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A Poor Essay Answer

Question: The fifteenth- and sixteenth-century voyages of exploration produced lasting changes in the political and social structure of Western Europe. Would you say that these voyages tended to hasten or delay the growth of national states? Explain.

Answer

Interesting, but what does this have to do with the question?

The voyage of exploration is rather ambiguous as a term because actually there was no sudden burst of interest in exploring the world around them--they just were looking for easier trade routes to the orient. This so-called age of exploration, if it was indeed exploring, was quite by accident.

But how does all this strengthen nationalism?

When the first countries colonized the "New World" every other country wanted to get in on it. However, to make voyages in the first place, knowledge was needed in shipbuilding and navigation. Henry the Navigator bettered the conditions of European states by contributing to navigation, maps, etc. He also began a school for navigation. Great effort was now put forth to build more and more ships and for each country to go and colonize for itself. An example of this would be when Spain started some colonies in the "New World," France, England, Holland, etc.

No reasons given. Only a conclusion is being stated.

So the voyages of exploration didn't delay the growth of the national states. The voyages were all a part of the national states. The explorers who reached other lands claimed their find for their countries. These many voyages induced the growth of the national states.

Competition, wealth, trade, and pride are all suggested--but their relation to the development of nationalism is hard to see.

I think these voyages of exploration bound a nation together. The reason for this is that anything a group of people do together, and this was done by a whole country and not just its leaders, tends to unite them. Many times newly discovered lands brought great wealth to the mother country and new places for people to settle and raise families. Then when trading was carried out with the newly found places this again helped to unite the nation. People were also united in a common cause, this being to beat other countries to these places, for trade and colonization. The lands that were claimed, and the prestige and trade that followed those voyages, affected all the people of the country and made it stronger and richer.

Compare this answer to 'A Good Answer' to the same question.