

VII: INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE:

**Changing Patterns of International Trade in Late
Medieval Europe, ca. 1280 – ca. 1520:**

**Part II: The Rise of the Antwerp Market: the
roles of English, South German and Portuguese
Trade**

revised 27 November 2013

Introduction: England, Antwerp, and Portugal

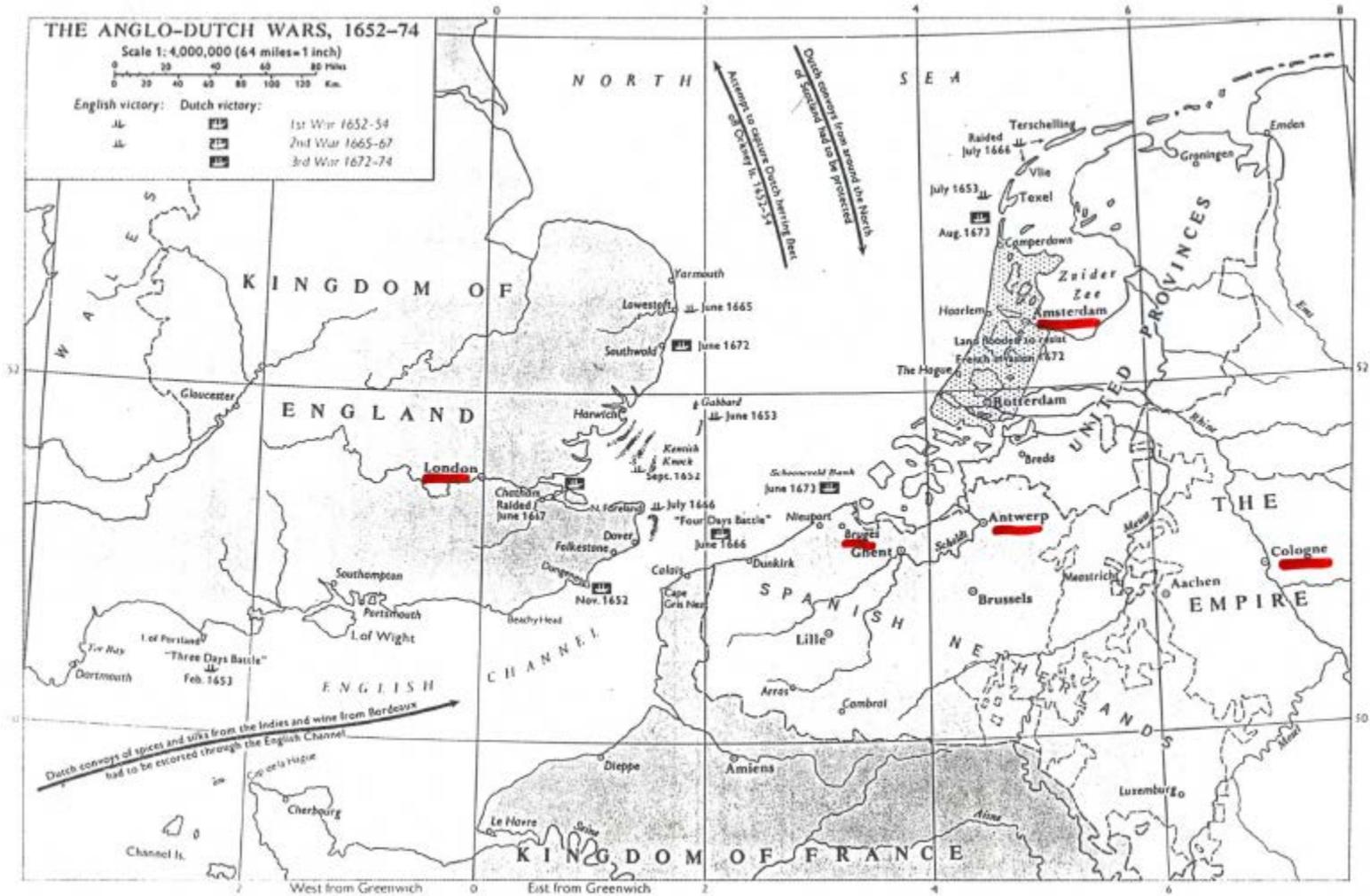
- **Two-fold purpose of today's lecture:**
- (1) **To explore the rise of Antwerp Market:** to understand how Antwerp became the commercial and financial capital of the European economy in the century ca. 1460 – ca. 1560
 - - (2) **based on this commercial TRIPOD:**
 - - (i) **English woollen cloths:** the first leg
 - - (ii) **South German silver, copper, & banking:** second leg
 - - (iii) **Portuguese spices from Asia:** third & final leg
- (2) **To explore The Rise of Portugal:** to see **how this economically isolated region came to inaugurate European overseas exploration, colonization, and imperialism:** from the early 15th century

THE ANGLO-DUTCH WARS, 1652-74

Scale 1: 4,000,000 (64 miles = 1 inch)
 0 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles
 0 20 40 60 80 100 120 Km.

English victory: Dutch victory:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| ⚔ | ⚔ | 1st War 1652-54 |
| ⚔ | ⚔ | 2nd War 1665-67 |
| ⚔ | ⚔ | 3rd War 1672-74 |



© 1988 by the National Geographic Society

Northern Commerce: England, Germany, and the Antwerp Market

- 1) **England, the Hanse, and the Baltic:**
- a) **The Hanseatic League**, in facing the dual threat of the English & Dutch invasion of the Baltic in the late 14th century, focused on the English as the greater threat
- b) **The English Threat: was it a 'paper tiger'?**
- - **Major military power** that had almost conquered France: in alliance with the dukes of Burgundy.
- - **but duke Philip the Good of Burgundy deserted the English alliance** in 1436 to support France
- - **and France defeated England: 1453** → End of 100 Years War)

Expansion of English Cloth Trade 1

- 2) **Woollen Cloth trade**: the shift to Antwerp
- - **Cloth-export trade major force** in English commerce & economy to 17th century: accounted for 90% of total export values
- - **England had become major European producer** of good quality but relatively cheaper luxury woollens:
- **woollen cloths were by far the most important** manufactured good in Hanseatic commerce
- - **Rhenish Hanse (led by Cologne)**: were major participants in English cloth export trade
- - **but many Hanse towns remained loyal to draperies of Low Countries**: Flanders & Brabant- even though their woollens cost 3 times more than the English

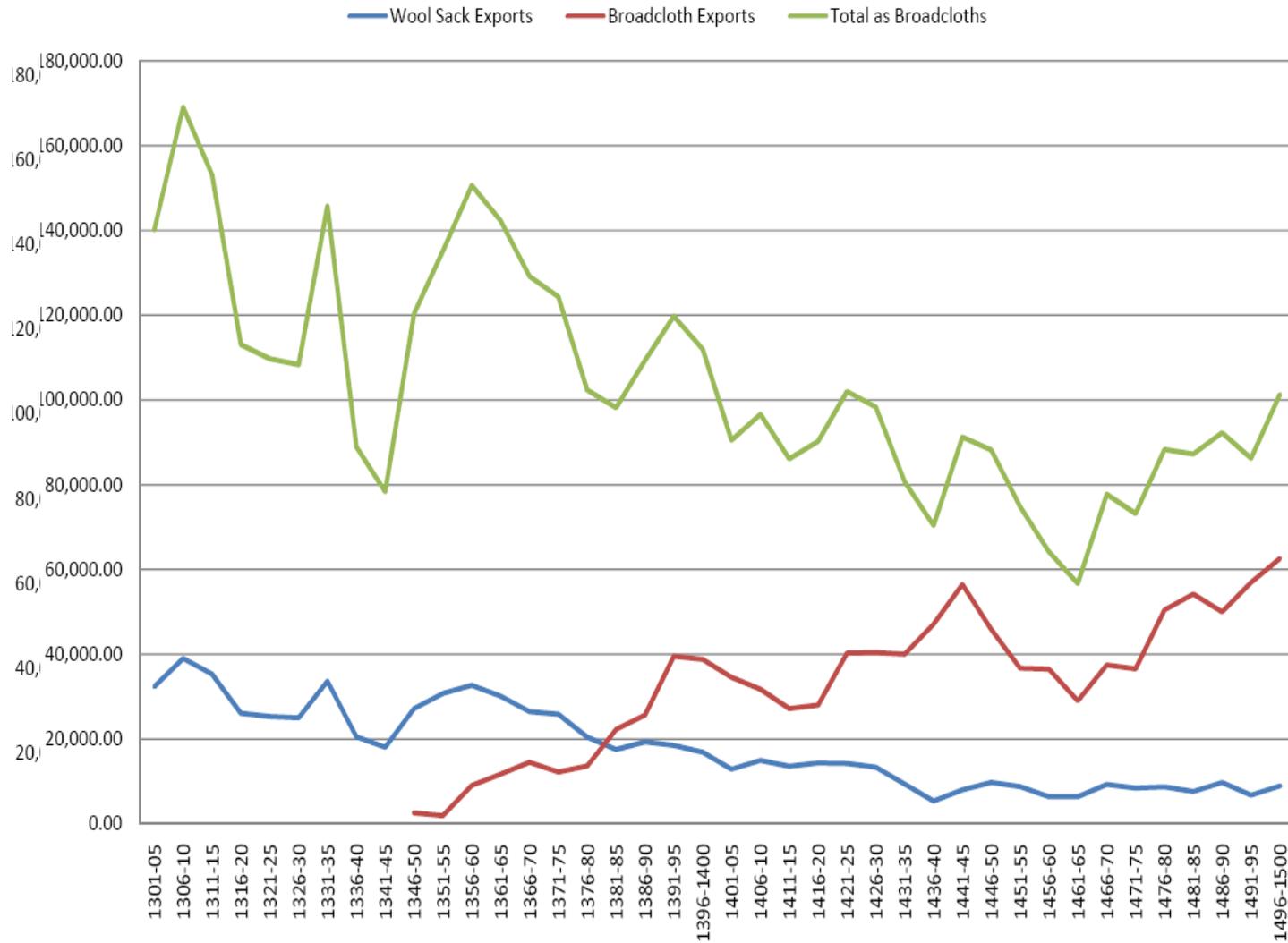
Expansion of English Cloth Trade 2

- (1) **English advantages in cloth export trade:**
- a) **abundant supplies of world's finest wools** (before Spanish Merino supremacy in later 16th century)-
- - **wools were untaxed** for domestic production,
- - **while taxes on wool exports** (to Low Countries, Italy) rose to 50% of wholesale value by 1390s:
- - **accounted for 65%-70% of Flemish cloth** production costs

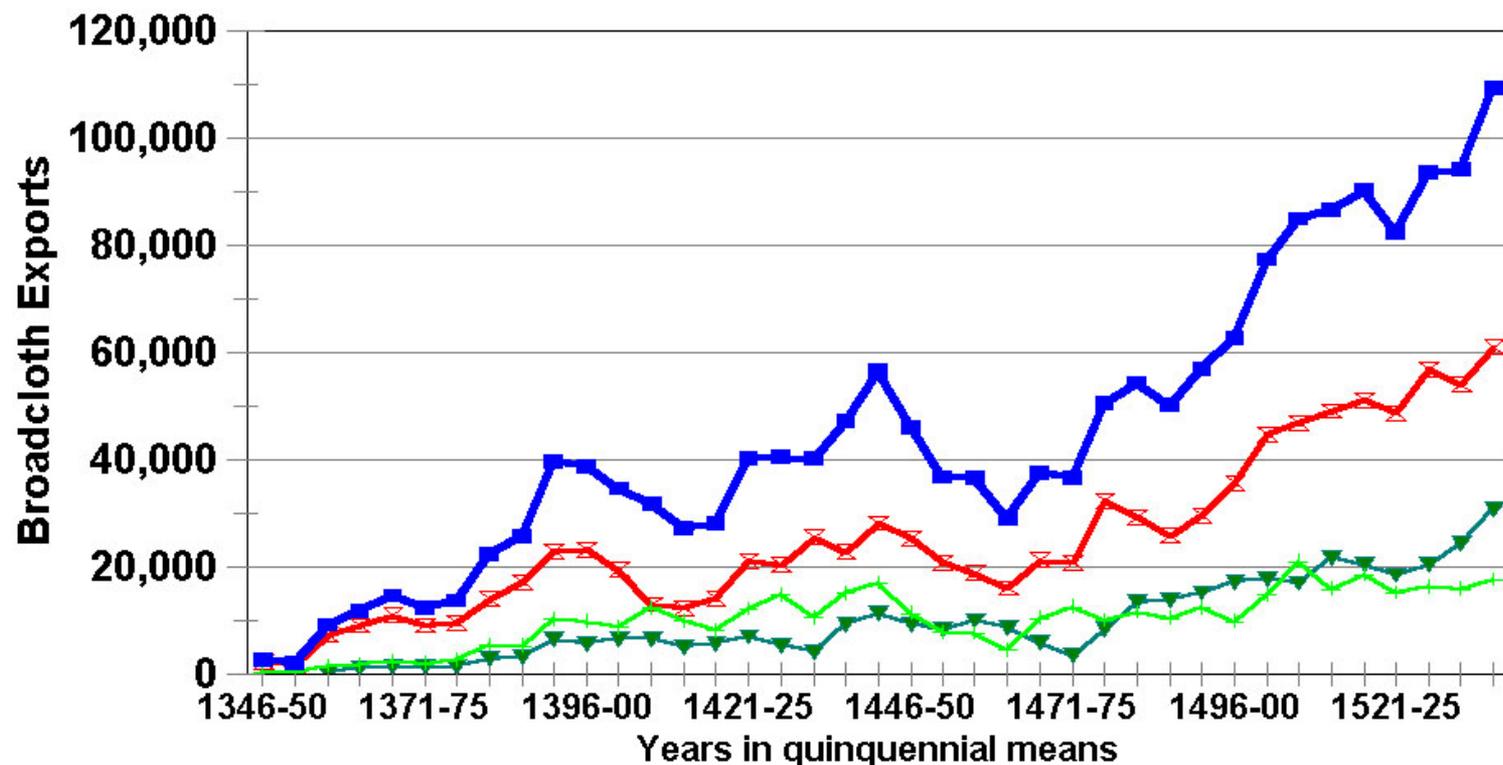
Expansion of English Cloth Trade 3

- **b) The English wool trade with establishment of the Calais Staple (1363):**
- - passed on full wool export tax incidence on to all foreign buyers
- - taxes on cloth exports were only 2.5%-3.0% of export values
- - gave English a 30% cost advantage all rivals
- **c) Other advantages in rural location were less important:**
- - guild free production with cheaper labour??
- - water-powered mechanical fulling:

Exports of English Wooolsacks and Broadcloths: in Quinquennial Means, 1301-05 to 1496-1500



English Broadcloth Exports: 5 yr means Denizens, Aliens & Hansards 1346-1540



—△— Denizen cloth exports —▽— Hansard exports
—+— Other Alien Exports —■— Total English Exports

Expansion of English Cloth Trade 3

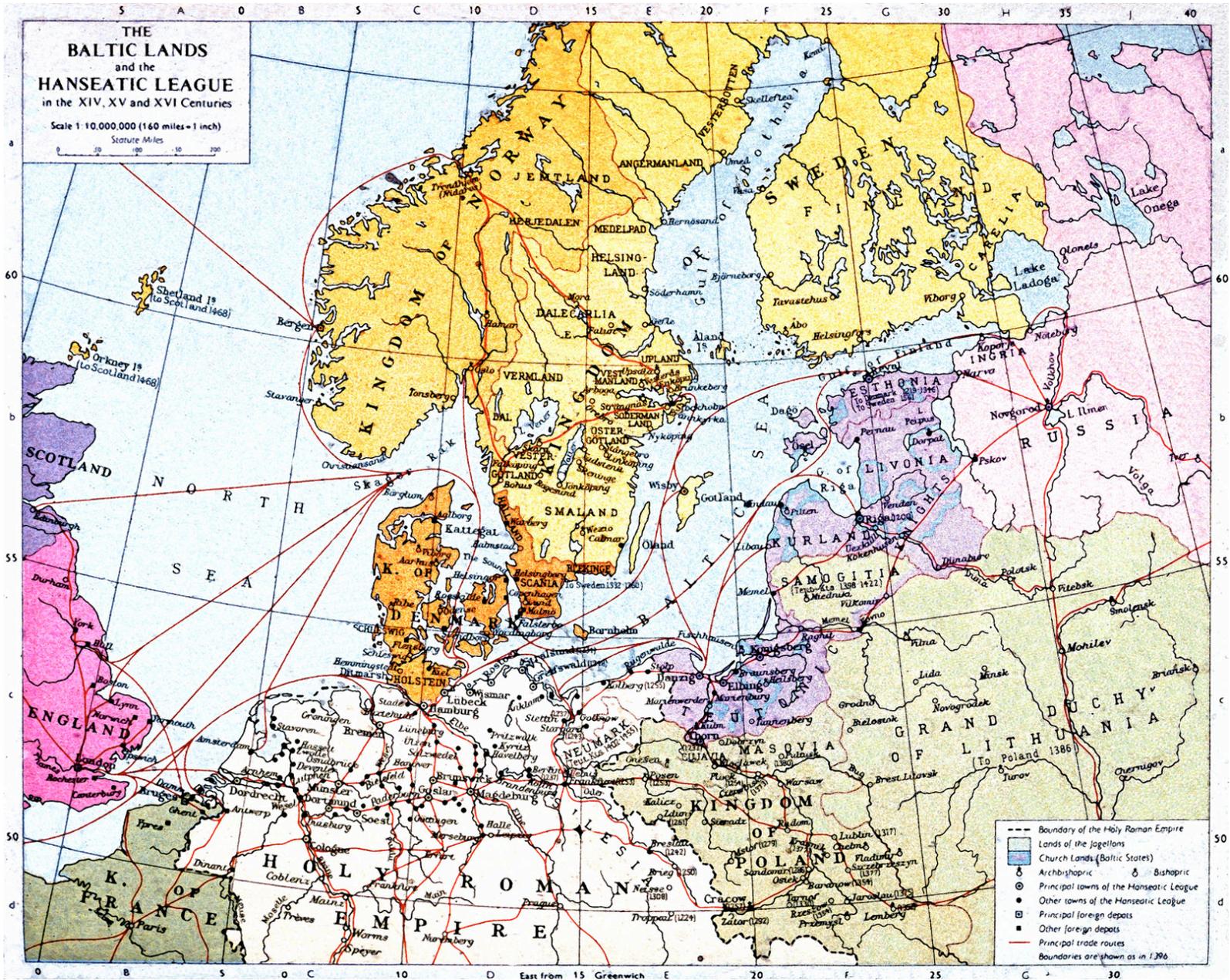
- (2) **Why was the English victory so long delayed?**
- a) **luxury reorientation of international trade from 1340s: favoured urban woollen draperies in Low Countries & Italy**
- i) **Draperies in Low Countries & Italy (Florence) had a far superior reputation for luxury quality**
- ii) **Their Urban locations bestowed advantages**
 - - town-backed guilds enforced quality controls
 - - more highly educated & skilled labour
 - - more direct control by urban merchants

