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A STUDY ON ADVENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIA- A HISTORICAL APPROACH

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Abstract

The Portuguese, the Dutch, the French and the British all came to India at various periods of history. Some in search of new lands, some in search of trade and commerce and some to lay the foundations of an empire., Their major attraction was however for long remained the exotic spices that only India grew in abundance. For centuries each of these European powers had commercial relations with the countries of the East from time immemorial. But from 7th century A.D India's sea –borne trade passed into the hands of the Arabs, who began to dominate the Indian Ocean and the Red sea. Several factors led to the discovery of the sea-route to India by the European navigators.

The fifteenth century Renaissance and Reformation engendered a spirit of adventure and enterprise in European minds. This new spirit also manifested itself in new geographical discoveries and sailors undertook perilous voyages across high seas to discover unknown lands. The sailors of Spain and Portugal, being patronized by their kings, took the initiative in discovering a sea route to India.

Key Words: The Portuguese, The Dutch, Europeans adventure and European navigators.
