

# THE HISTORY OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY



# NAMEPA's Mission

- Preserve and **protect** the marine environment
- Demonstrate **maritime commitment** to environmental protection and pollution prevention
- Support the **marine industry**
- Engage maritime businesses, government and public to **"Save our Seas"** by promoting sound environmental practices
- **Educate** on importance of protecting marine resources



Since the beginning of time, people have used water to help them transport cargo from one place to another. The first “ships” were single logs that small cargo was attached to and floated down river for trade. Eventually, logs were tied together to carry bigger cargos.



About 5,000 years ago, the first major **trade routes** were formed between modern-day India and Pakistan along the Arabian Sea. Due to bandits attacking caravans, land travel became dangerous and mariners began to travel on the sea. They used an **astrolabe** to navigate the waters. An astrolabe is an instrument that predicted the position of the sun, moon, planets and the stars.



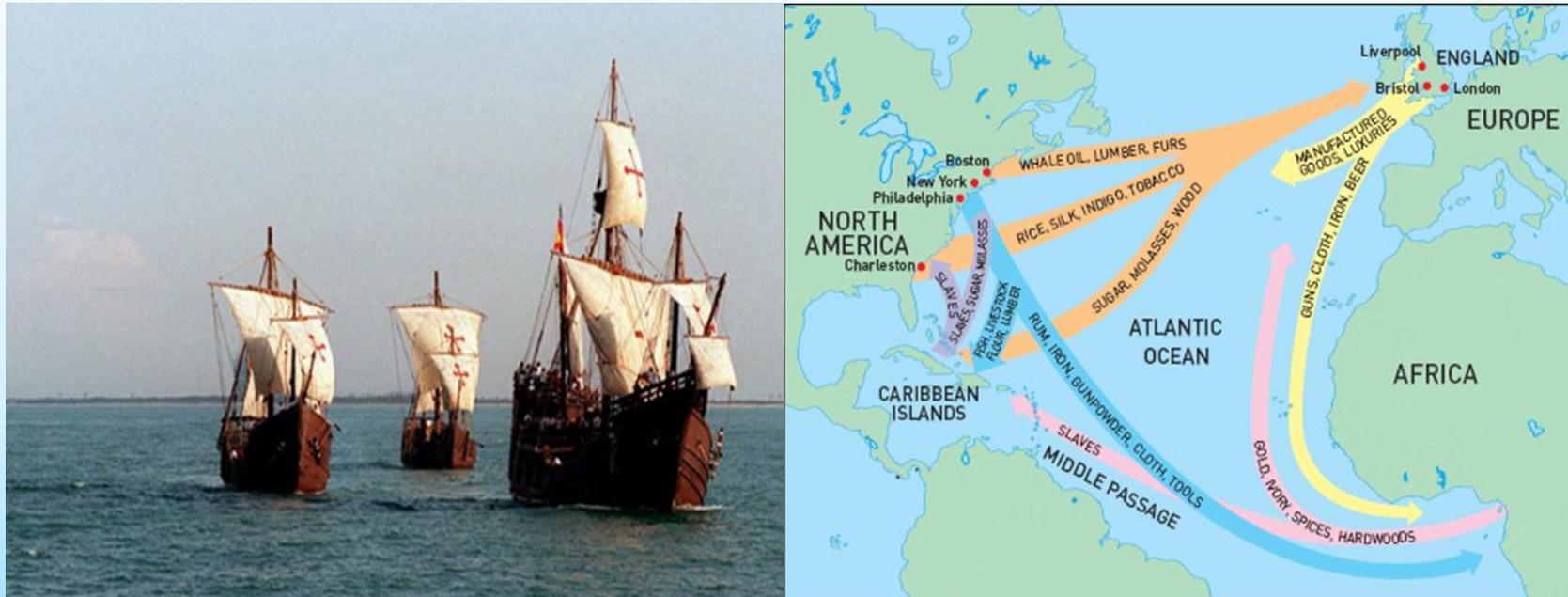
During the same the time, the Romans were developing fleets that could cross the Mediterranean Sea in about a month. They carried low-value goods such as grain and construction materials. It was much **cheaper** to transport these good by sea than by land. Romans soon expanded their trade routes to travel over the Indian Ocean.



During the 7<sup>th</sup> – the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Arab Empire began developing trade routes through Asia, Africa, and Europe. The **rivers** in the Islamic regions were not easily navigable so sea travel was necessary. These advanced vessels, called **qaribs**, greatly reduced the amount of time it took to transport goods.