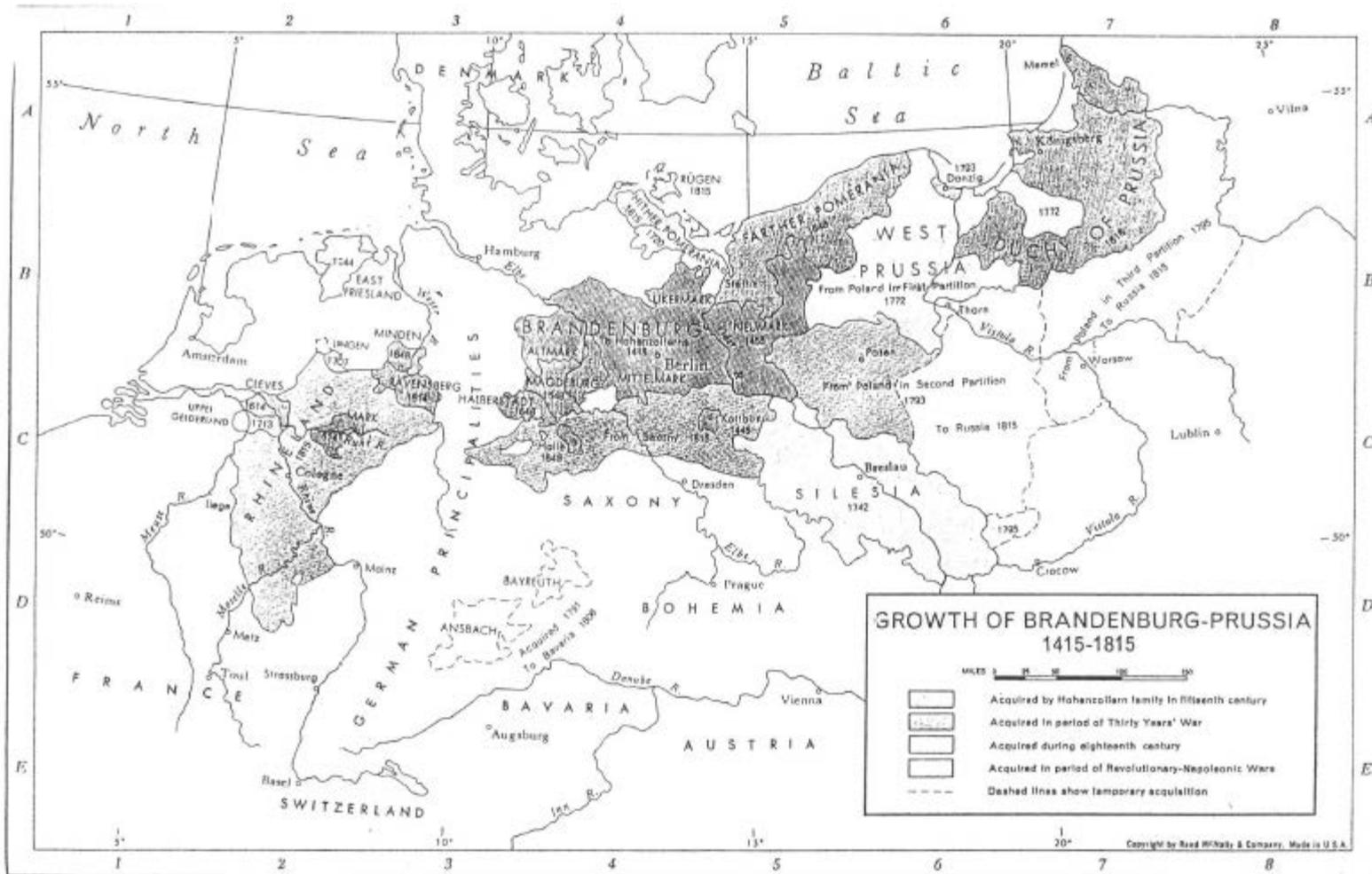
Expansion of English Cloth Trade 4

- iii) **question of fulling-mills:** urban draperies in Low Countries **rejected mechanical fulling:**
- **on grounds that it would impair quality --** reputation for luxury quality --- while reducing sales prices by only 3%
- b) **Flemish bans on English cloth imports: from 1359** – but those in Brabant and Holland (1428) were not effective: nor were later bans
- c) **loyalty of the Hanseatic League (in Baltic towns)** to Flemish & Brabantine woollens

English Cloth Trade in Baltic: advances and setbacks: 1

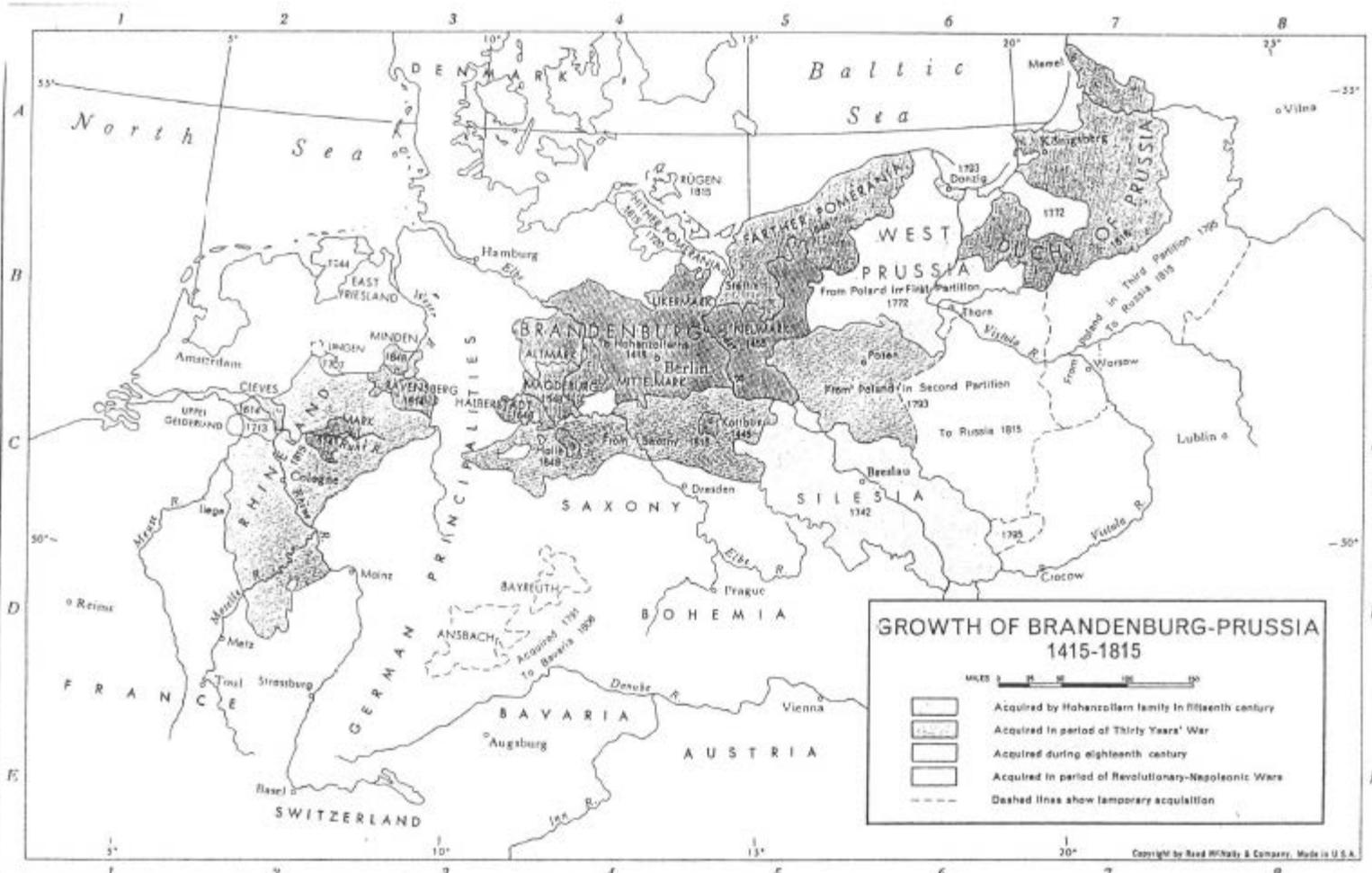
- (1) **England and Danzig (Prussia) to 1410**
- - **From 1370s, English established maritime commercial links with Danzig, in Prussia:** gain access to German, Polish, Russian markets
- - **Flemish Cloth Ban (1359):** key reason for doing so
- - **Danzig (estuary of Vistula):** chief port for **Teutonic Order**, controlling the **Prussian League** of towns
- - **English (& Dutch trade) benefited from Flemish problems:** esp. the Ghent rebellion 1379-1385 and Hanseatic Blockade of 1388-92 (over damages German merchants suffered in that in civil war)





North Sea

Baltic Sea



FRANCE

AUSTRIA

SWITZERLAND

GROWTH OF BRANDENBURG-PRUSSIA 1415-1815

- Acquired by Hohencollern family in fifteenth century
- Acquired in period of Thirty Years' War
- Acquired during eighteenth century
- Acquired in period of Revolutionary-Napoleonic Wars
- Dashed lines show temporary acquisition

Copyright by Reed Wickham & Company, Made in U.S.A.

English Cloth Trade in Baltic: advances and setbacks: 2

- (2) **Prussian Opposition to English Merchants**
- - **English merchants foolishly tried to bypass Hanseatic brokers:** to deal directly with towns in Prussia and Poland
- - **English also angered Hanse by seeking Parliamentary revocation of Hanseatic privileges in England:** by the 1302 Carta Mercatoria
- - **Treaty of Marienburg, 1410:** Prussian League agreed to English treaty with reciprocal trading privileges, on insistence of other Hanse towns

Hanseatic Defeat of the English 1

- (3) **English setbacks: loss of the Baltic trades**
- a) **Prussians never ratified the Marienburg Treaty**
- i) **1410: Battle of Tannenberg**: Polish armies defeated Teutonic Order
- - **territorial & commercial contraction** → increased Hanseatic opposition to English
- ii) **increased piracy** in the Baltic from 1390
- iii) **English cloth exports** peaked ca. 1410

Hanseatic Defeat of the English 2

- b) **Hanseatic Vorrath Treaty of 1437:**
- - another English attempt to gain reciprocal trading rights from the Hanseatic League, which again failed to ratify the treaty
- c) **Hanseatic defeat in the Dutch-Wendish War 1436-39: Treaty of Copenhagen 1441**
- d) **English corsair raids on Wendish (Lübeck) shipping** in later 1430s & 1440s →
- - **Lübeck now joined Prussian League** to evict the English: but against opposition of the Rhenish League, which exported English cloths

Hanseatic Defeat of the English 3

- e) **Treaty of Utrecht, 1474:**
- **England lost all its Baltic trading privileges-**
- - price that Edward IV had to pay for Hanseatic support to regain his throne in 1471 (Wars of the Roses: civil war in England)
- - **English were forced to renounce all trading rights in the Baltic**, while guaranteeing all Hanseatic privileges in England (by and from the Carta Mercatoria 1302)

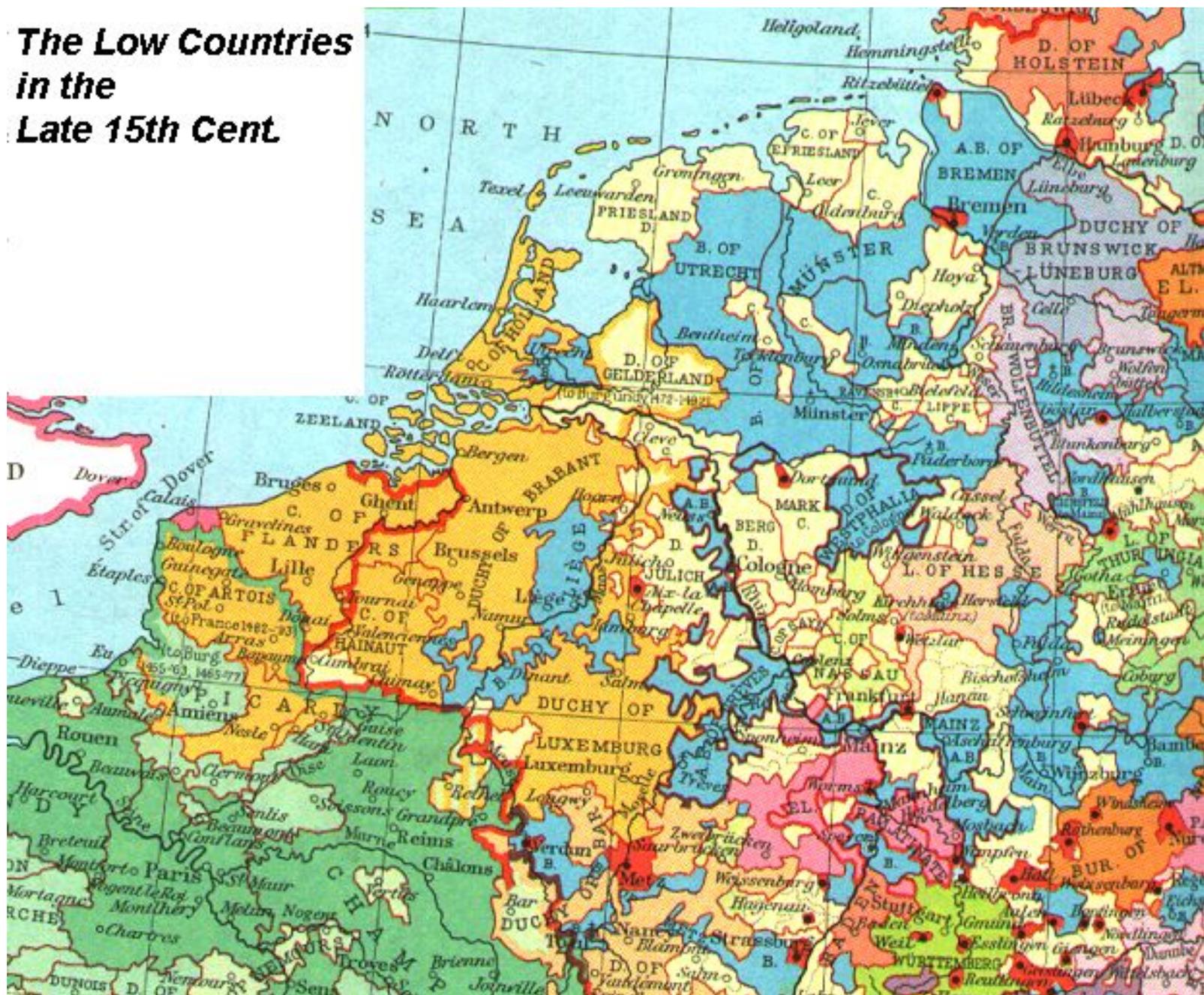
English Cloth Trade and the Antwerp Market from 1421 - 1

- 1) **English commercial crisis of 1450s**
- - **loss of Hanseatic markets in the Baltic,**
- - **growing Dutch supremacy in the Baltic**
- - **loss of Scandinavian markets:** in Denmark, Norway, Iceland:
- - **loss of French markets:** with the end of Hundred Years War (1453)
- - **Italians excluded English ships from the Mediterranean** (to the 1570s: next term)

English Cloth Trade and the Antwerp Market from 1421 - 2

- 2) **Alternative markets in the Low Countries: became all the more essential**
 - - a) **Middleburg (Zealand) from 1380s**: but always only secondary to the Baltic, and later Antwerp
 - - b) **Bruges (Flanders)**: still remained closed because of the permanent Flemish ban on English cloths (from 1359)
 - - c) **Antwerp (Brabant)**, at estuary of the Scheldt river: only other port available to gain access to Low Countries & Germany
 - - **Antwerp had no local cloth industry to protect**
 - - **welcomed English merchants** to trade with German merchants
 - - **1421: England's Merchants Adventurers Company**:
 - - guild of London-based cloth merchants:
 - - established its overseas headquarters in Antwerp

