

Treaty of Tordesillas

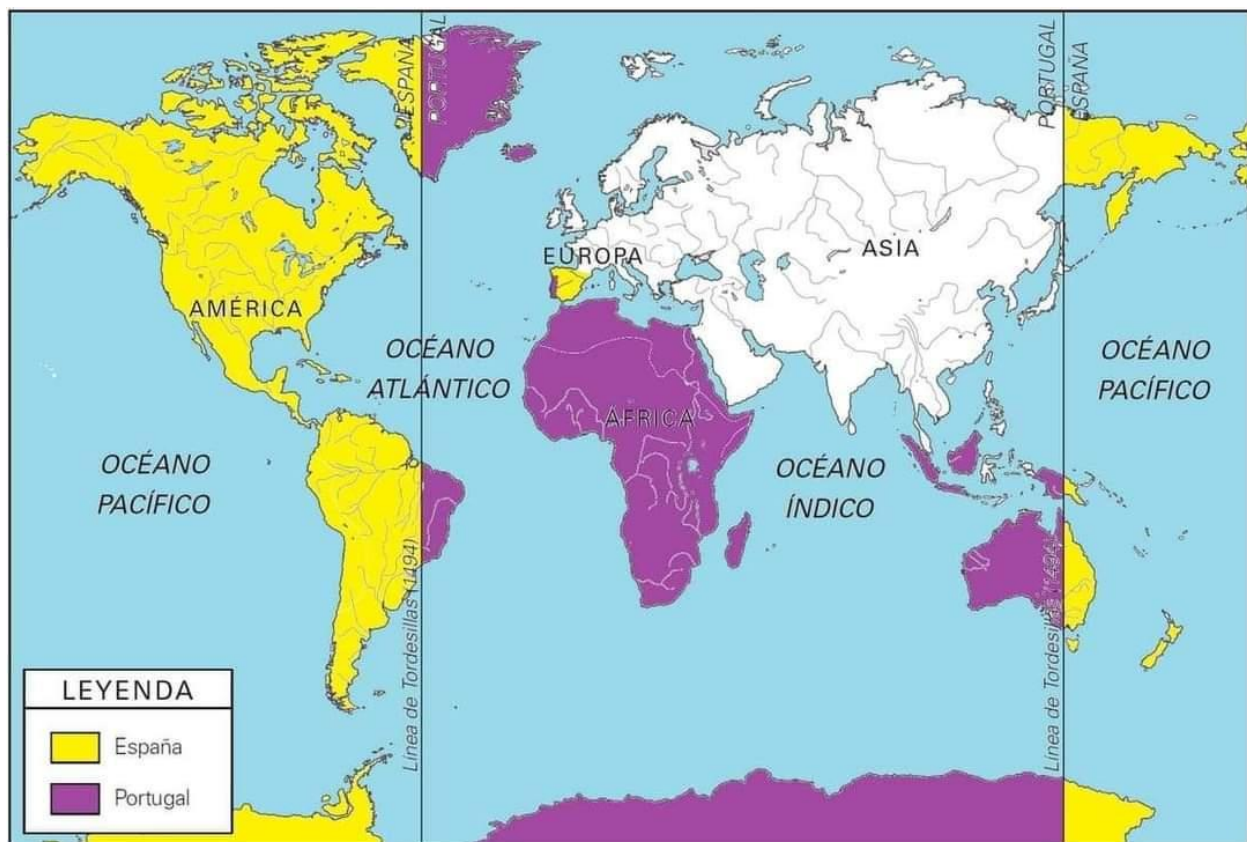
The Treaty of Tordesillas was an agreement between Spain and Portugal that divided the world into two spheres of influence and defined where each country could claim land:

The treaty was signed on June 7, 1494, in Tordesillas, Spain, and ratified in Setúbal, Portugal.

The treaty established a line of demarcation in the Atlantic Ocean, dividing the Americas between the two countries. Lands west of the line were granted to Spain, while lands east of the line were granted to Portugal.

The treaty was a response to Christopher Columbus's discovery of a westward route across the Atlantic. It amended papal bulls issued by the Spanish Pope Alexander VI in 1493, which had granted Spain an exclusive claim to the entirety of North and South America.

Pope Julius II ratified the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1506.



Study the map on the previous page and answer the following questions that have many different answers. There are multiple motives for this treaty and also different long-term consequences. Keep this in mind when you are answering the following questions.

1. North America. Why did Spain not maintain all of the areas in yellow after 1494?
2. South America. What is the country in purple that Portugal claimed? Why would this region become so important to Portugal?
3. Africa. The entire continent is colored purple, meaning it is fully controlled by Portugal. Why would Africa become so important to Portugal within the next 200 years? Why did Portugal not keep all of the African continent as given to them in the treaty?
4. Southeast Asia. How important would Southeast Asia become to Portugal and why?
5. Oceania/Australia. Why did Portugal not develop this region in the 15th and 16th centuries?