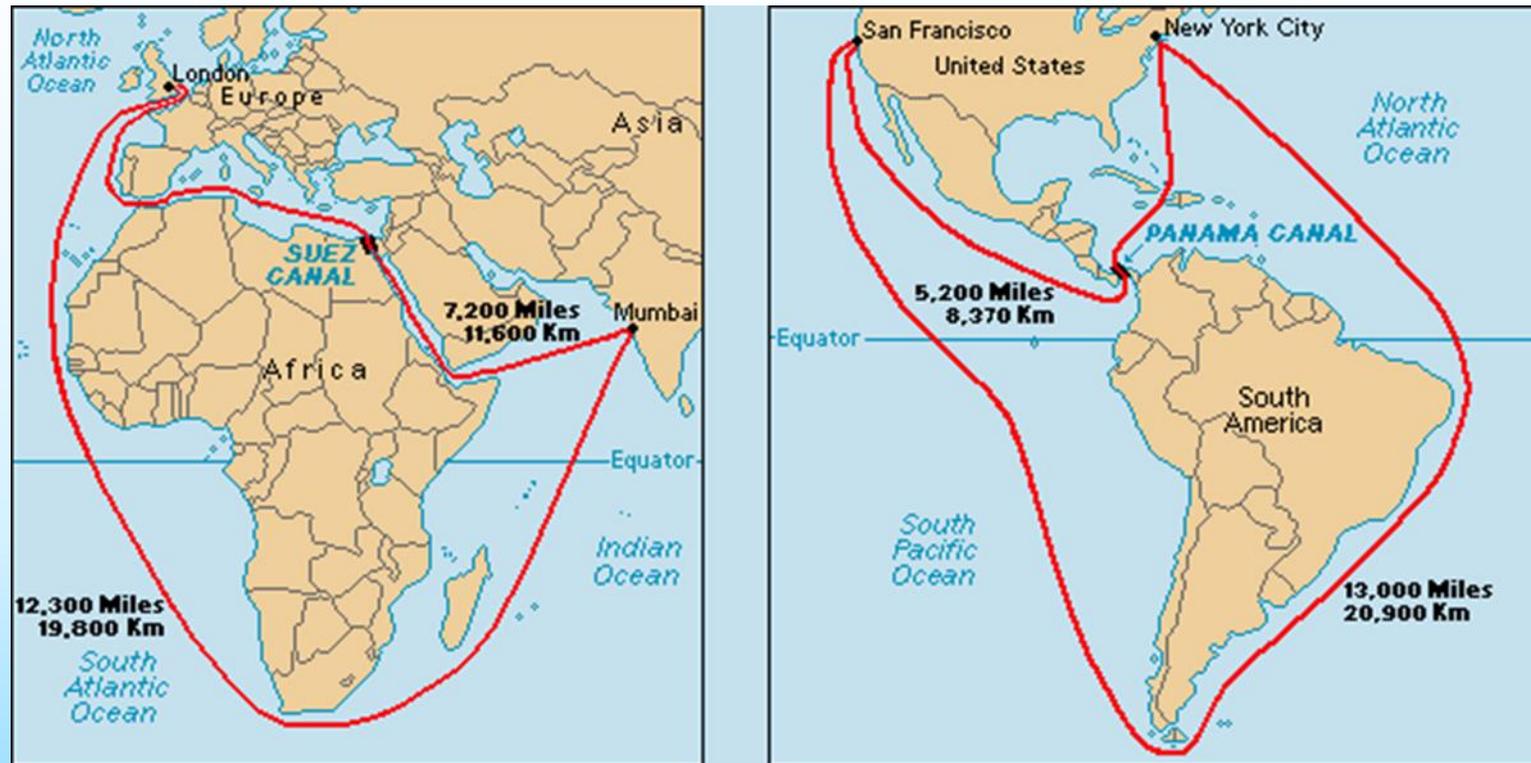
During the Age of Discovery in the 15<sup>th</sup> – the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, advances in **navigation** and **shipbuilding** allowed Europeans to voyage across the Atlantic. This opened up trade routes to Virginia and Maryland for tobacco and Mexico and Peru for silver.



Now many goods could be traded between Asia, England, France, Denmark, Portugal, and the Americas. Trade companies developed. The most successful was the **Dutch East India Company**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjUKm6MBIww>



During the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the **Suez Canal** opened shipping between Europe and Asia without going around Africa. The **Panama Canal** connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.



During this same time period, **cruise ships** were developed to carry people across the world. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, container shipping developed, leading to the shipping industry we see today.



## Works Cited

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