The Low Countries in the Late 15th Cent



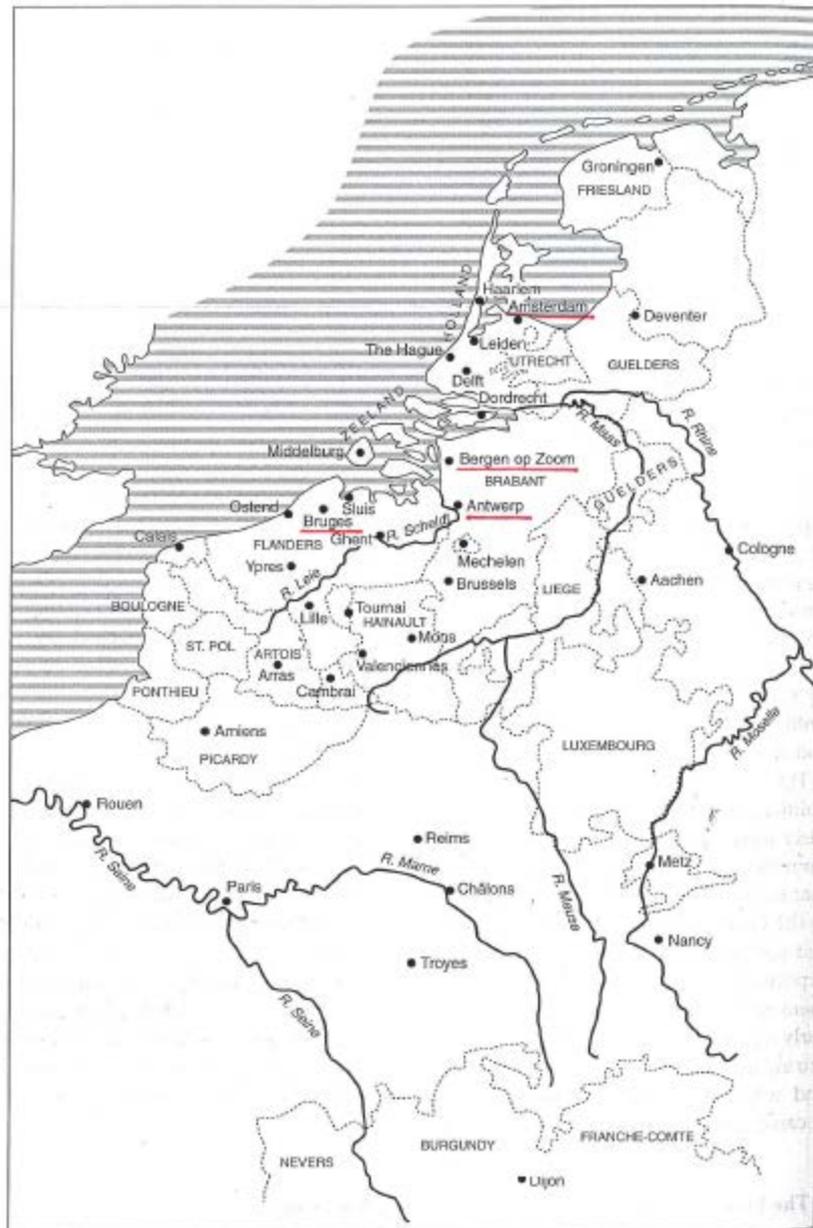


Fig 6.1 Map of the Low Countries and northern France, showing main trading areas of English merchants.

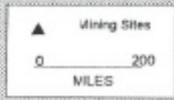
The Germans, the Brabant Fairs, and Antwerp in early 15th century - 1

- (1) **The Brabant Fairs**: annual cycle of four fairs, held alternatively at **Antwerp and Bergen-op-Zoom** (to the north: now in Netherlands)
- (2) **West German merchants**: **Cologne** and other towns of the Rhenish Hanse
 - - sold wines, etc., in return for woollens: Flemish, Brabantine, English
- (3) **English Cloth Trade to Antwerp: boom from the 1420s**
 - - **English gained access to cloth-finishing** in towns of Brabant (Antwerp) & Holland

The Germans, the Brabant Fairs, and Antwerp in early 15th century - 2

- (4) **Revival of Overland Continental Trade** from 1440s → **European economic recovery**: only 20% of the distance by maritime routes from Venice to Bruges
 - - **followed more easterly routes**, free of warfare
 - - **Venice: via Alps (Brenner Pass) to South Germany-**
- (5) **South Germany**: **silver-copper mining boom** from 1460s & growth of the fustians industry (Syrian cotton)
 - - **Frankfurt Fairs**: linking South Germany & Rhineland by the Rhine
 - - **down Rhine to the Brabant Fairs** – and Antwerp market:
 - - **where the South Germans surpassed Rhenish merchants in buying English cloths** as return cargo: exchange for copper, silver, and fustian textiles

Trading, Tourism,
and Silver-mining Centers
of Late Medieval Western Europe





Setbacks & Final Victory of English Cloth Trade: 1440s – 1470s (1)

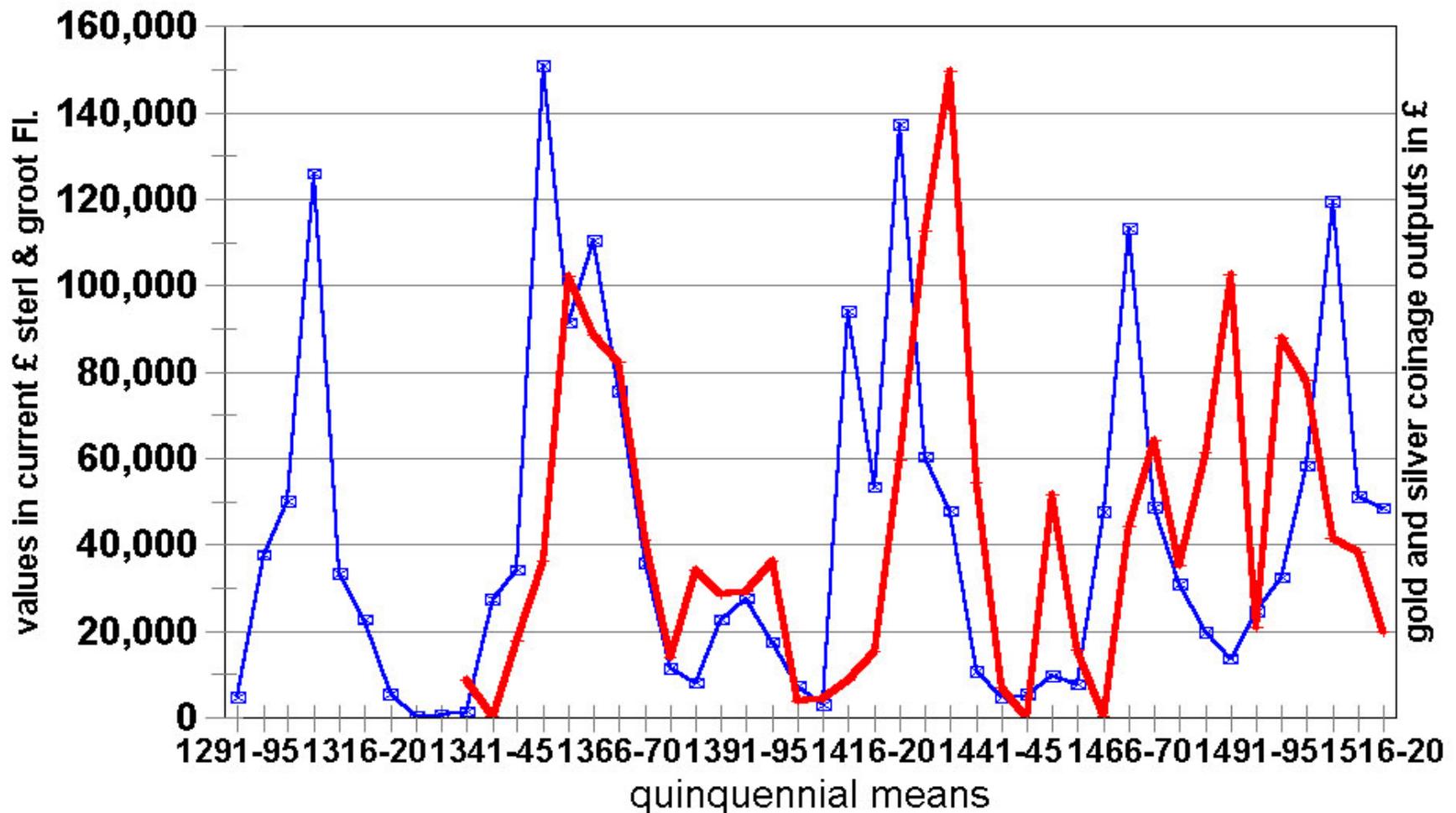
- (1) **English cloth exports** suffered another serious contraction, from its peak in the mid 1440s (see graph)
- - **Final disastrous phases** of Hundred Years War
- - **another demographic slump**
- - **widespread commercial recessions** in northern Europe

- (2) **English Monetary (Bullionist) Policies: a mutual disaster**
- -a) **1429: Calais Staple Bullion Ordinances: response to Flemish coinage debasements**
- - **Wool Staplers required to exact full payment** in bullion & English coin, **permitting no credit**
- - **small monopolistic clique** given control of Staple
- - **sharply raised wool prices** as well at Calais

Setbacks & Final Victory of English Cloth Trade: 1440s – 1470s - 2

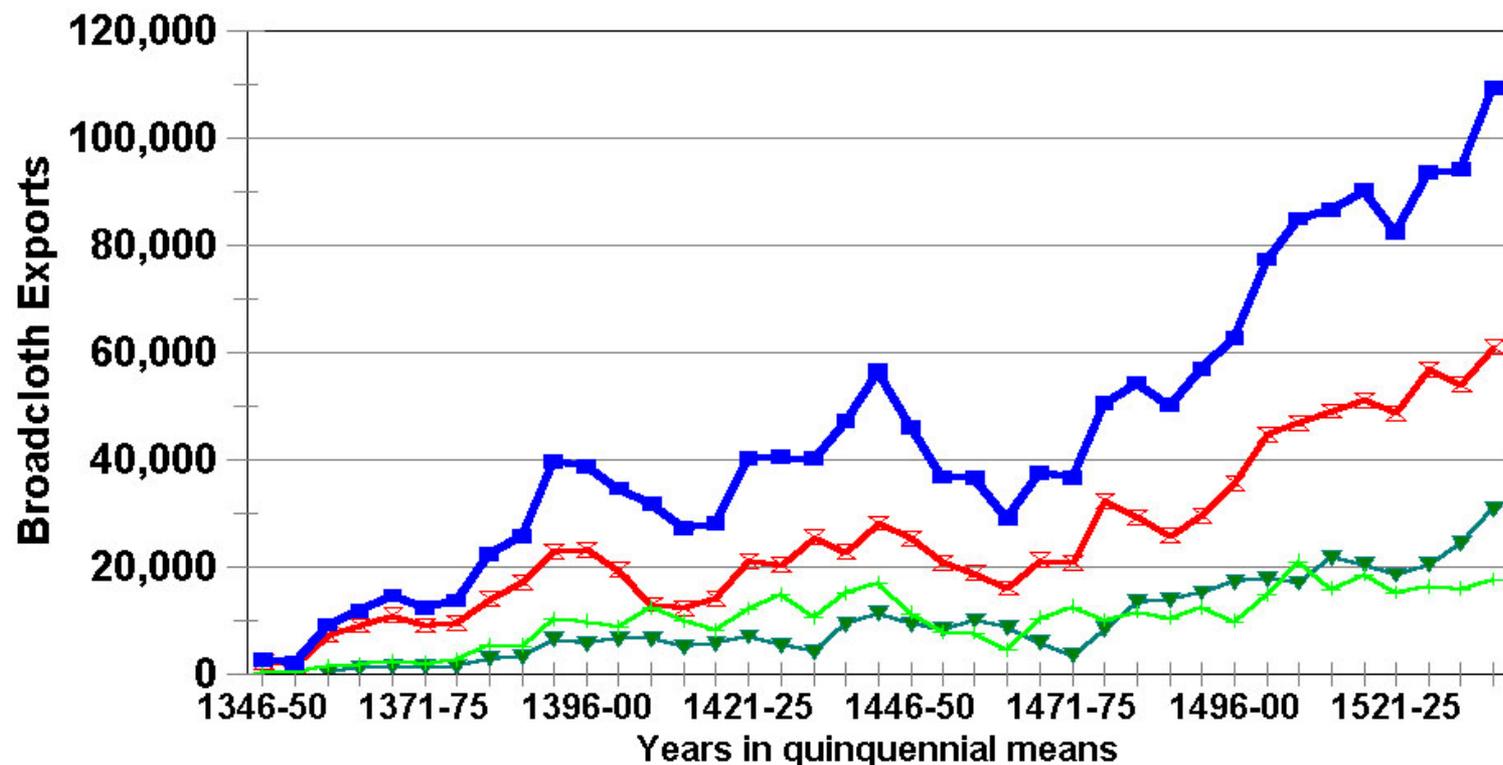
- (2) **English Monetary (Bullionist) Policies: a mutual disaster**
- b) **economically disastrous for Low Countries draperies:**
 - severe slumps in LC cloth production; English wool and cloth exports (see graphs)
- c) **Burgundian retaliation against England**
 - - **1434: total ban** on English cloth in Burgundian Low Countries
 - - **1436: Duke Philip deserts** the English to ally with France
 - - **1436-39: Anglo-Burgundian war:** settled by peacetreaty of 1439
- e) **Renewals of Calais bullion laws → led to more cloth bans:** 1447-52, 1464-67
- f) **But Edward IV and Parliament forced to revoke Calais Ordinances:** in 1473 (after Burgundians helped him regain throne)
 - - **Provisions confirmed by Anglo-Burgundian trade treaty of 1478**

Total Current Values of Mint Outputs England & Low Countries, 1290-1520



—■— English Mint Outputs in £ sterling
 —■— Low Countries' Mint Outputs in £ gr.

English Broadcloth Exports: 5 yr means Denizens, Aliens & Hansards 1346-1540



—x— Denizen cloth exports —v— Hansard exports
—+— Other Alien Exports —■— Total English Exports

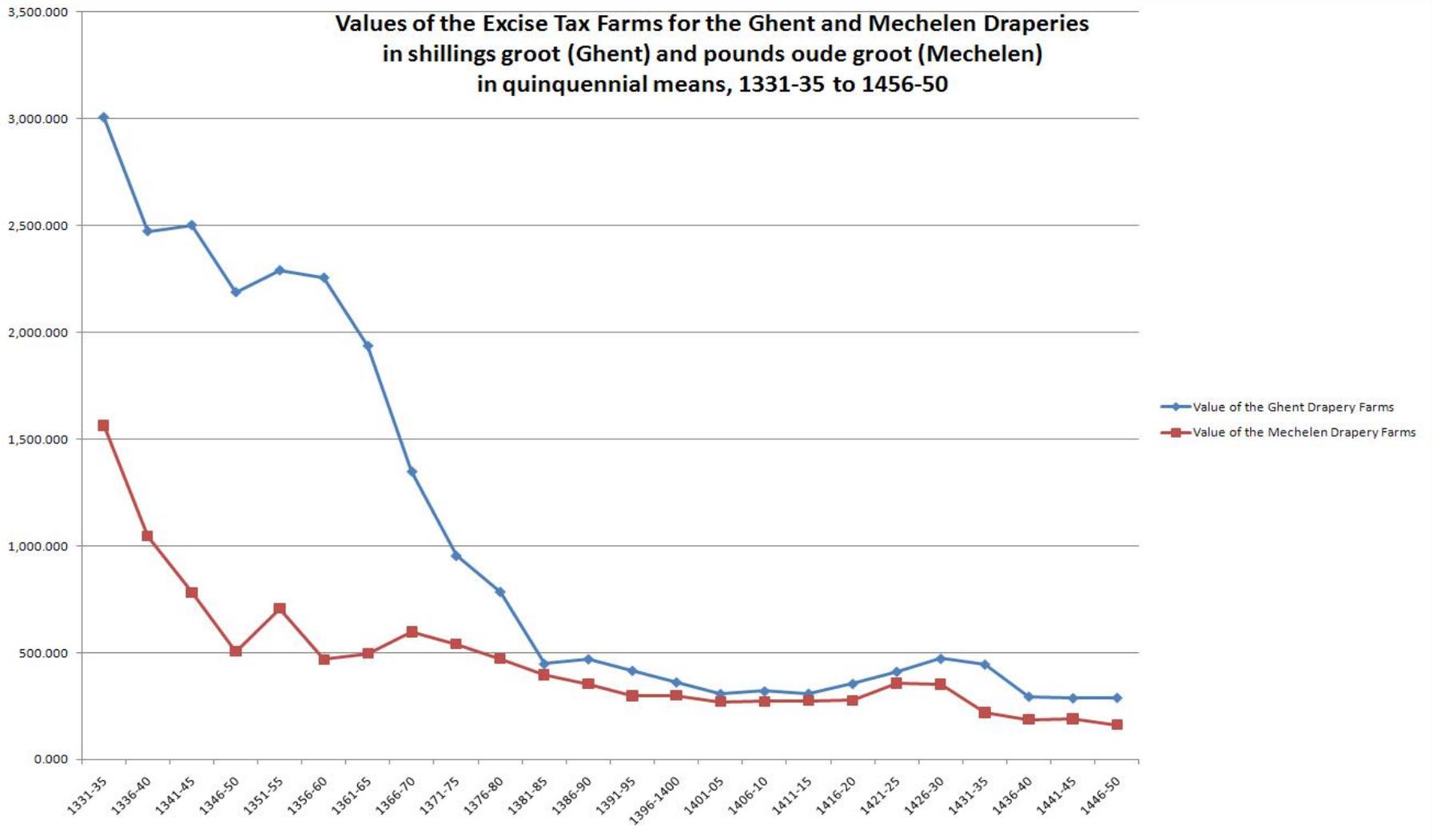
Setbacks & Final Victory of English Cloth Trade: 1440s – 1470s (2)

