnomer. Why do I say it is a misnomer? That is because Prince Henry the Navigator never sailed on a single expedition during his lifetime, although he sent sail many navigators to discover new places. Let now study the reasons that led Prince Henry to initiate exploration. Well, there are several reasons. One of the foremost reason is the intellectual firmament of times. What you mean by this? We must remember that Henry was born at a time when Renaissance was at its peak, so, in a way we could say that Henry himself is the product of the Renaissance, and as such he was imbued with the intellectual spirit of this period. He grew up reading books on chivalry, astronomy, and adventure.

He developed new visions of the Earth, the Seas, and the new lands that probably lay across the continents. In 1415, an interesting phenomenon occurred in Portugal which with changed the

whole course of its history. King John, the father of Prince Henry the Navigator, along with Prince Henry himself and one of his brother, attacked Suter. Suter was

an island region in the North Atlantic Ocean. It was dominated

by the Moors and was known for its gold, slave, and ivory trade. This served as an eye opener.

To Prince Henry and why do I say so that this gave him the option of realizing that Portugal could probably profit in the future of exploring these products for the country?

Yet another important factor was the search of the land of Prester John. Well, what was this land of Prester John and who was Prester John? There was a lot of mystery, about this land, and the King. Nobody knew where exactly the land of Prester John lay. It was said by writers and scholars of the medieval times that he was a King who lives somewhere in Africa. There were others who floated theories that he lived in the Indies. Whatever was his destination, the prospect of trading with a rich King and the one who possess a lot of wealth was very motivating for Prince Henry. Yet another factor was the desire to acquire slave trades. Well, why were slaves needed by Prince Henry and many monarchs of Europe? Slaves could work as domestic help in households of the Portuguese aristocrats. Apart from that, one could benefit from the sale of human cargo. It was believed that one cargo of slaves could reimburse the cost of sailing and generated profit to the person who sponsored the slave trade.

In 1493, an interesting phenomenon occurred and that was the fall of Constantinople