- 3. **Consequences: Major Industrial Changes in the Low Countries**
- a) **Urban luxury draperies in the Low Countries suffered irreparable damages** from both the Calais Bullion Laws and
- b) **conflict with the Hanseatic League, 1451-57**
- - **yet another Hanseatic embargo of Bruges** over commercial disputes
- - **severe damages** to both cloth industries of Low Countries and Hanseatic Baltic trade
- c) **Dutch took advantage to expand their own cloth industry** (Leiden), cloth exports and Baltic commerce

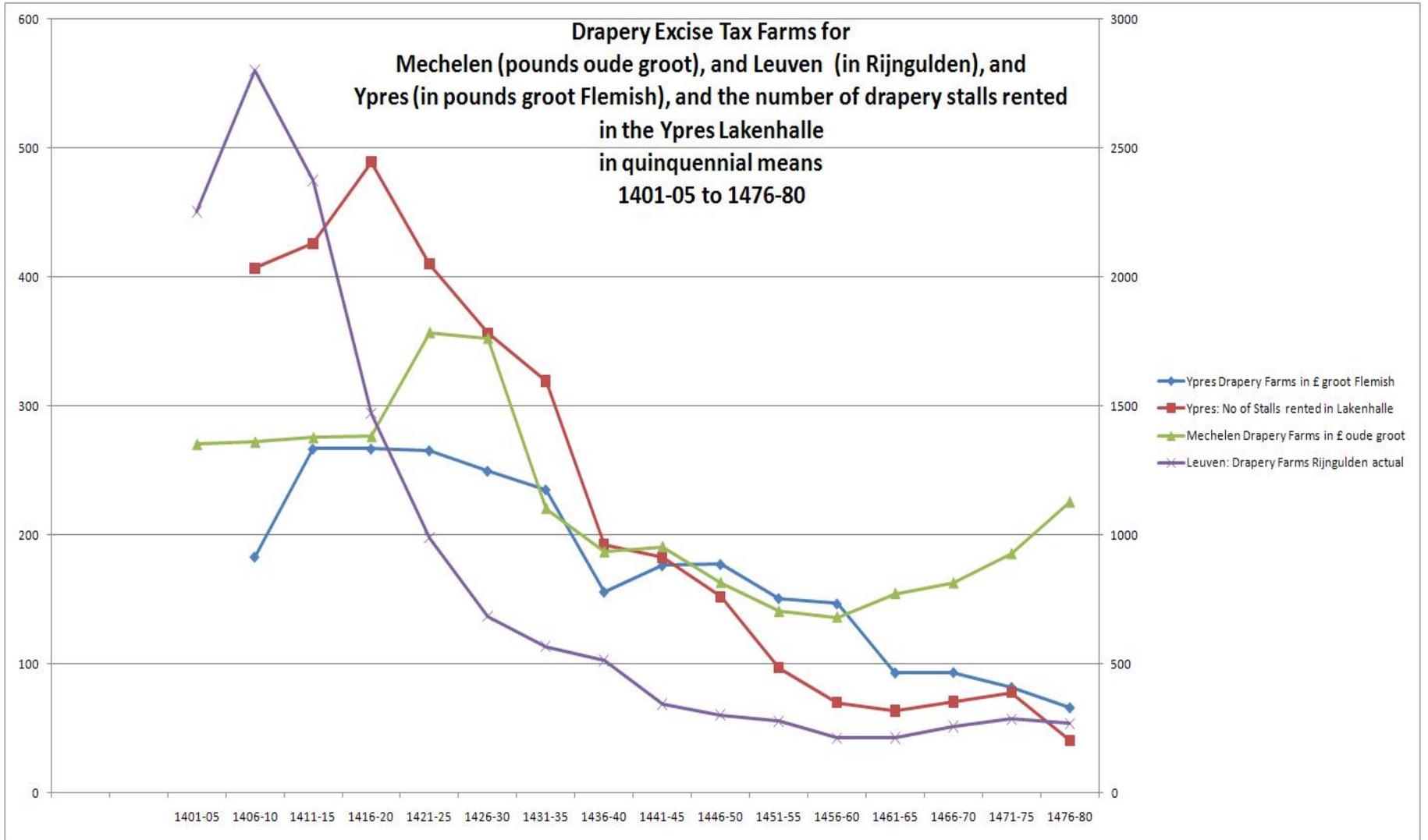
Setbacks & Final Victory of English Cloth Trade: 1440s – 1470s (3)

- 3. **Consequences: Major Industrial Changes**
- d) **Chief consequence: almost total English victory** in international cloth trade: over Low Countries & Italy
- e) **Expansion of *nouvelles draperies* in Low Countries**
- - rival woollen industries in small Flemish towns:
- - **the first to resort to new Spanish merino wools** (mixed with English wools),
- - which the traditional urban luxury draperies refused to do
- f) **subsequent revival and expansion of worsted-style *draperies légères***: led again by Hondschoote (Flanders):
- g) **but more a feature of demographic & economic expansion**: revival of trans-continental routes to Italy

**Values of the Excise Tax Farms for the Ghent and Mechelen Draperies
in shillings groot (Ghent) and pounds oude groot (Mechelen)
in quinquennial means, 1331-35 to 1456-50**

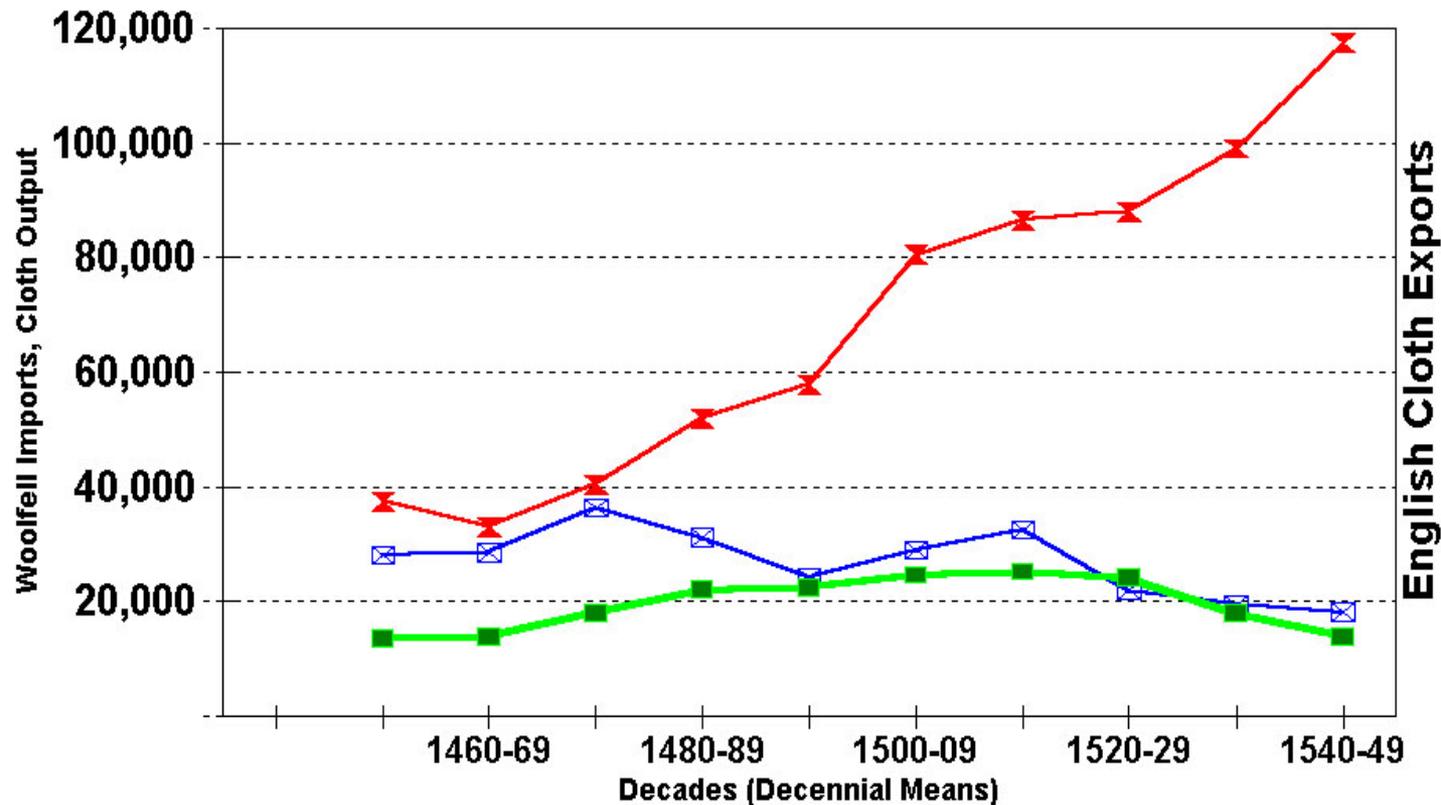


**Drapery Excise Tax Farms for
Mechelen (pounds oude groot), and Leuven (in Rijngulden), and
Ypres (in pounds groot Flemish), and the number of drapery stalls rented
in the Ypres Lakenhalle
in quinquennial means
1401-05 to 1476-80**



Leiden & English Cloth, 1450-1550

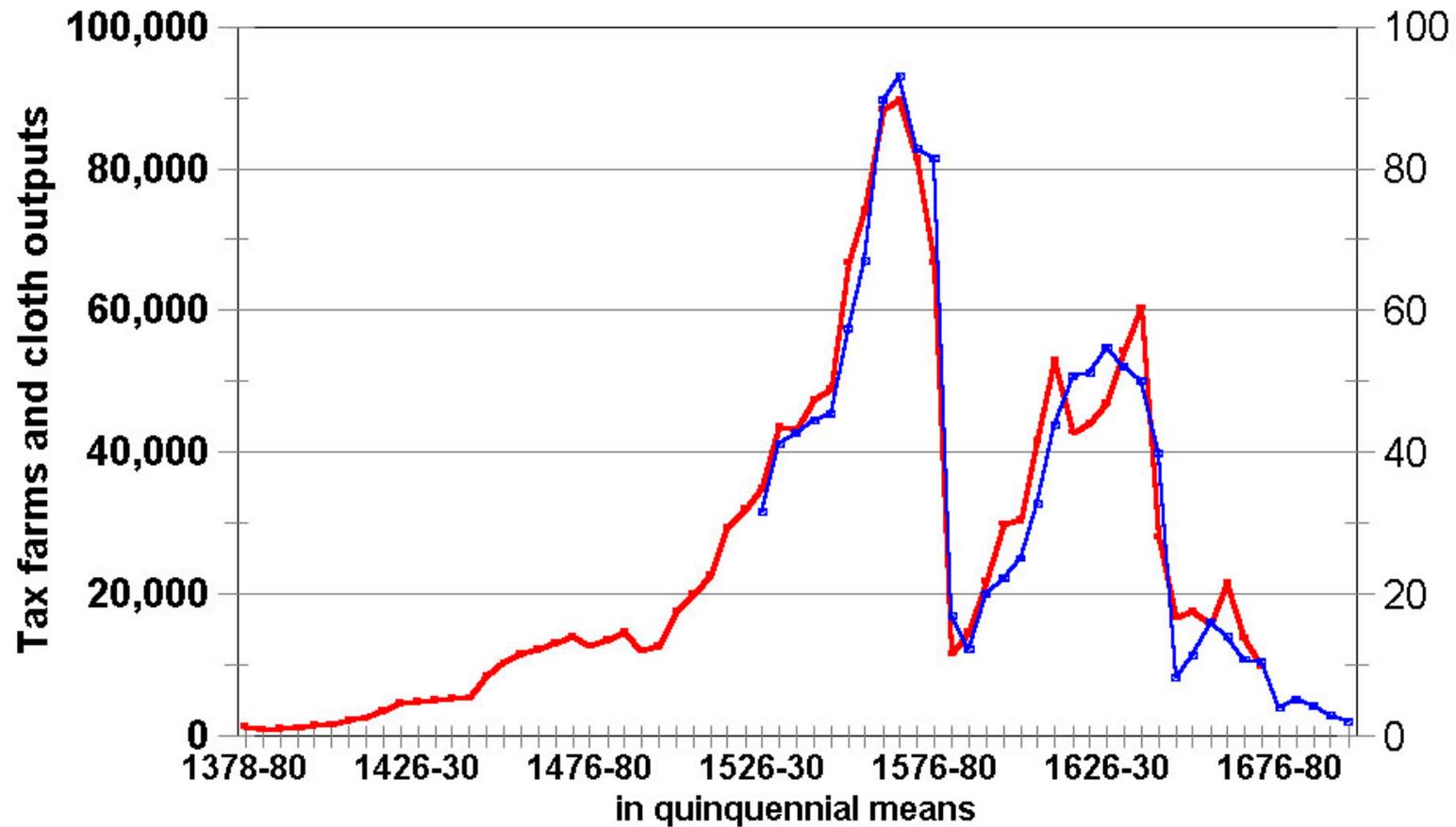
Wool Imports and Leiden Cloth Outputs



—□— Woolfells —■— Leiden Output —x— Eng Cloth Exp

The Hondschoote Sayetterie

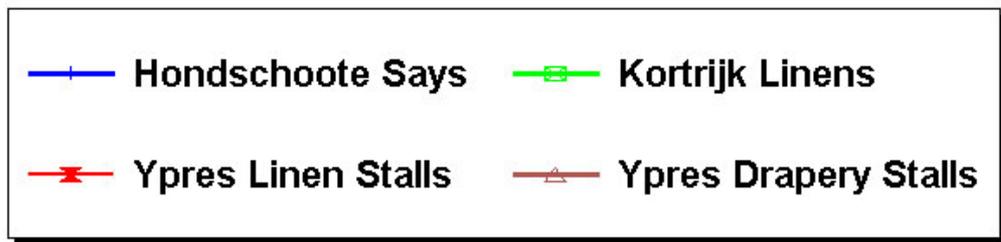
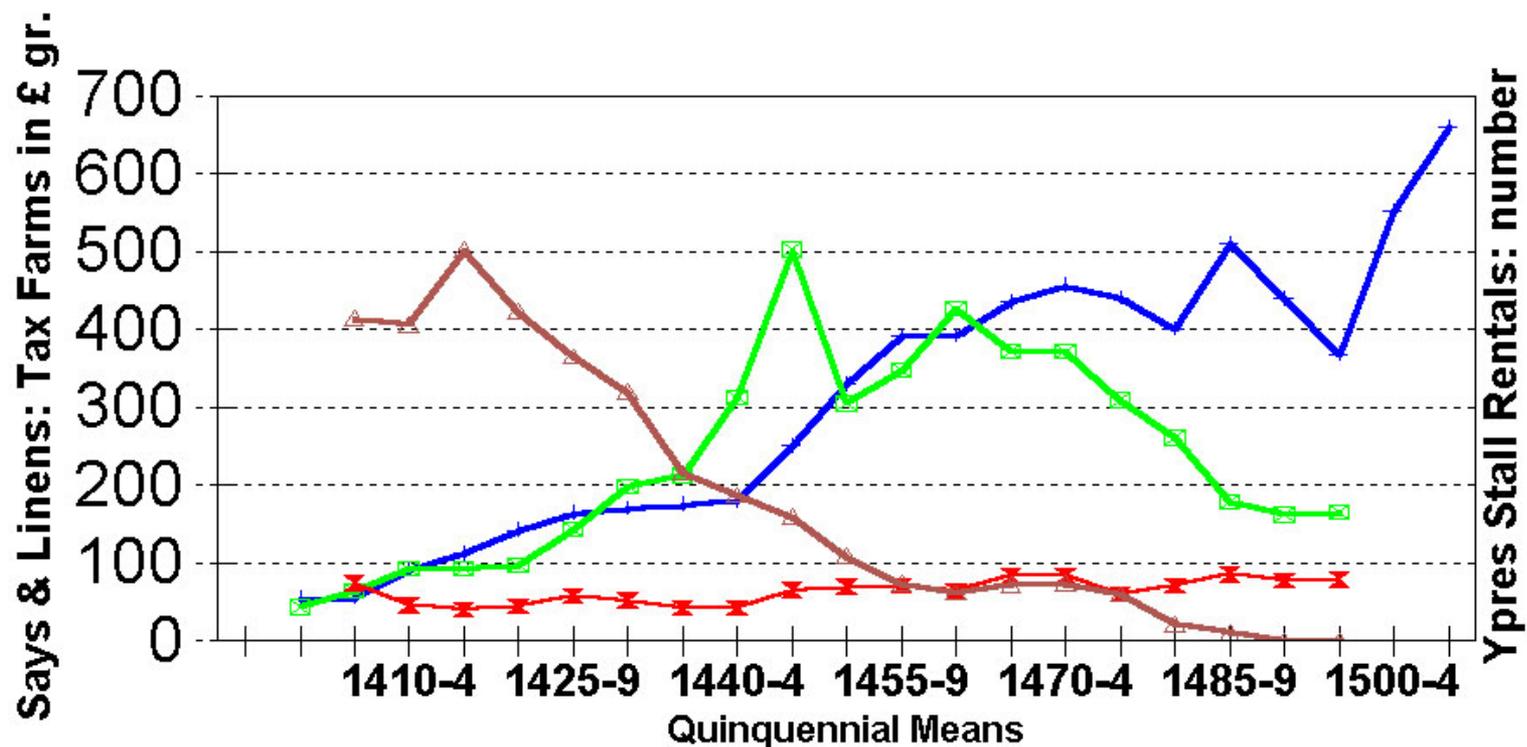
Production and Exports, 1378-1700



— Cloth Outputs by 8d. excise farm — Hondschoote Say Exports

Flemish Says & Linen Outputs

Quinquennial Means, 1400-4 to 1495-9



South Germany, England, Venice, and the Antwerp Market, 1460 – 1500 (1)

- (1) **South German & Central European silver-copper mining boom:**
 - quintupled Europe's silver supplies, 1460s to 1540s
 - more of that silver originally went to Venice: to purchase Syrian cotton: for the South German fustians industry
 - but increasing flows of silver and copper → to Brabant Fairs
- (2) **Role of monetary policies (accidental) in rise of Antwerp**
 - - 1464: England (Ed IV): 20% debasement of silver → lowered exports prices → promoted English cloth export boom:
 - - 80 year export boom to: 1460s to 1540s
 - - 1466: Burgundian retaliation (Duke Philip): altered the bimetallic mint ratio strongly in favour of silver →
 - - powerful force in attracting South German silver to Antwerp, to be exchanged for English woollens (finished there)

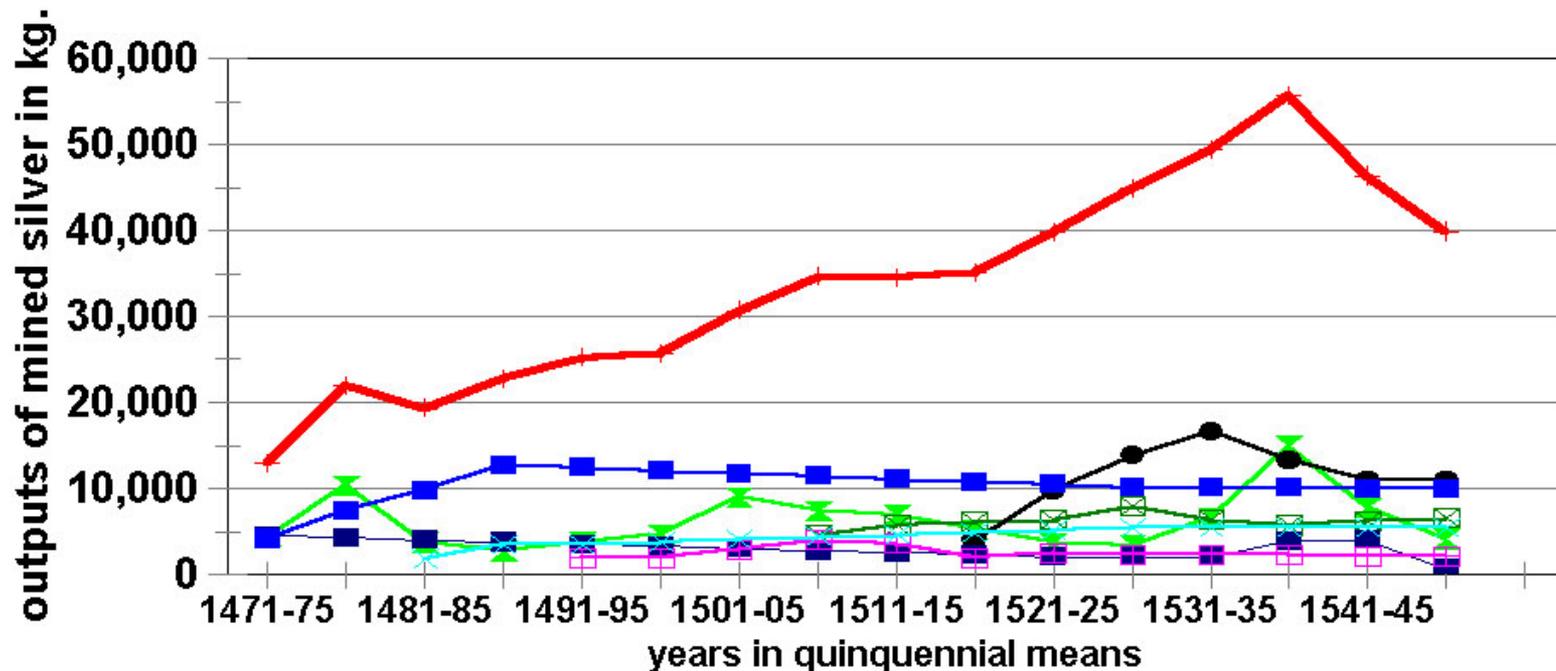
South Germany, England, Venice, and the Antwerp Market, 1460 – 1500 (2)

- (3) **Venetian Wars with the Ottoman Turks: from 1490s**
- - posed severe obstacles to Venetian trade expansion
- - **1515 to 1520: Ottoman conquests in Greece, Balkans, Aegean Islands, Levant**
- - **1517: Ottoman conquest of Mamluk Egypt and Syria**
 - most serious blow, just when Portuguese expanding their Asian spice trades
- - **consequence: greater and greater diversion of silver-copper to Antwerp**
- - **attracted Portuguese to Antwerp: needed silver-copper for Asian trades**



German-Central European Silver Mining

silver outputs in kg: 1471/5 - 1546/50



- x— Saxony
- Bohemia: Joachimsthal
- x— Hungary
- +— Total Silver Outputs in kg (est)
- x— Thuringia
- Slovakia: Fuggers
- Tyrol: Schwaz

**Silver Outputs from the Major South German-Central European Mines
in kilograms of fine metal, in quinquennial means: 1471-75 to 1546-50**

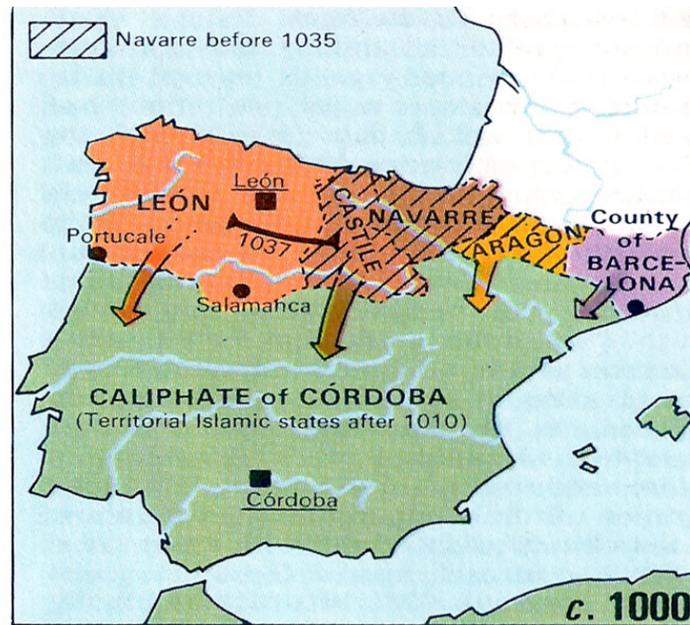
Years	SAXONY Est. Total	THURINGIA Est. Total	BOHEMIA Joachimsthal	BOHEMIA Kutna Hora Kasperska Hora in kg.	SLOVAKIA Fugger- Thurzo kg in kg.	HUNGARY Nagybanya Körmöcbanya in kg.	TYROL: Schwaz in kg.	TOTAL Estimated in kg.
1471-75	4,360.94			4,500.0			4,112.50	12,973.44
1476-80	10,317.46			4,250.0			7,354.00	21,921.46
1481-85	3,743.30			4,000.0		1,800.0	9,745.80	19,289.10
1486-90	2,770.04			3,750.0		3,523.0	12,751.00	22,794.04
1491-95	3,757.33			3,500.0	1,957.12	3,523.0	12,422.75	25,160.21
1496-1500	4,641.69			3,250.0	1,957.12	3,795.9	12,094.50	25,739.17
1501-05	8,979.23			3,000.0	2,870.47	4,068.7	11,766.25	30,684.65
1506-10	7,416.41	4,626.19		2,750.0	3,990.76	4,341.6	11,438.00	34,562.92
1511-15	6,925.10	5,713.42		2,500.0	3,632.11	4,614.4	11,109.75	34,494.81
1516-20	5,189.14	6,079.43	3,970.00	2,250.0	1,983.07	4,887.3	10,781.50	35,140.43
1521-25	3,701.18	6,301.73	9,703.24	2,000.0	2,486.46	5,160.1	10,453.25	39,806.00
1526-30	3,425.12	7,889.16	13,795.32	2,000.0	2,269.15	5,433.0	10,125.00	44,936.74
1531-35	6,663.07	6,300.90	16,554.81	2,000.0	2,269.15	5,433.0	10,125.00	49,345.92
1536-40	14,973.18	5,734.07	13,248.01	3,947.0	2,243.58	5,433.0	10,125.00	55,703.84
1541-45	7,739.26	6,144.00	10,936.85	3,997.0	2,141.55	5,433.0	9,963.49	46,355.16
1546-50	4,131.66	6,576.20	10,936.85	700.0	2,141.55	5,433.0	9,963.49	39,882.76

PORTUGAL: Rise of Its Commercial Empire in Africa and Asia to 1520

- 1) **Factors in the Rise of Portugal**
- a) **Economic 'backwardness' in 14th century**
- -i) **small country, on periphery of SW Europe, isolated from rest of Europe**
- iii) **basically feudal agrarian society in origins: impoverished agrarian society**
- iv) **small population (pre-1348: under million), much diminished by Black Death**
- v) **few resources: little arable land → forced the Portuguese to turn to the sea to survive:**
- **fishing and trade (like the Dutch)**

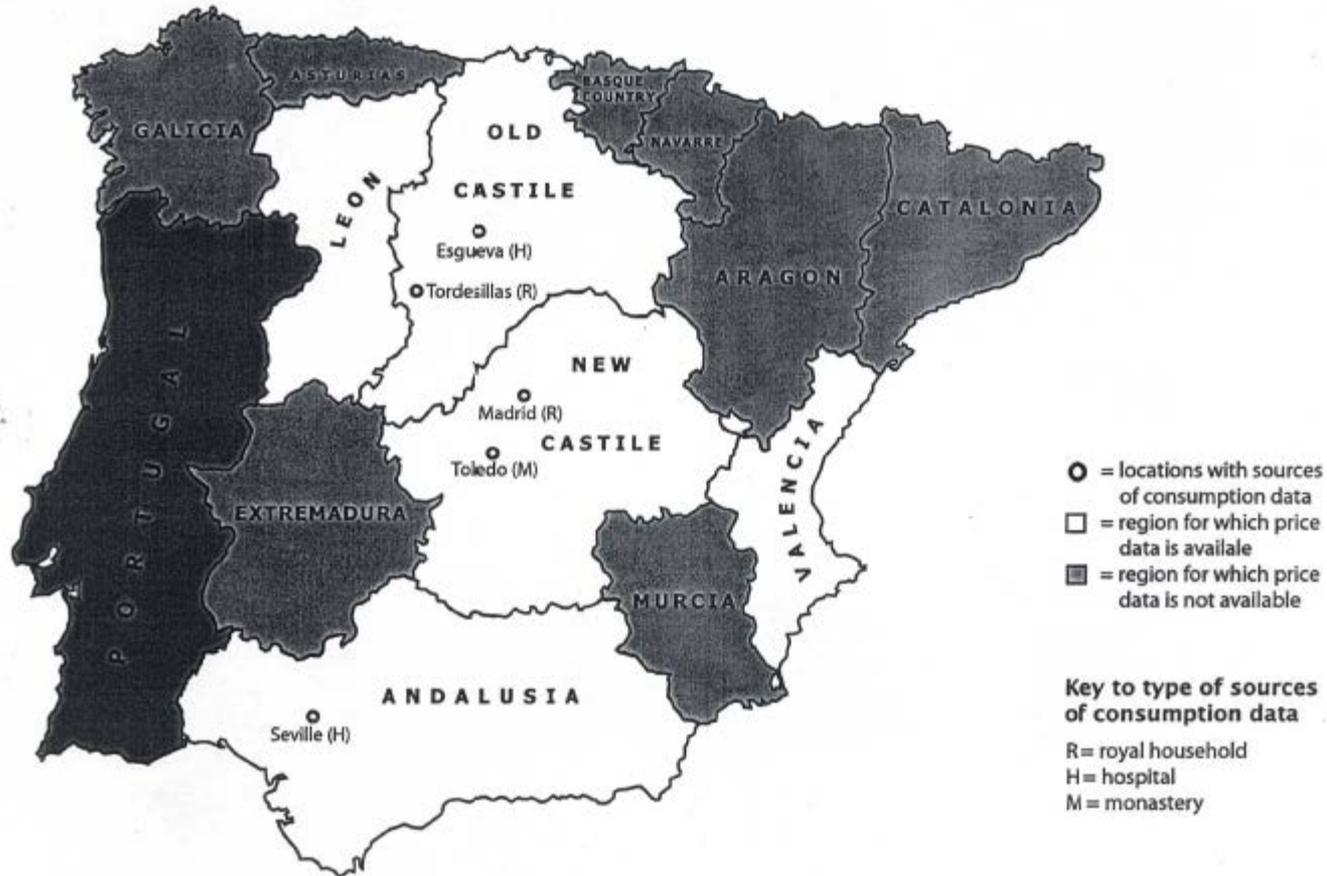
PORTUGAL: Rise of Its Commercial Empire in Africa and Asia to 1520 (2)

- b) **Political Factors in Rise of Portugal**
- -i) **most of region was previously occupied by Muslims** (Arabs, Berbers): continued conflict with Muslim (Reconquista) and Christian neighbours (Castile)
- -ii) **Civil War 1383-85** : disputed succession to the throne
- -**Battle of Aljubarotta (Aug 1385)**: destroyed much of the old feudal nobility
- - **new Aziz dynasty dependent on Lisbon's** mercantile population
- - **freed Portugal from Castile's rule**: unified Portugal
- -iii) **1386: English alliance: Treaty of Windsor** (against Castile & France) → **promoted strong commercial ties with England**: wine, citrus fruits, olive oil, Bay salt, cod fish



Sixteenth - Century Spain: Historical Regions

Source: Mauricio Drelichman, 'The Curse of Moctezuma: American Silver and the Dutch Disease, 1501-1650', Working Paper, Department of Economics, Northwestern University [2002]. The map is based on page 24 of Julia López-Davalillo Larrea, *Atlas Histórico de España y Portugal* (Madrid: Editorial Síntesis), used with permission.



PORTUGAL: Overseas Expansion in the 15th century (1)

- 1) **Initial Phases of expansion:** early 15th cent
- a) **Late-medieval Portugal famed for skilled mariners** – navigation skills: but in scarce supply – ultimately a fatal weakness
- b) **Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460):** 3rd son of king João I
- **-1415: Prince Henry** indeed had led the first Portuguese expedition: to capture the Moroccan port of Ceuta (Straits of Gibraltar)
- **- supposedly established scientific school** for navigational studies & led other expedition?

Prince Henry the Navigator



PORTUGAL: Overseas Expansion in the 15th century (2)

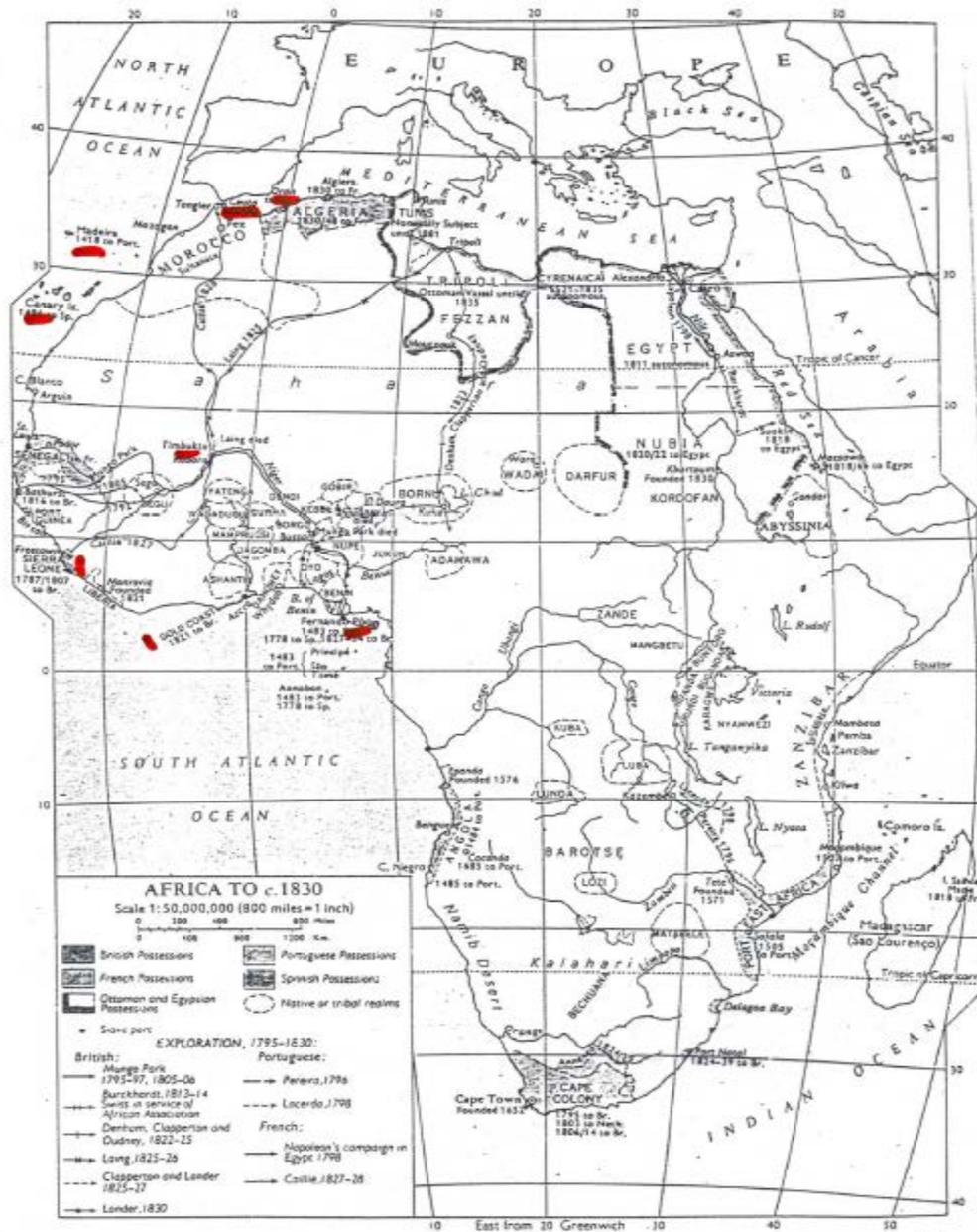
- 2) **Motives for Maritime explorations:**
- a) **economic:** medieval lust for gold and spices
- b) **political & religious:**
- - **to carry the war against the Muslims** into Africa
- - search for Christian ally in Africa: Myth of Prester John
- - **Initial conquest:** Ceuta in Morocco 1415 (as noted above)

PORTUGAL: Overseas Expansion in the 15th century (3)

- (2) **African & Atlantic Explorations to 1430s**
- a) **From 1419: continuous expeditions along coast of NW Africa:** to Cape Bojador (26 ° N)
- - **could not go further south because of inability to tack the NE Trade Winds:** required major innovations in ship design & navigation
- - **in trying to do, advanced further & further west into the Atlantic** on their return voyages to Portugal

PORTUGAL: Overseas Expansion in the 15th century (4)

- b) **New Atlantic Colonies discovered:**
- i) **Madeira: 1419-20:** famous for its wines
- ii) **Canaries: 1425-27:** but thwarted by native Guanches (later brutally conquered by the Spanish)
- iii) **Azores: from 1439:** most successful colony
- c) **Sugar plantations:** were established on all these islands with African slave labour:
- **Thus: westward spread of sugar:** from Crete → Sicily → Andalusia → Atlantic Islands → Brazil



Portuguese Revolution in Shipping

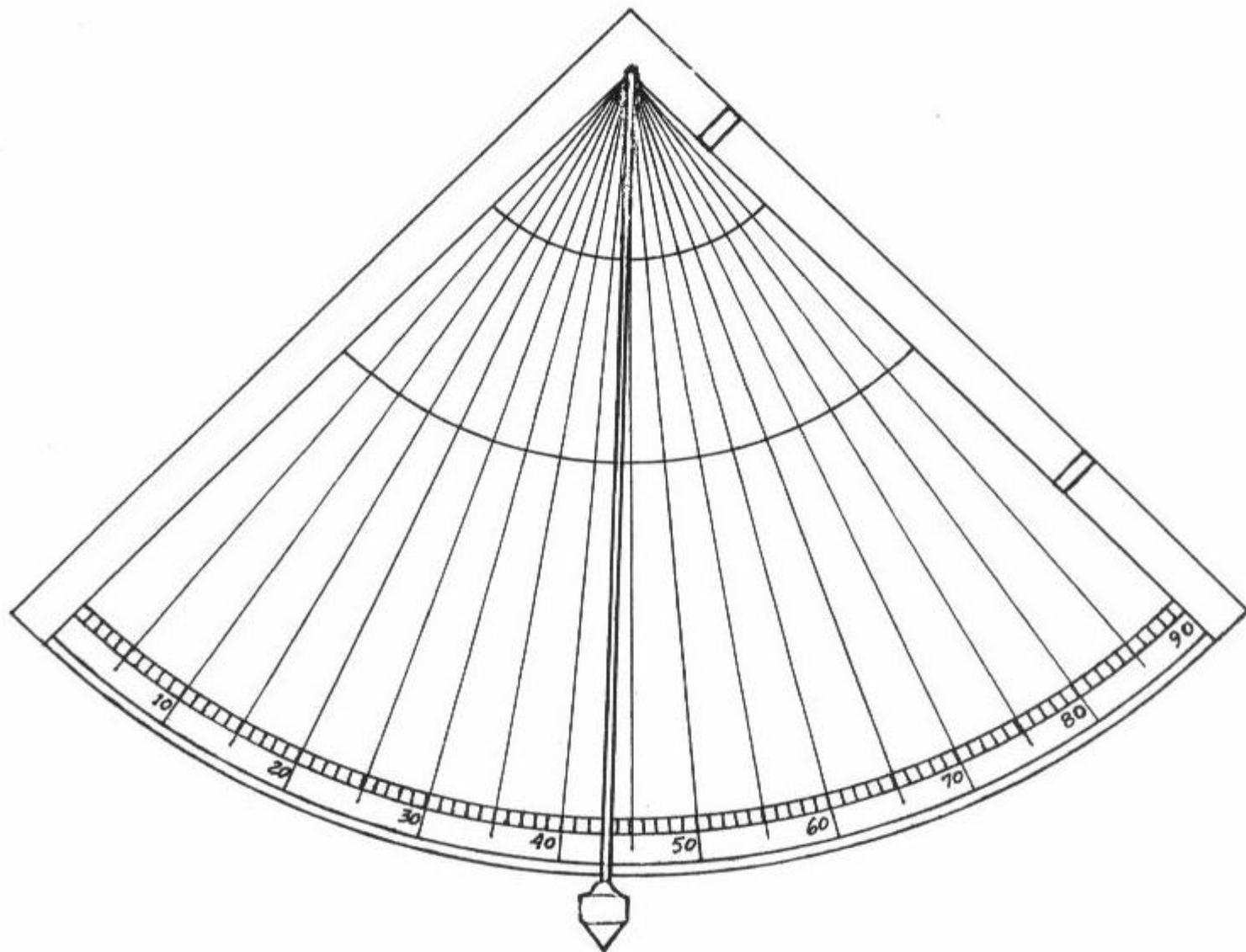
- 3) **Revolution in Shipbuilding & Navigation**
- a) **Initial Explorations had depended on:**
 - - traditional ships with square sails (cogs)
 - - magnetic compass and sounding leads
- b) **Navigation advances:**
 - - in cartography, astronomy, mathematics (Prince Henry??)

Portuguese Revolution in Shipping

2

- c) **New navigation instruments:**
- - **quadrant (1456) and astrolabe** (latitude)
- - **altura:** for reckoning latitude where Pole Star not seen:
- - using the sun & tables
- - **longitude:** BUT reckoning was a problem not solved until 1764: English carpenter: John Harrison – maritime chronometer to measure the time and thus distance (15 deg per hour)

A Mariner's Quadrant



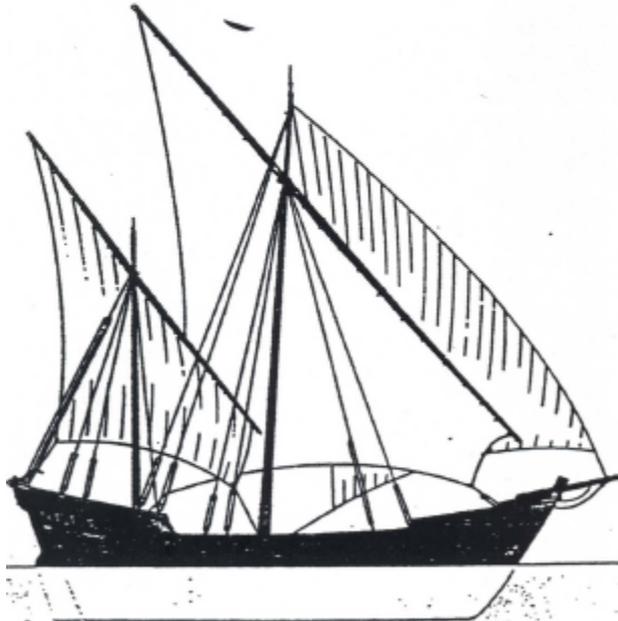
Portuguese Revolution in Shipping

3

- d) **New ship designs:**
- i) **the Caravel** (adapted from **Arabic dhows**): two or three triangular lateen sails
- ii) **The Carrack: Atlantic Ship or Full Rigged Ship:** combination of the **northern cog** with large square main sail (middle) and **lateen sails** fore and aft
- - **origins unknown:** Portuguese or French shipyards along Bay of Biscay: by 1450s
- - iii) **addition of naval artillery real key to their power** to rule the world's oceans

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORTUGUESE CARAVEL AND CARRACK

DHOW (with lateen sails)

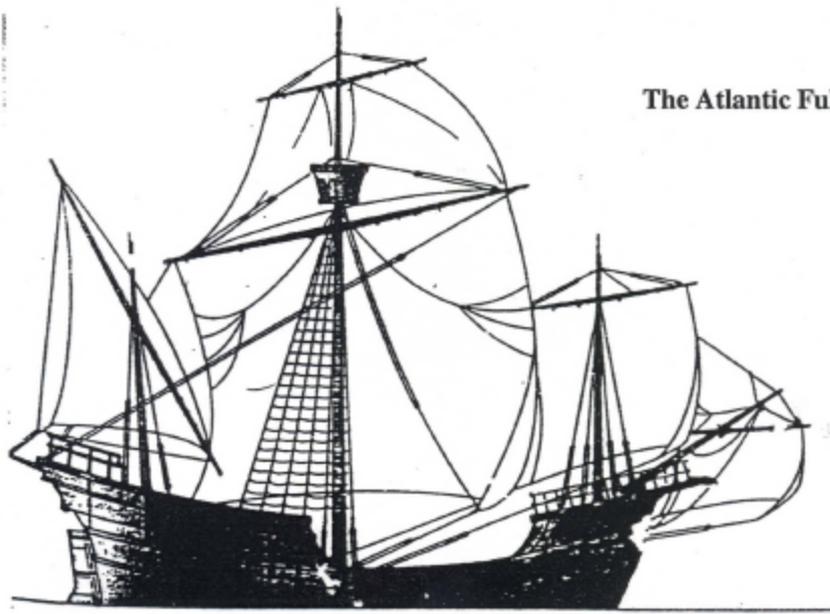


Artist's rendition of a dhow.

CARAVEL

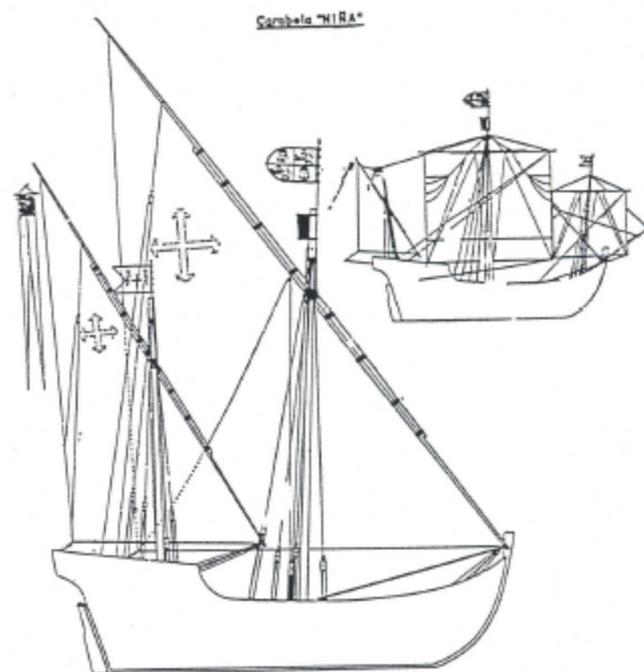


Artist's rendition of a caravel.



CARRACK
The Atlantic Full-Rigged Ship

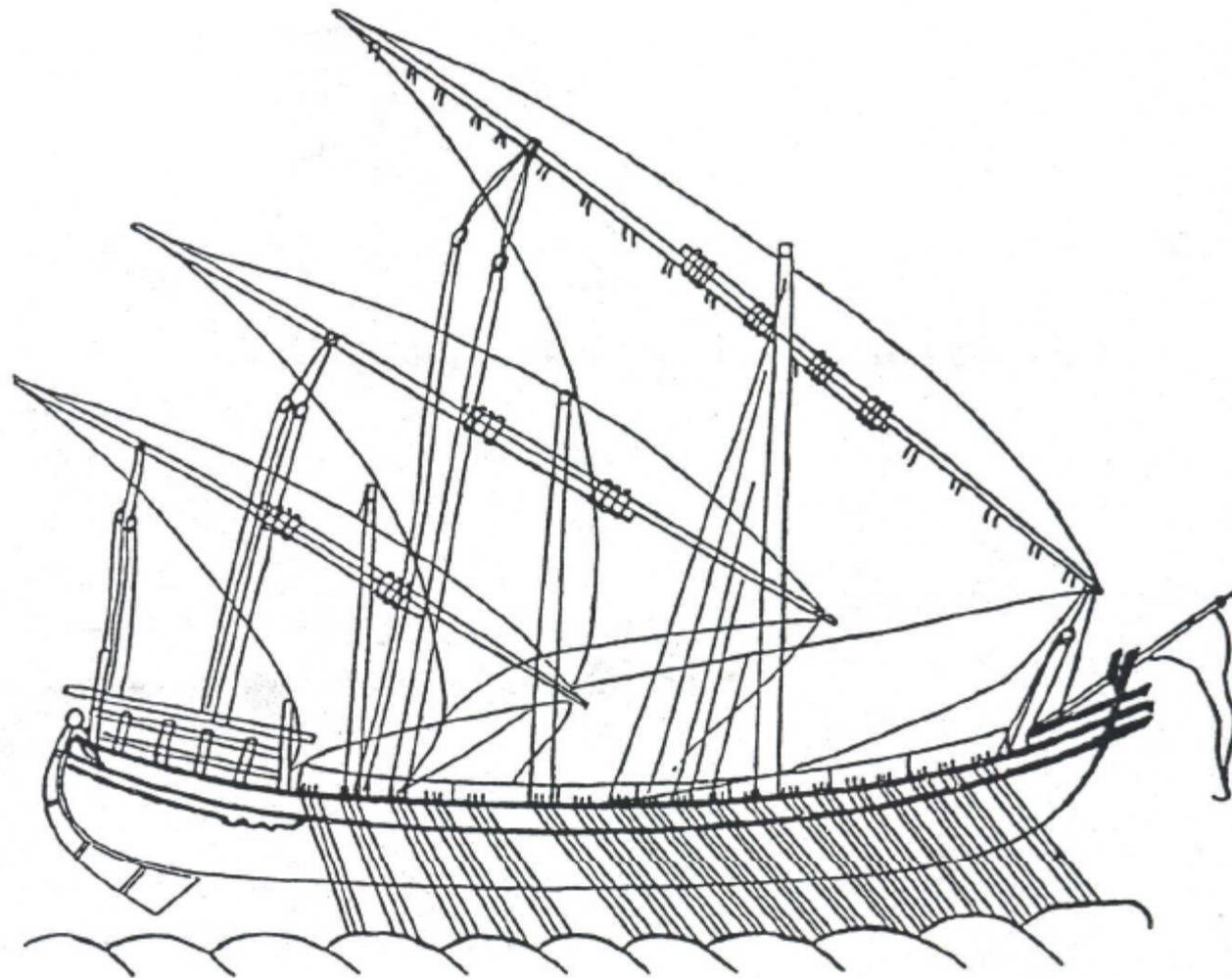
20. Sail Plan of Christopher Columbus's *Nina* as a Lateen Caravel, and Transformation into a Square Caravel in a Reconstruction by J.M. Martínez-Hidalgo



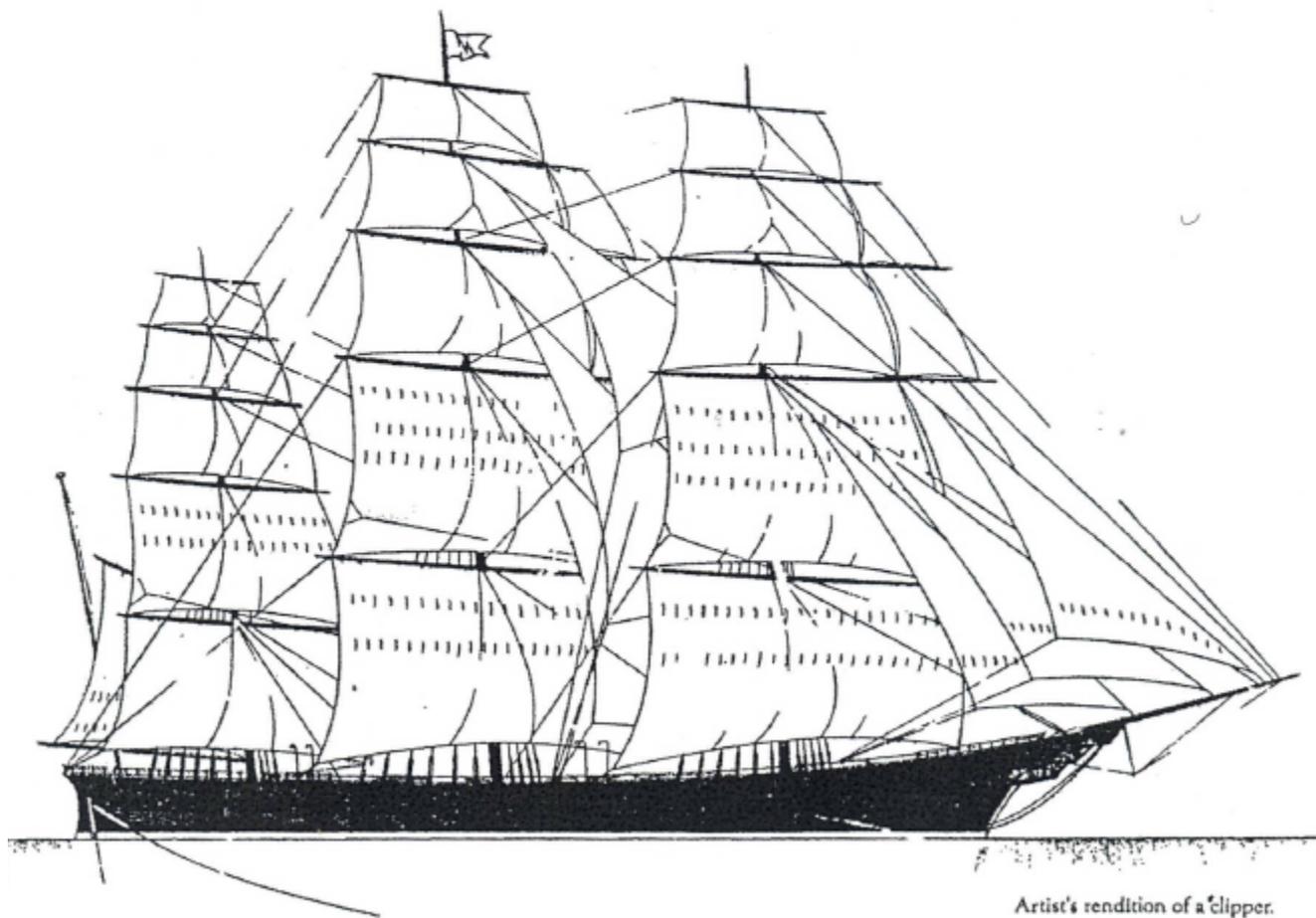
21: Italian Full-rigged Ship, 1470-80



17: Venetian Great Galley from a Treatise on Shipbuilding, 1445



THE CLIPPER SAILING SHIP



Artist's rendition of a clipper.

Portugal & West Africa to 1500 (1)

- 1) **Explorations of Africa: Southwards from 1434:**
- - **1436:** Rio de Ouro
- - **1442:** Cape Branco
- - **1445:** Arguim Island: initial Portuguese trading 'factory' - fortress
- - **1446:** Gambia estuary
- - **1454-55:** Senegal Estuary, Cape Verde islands
- - **1460:** Sierra Leone – when Prince Henry died
- - **1470s:** **Guinea and Gold Coasts, Bights of Benin and Biafra:**
- - **1482:** **Sao Jorge da Mina** - became the principal trading fortress for gold, slaves, ivory, pepper

Portugal & West Africa to 1500 (2)

- 2) **Final Wars with Spain: 1474-79**
- a) **Treaty of Alcáçovas, 1479:** Portugal, in return for recognizing Spanish control of the Canaries, gained sole control over all other Atlantic Islands, West Africa and African Islands: enormous Portuguese advantage
- b) **Treaty of Tordesillas: June 1494:** by verdict of Pope Alexander VI (Alexander Borgia: Spanish Pope)
 - i) **to Portugal:** half the non-European world from Brazil in Americas, in the west. through all of Africa and Asia to East Indies in East
 - ii) **to Spain:** from the Philippines westward to all the Americas (except Brazil)

Portuguese Trade with Africa and Atlantic Islands (1)

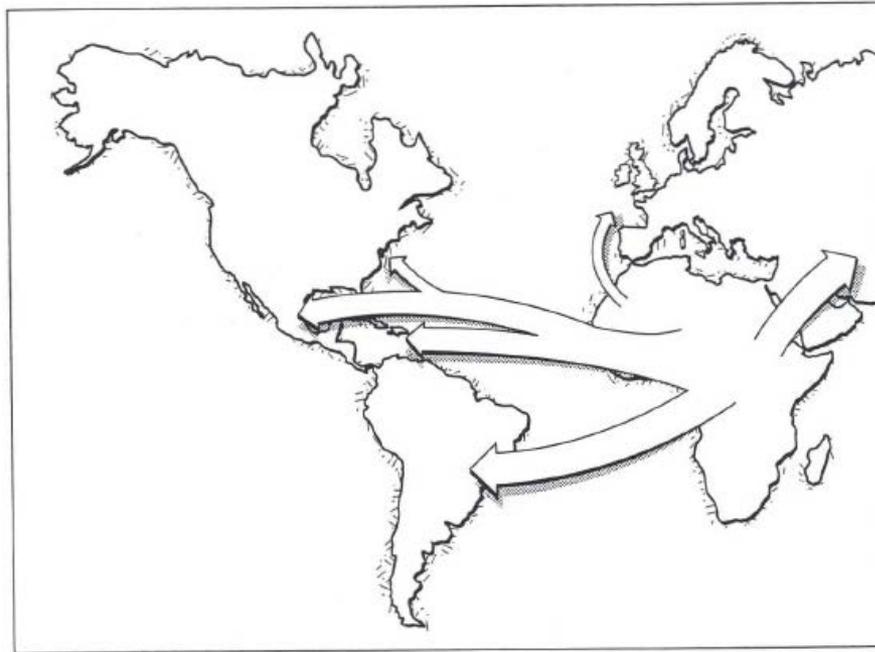
- **Portugal's Economic Relations with Africa**
- 1) **major commodities sought in Africa:**
- - **in order of importance:**
- **gold, slaves, pepper (malaguetta), ivory,**
- **sugar:** later became the most important commodity
- 2) **major European exports to West Africa:**
- **textiles, horses, guns, copper-ware goods**

Portuguese Trade with Africa and Atlantic Islands (2)

- 3) **Economics of the African slave trade:**
- - **had pre-existed European arrival by many centuries:** organized by Arab traders, selling slaves throughout entire Islamic world
- - **slave trade a mechanism of resolving key problem of chronic warfare in Africa:** what to do enemy captives
- - **vast African kingdom of Bantu Kongo:** chief military empire in 15th century and chief source of slaves (captive soldiers)
- - **Portuguese, in the 1440s, began by raiding Senegalese villages**
- - **soon found it more profitable to engage in trade:** to buy slaves (and gold) in well organized West African markets
- - **To run their sugar plantations on West African and Atlantic islands,** supplies of African slave labour became an economic necessity (later: also in Brazil)

Map of the African Slave Trade

AFRICA / 58



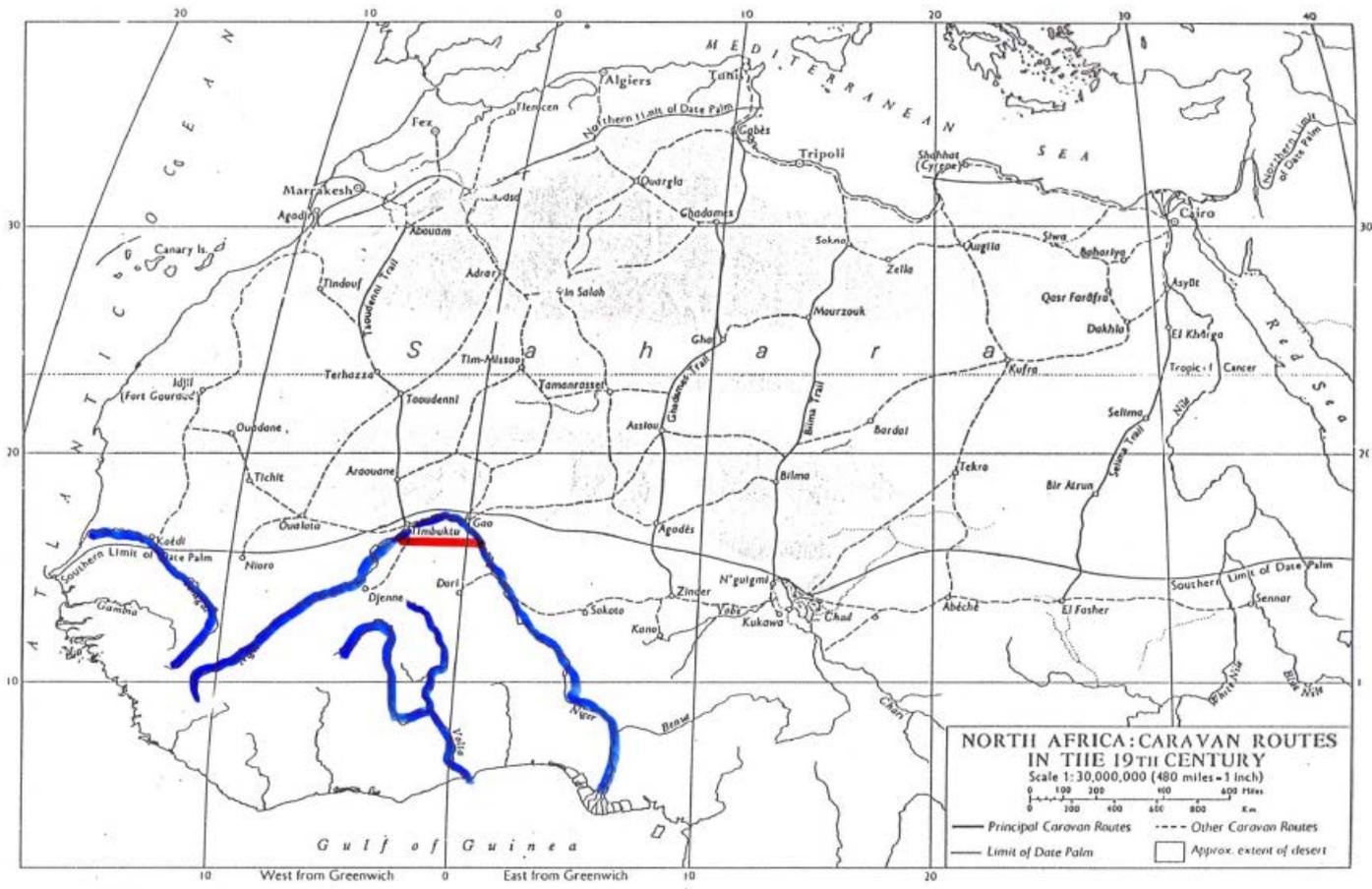
Approximately 10 million African slaves traveled to the New World between the early 1500s and 1870, with the largest numbers (as indicated by the size of the arrows) going to Spanish America, the Caribbean, and Brazil. An estimated 5 million enslaved Africans were sent to the Old World.

Portuguese Trade with Africa and Atlantic Islands (3)

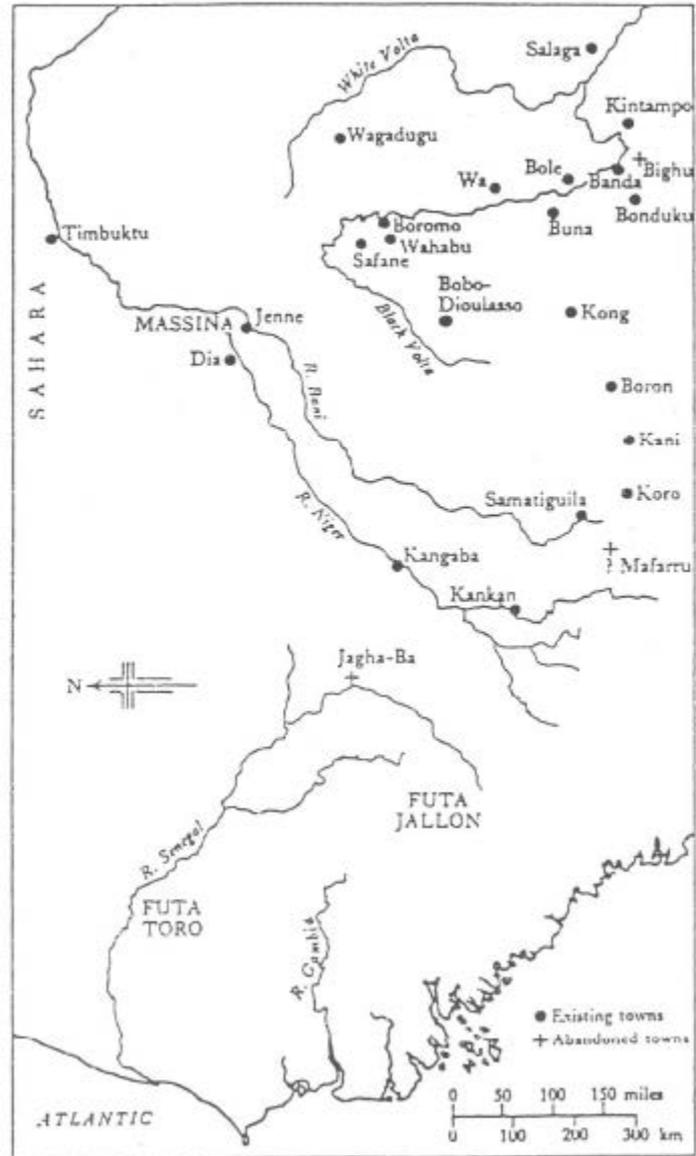
- 4) **Economics of Gold Trade with Africa**
- a) **Portugal restored African gold supplies to Europe**: largely cut off from 1360s, when weak Songhai Empire was unable to safeguard trade routes across Sahara to North African ports
- b) **Major sources of West African gold**:
 - - **Bambuk**: on Upper **Senegal River**
 - - **Mali**: on Upper **Niger River**
 - - **Lobi**: on Upper **Volta**

Portuguese Trade with Africa and Atlantic Islands (4)

- c) **Portuguese forced to trade with West African states:** denied access to mines
 - - **Jolofs and Mandinga:** in Senegambia
 - - **Ardra and Yoruba:** in Lower Guinea
 - - **Benin and Warri:** in Niger river delta
- d) **West Africans had the advantage of bargaining in the gold trade:** keeping a balance between traditional Arab traders (to Mamluk Egypt) and Portuguese: but by end of 15th century, barter terms of trade turned against Portuguese-
 - -e) **1470 to 1500:** exported 17 metric tonnes;
 - - **1500 to 1550:** another 19 tonnes



The Portuguese Gold Trade in West Africa (the Gold Coast)
in the 15th and 16th Centuries



Portuguese Gold Exports from West Africa, 1480 - 1560

From Sao Jorge da Mina: Official Gold Exports

WANGARA, AKAH, AND PORTUGUESE IN THE FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURIES

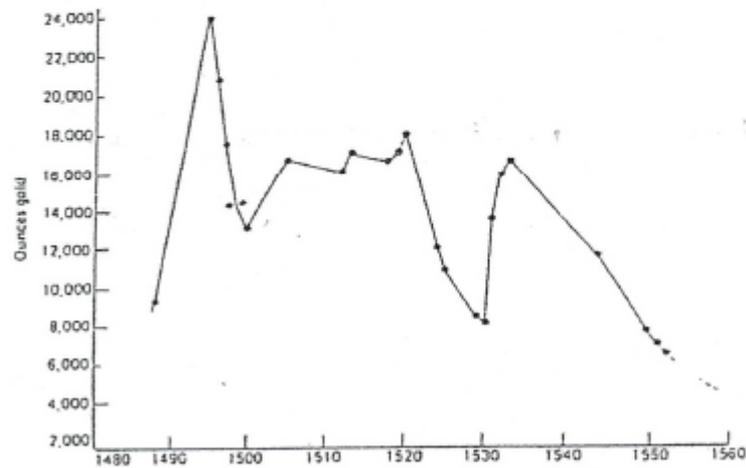


FIGURE 1: SÃO JORGE DA MINA: OFFICIAL GOLD EXPORTS, 1480-1560

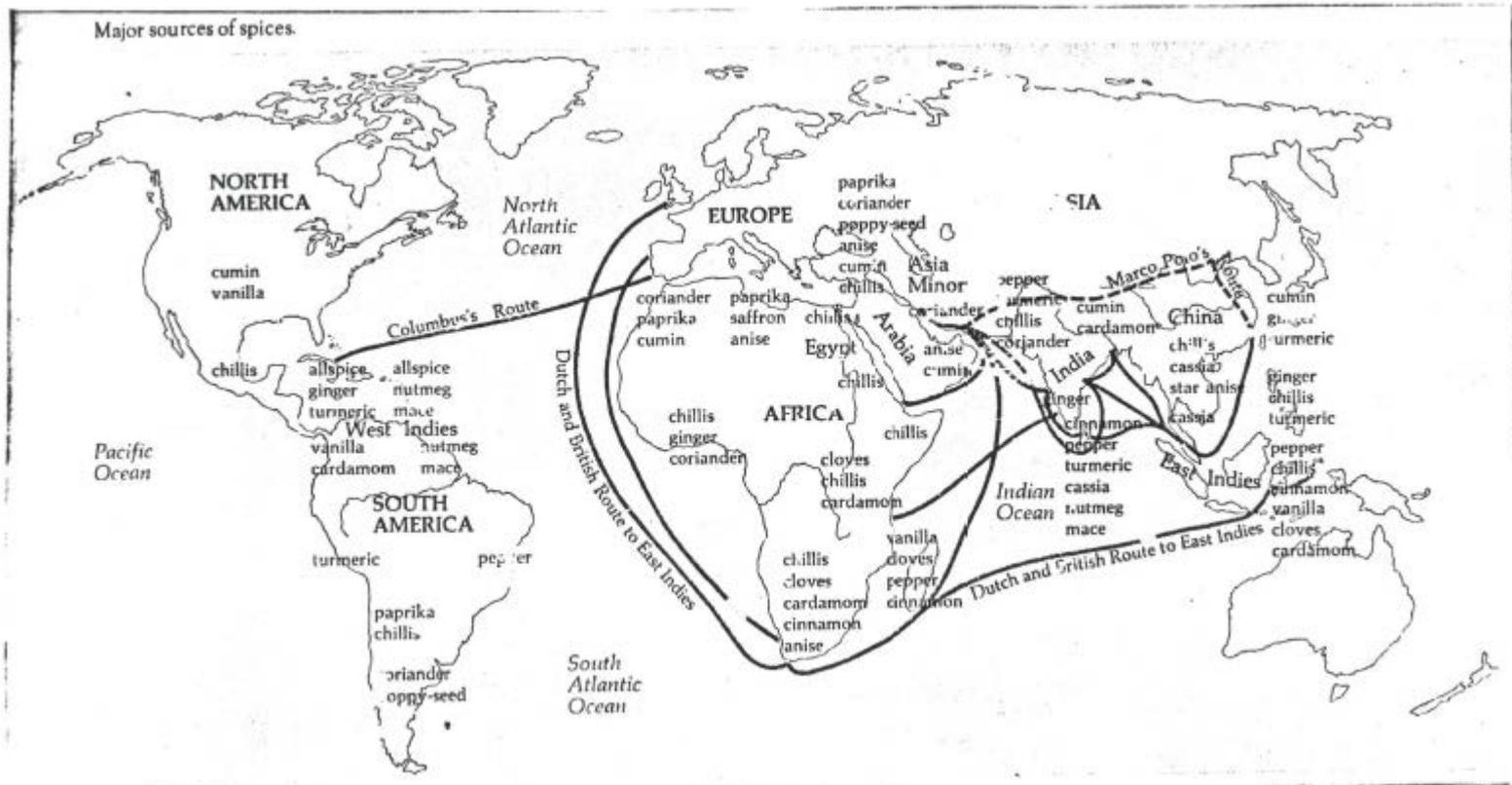
Portugal and Asia - 1

- 1) Portuguese sought direct sea route to India:
- - **1482: in constructing Sao Jorge da Mina (Gold Coast)**, king João II sponsored expeditions to go around Africa to India.
- - **1483: Diego Cao reached Zaire (Congo)**, establishing relations with Bantu Kongo Empire
- - **1487-99: Bartholomew Dias sails around Cape of Good Hope-Cape Agulhas** into Indian Ocean
- - **1488: Pedro da Covilha travels overland** via Cairo and Aden to reach Calicut on India's Malibar coast

Portugal and Asia - 2

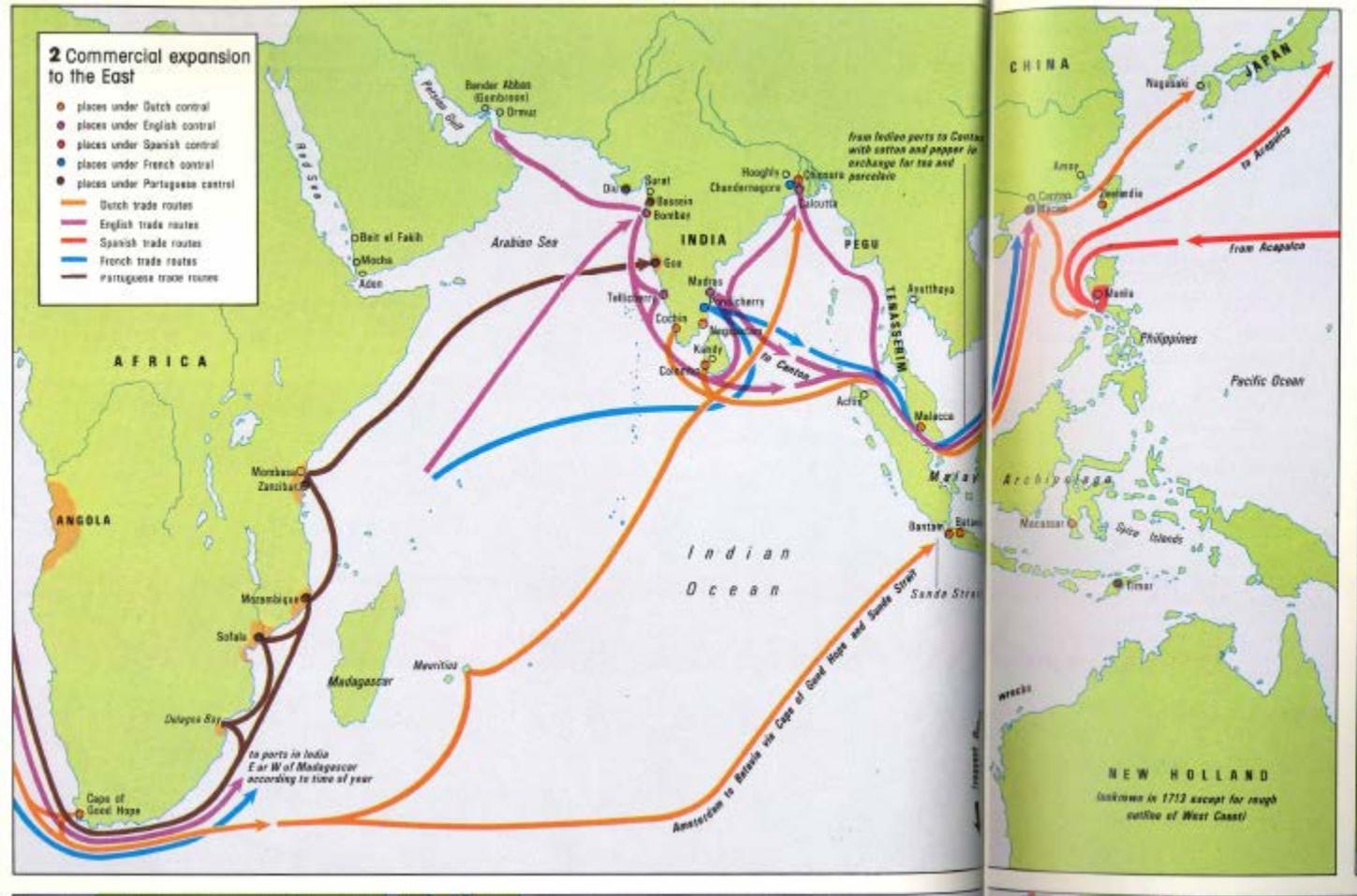
- 1) **Portuguese seek direct sea route to India:**
- - **1492: the Genoese Christophoro Colombo (Columbus)**, sailing under Spanish flag, reaches Caribbean islands (West Indies – thought that they were the ‘Indies’)
- - **1494: Treaty of Tordesillas:** for Spain and Portugal
- - **1497-98: Vasco da Gama sails around South Africa** to Zanzibar in East Africa: with African pilots, across Indian Ocean to Calicut (on India’s Malabar coast), ‘in search of Christians and spices’, as he said – finding only spices
- - **1500: after da Gama’s safe return, King Manuel I** (1495-1521) sent out more expeditions to India: establishing fortress and spice emporium at Cochin, nearby

Maritime Spice Routes



2 Commercial expansion to the East

- places under Dutch control
- places under English control
- places under Spanish control
- places under French control
- places under Portuguese control
- Dutch trade routes
- English trade routes
- Spanish trade routes
- French trade routes
- Portuguese trade routes



Portugal and Asia - 3

- 2) **Portuguese Spice Trade in India and with Antwerp:**
- a) **King Manuel: establishes royal monopoly on Asian spice trades**
- - ***Casa da India*** in Lisbon: to control *carreiras* shipping expeditions to India
- b) **role of Antwerp for Portuguese spice trade from Asia**
- - **1501: King Manuel I makes Antwerp** the official Portuguese spice staple
- - **1508: sets up *Feitoria de Flandres* in Antwerp:** counterpart of *Casa da India*
- - **South German bankers:** Fuggers & Welsers set up branches in Antwerp
- - **Antwerp supplies chief trading goods for Asia:** silver & copper
- - **silver & copper far rarer in South Asia:** relatively much more valuable

Portugal and Asia - 4

c) **Immediate Effects on Venetian Levant Commerce: 1496 – 1502:** Venetian spice purchases at Alexandria & Beirut fell by 75%

- d) **Economics of Portuguese Spice Trade in Asia:**
- - **pepper**: from Malabar & Sumatra: accounted for 85% of import values and produced profits ranging from 90% to 150% when sold in Antwerp
- - **ginger** (from Malabar & Sumatra): for 6%;
cinammon: for 2% (Ceylon/Sri Lanka)
- - **all other spices (cloves, maces, nutmeg)**: for 6% of total values

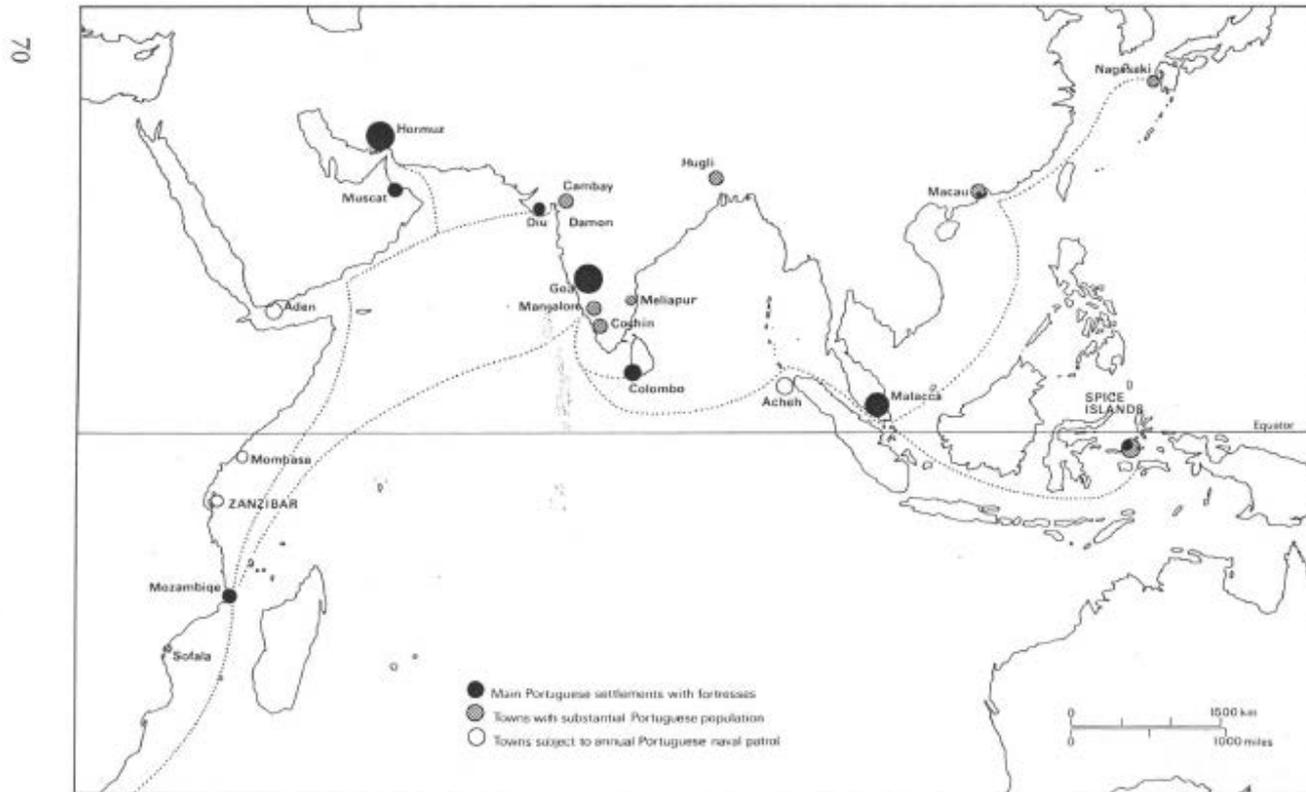
Portugal and Asia - 5

- 3) **Portuguese military power in Indian Ocean**
- a) **Portuguese military power, with artillery-laden carracks**, proved invincible:
- -**Franciso de Almeida – 1509**: inflicted crushing defeat on Mamluk-Gujerati (Muslim Indian) fleet off Goa-Diu
- b) **Affonso de Albuquerque: 1509-1515**: established military dominance over India Ocean

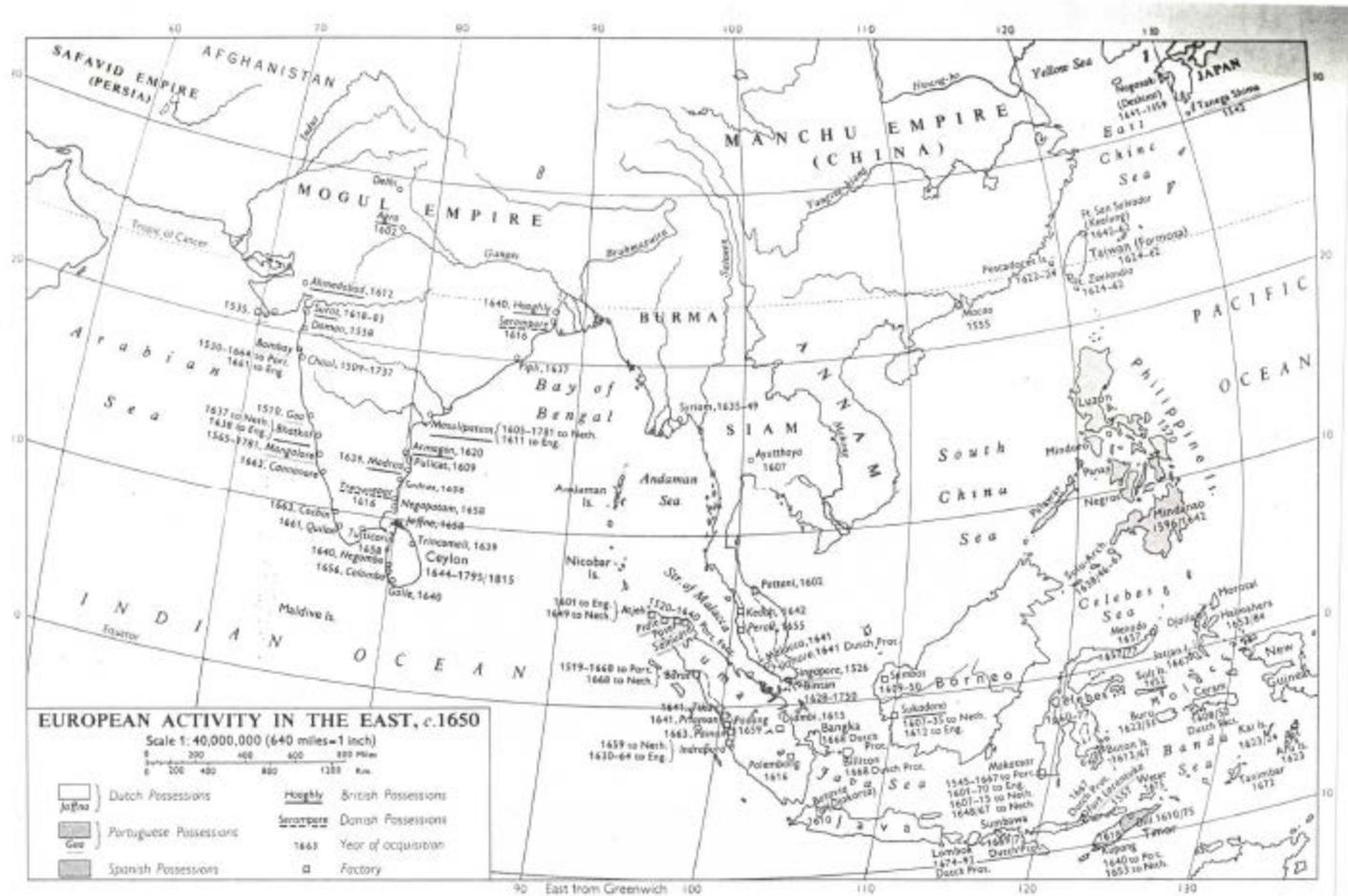
Portugal and Asia - 6

- c) **Portuguese military bases in the Indian Ocean**
- - **Goa: in 1510:** to control Malabar coast
- - **Malacca** (principal Malay Sultanate): **1511** – to dominate the Malay Straits, Java Sea, South China Sea, and thus all the East Indies (Sumatra, Java, Celebes, Moluccas)
- - **Hormus: 1515** – island controlling entrance to Persian Gulf from the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea
- - **Ceylon (Sri Lanka):** controlled, from **1518**

Portuguese Seaborne Empire



Map 10. Portuguese seaborne empire, c. 1580.



Portugal and Asia - 7

- 4) **How long did Portuguese Power Last?**
- a) **Portuguese ability to maintain control over Indian Ocean and Asian spice trades:** matter of ongoing debate
- b) **Aceh (Atjeh) in North Sumatra:**
- **became formidable foe** - from the 1530s
- **by 1580s, Aceh, allied with Javanese and Gujerati shipping,** rivalled Portuguese in shipping spices to Indian ports and the Red Sea zone: about 3,000 kg a year

Portugal and Asia – 8

- c) **Portuguese failure to subdue Aden**, at entrance to Red Sea, and to hold Socotra in Gulf of Aden: costly failures for Portuguese
- d) **Ottoman Turks became chief foe**: especially after their conquest of the Mamluk Sultanate in 1517: then the Ottomans took Aden in 1548
- e) **Venice: by the 1550s**, in trading with Portuguese enemies, had regained about half of its former spice trades: to have a Golden Age to ca. 1600
- g) **the Portuguese were far from being vanquished, however**: not until they encountered the Dutch in 1600-01 in the East Indies (second term topic)