China, Europe, and the Age of Exploration. Paper details: During the Middle Ages, China and India were the wealthiest and most populous countries on earth. Products such as silk, spices, and porcelain were traded from China and India to Europe overland along a series of trade routes called the Silk Roads. However, with rare exceptions such as Marco Polo, who traveled to the court of Kublai Khan in China, Europeans had little direct contact with either China or India. In the fifteenth century, Europeans began to send out voyages of exploration in search of quicker, less costly ocean routes to Asia. Arguably, Christopher Columbus was the most famous of these explorers. Columbus, who sailed west from Spain across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492 aspired to find a new sea route to Asia. Inadvertently, he discovered the Americas in the process. He even died in 1506 under the impression that he had reached Asia. This essay will require you to reflect on the importance of Asia in the fifteenth century, including how it shaped the expectations and behavior of Europeans such as Christopher Columbus. SOURCES https://go.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2632129/viewContent/50257881/View https://go.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2632129/viewContent/50257956/View https://go.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2632129/viewContent/50257911/View https://go.view.usg.edu/d2l/le/content/2632129/viewContent/50257895/View https://go.view.usg.edu/content/enforced/2632129- CO.540.HIST1112.81596.20232/Primary%20Source%20Documents/Marco%20Polo%20Chapter%20X.pdf https://go.view.usg.edu/content/enforced/2632129- CO.540.HIST1112.81596.20232/Primary%20Source%20Documents/Marco%20Polo%20Chapter%20XXII.pdf https://go.view.usg.edu/content/enforced/2632129-CO.540.HIST1112.81596.20232/Primary%20Source%20Documents/columbusletter.pdf Using the essay instructions included below and the allowed sources, this essay should address all of the following interrelated questions: What were the main reasons Europeans sought new trade routes to Asia, particularly to China and India? Give reasons for your answers. In addition, what positive features did Marco Polo describe about Yuan (Mongol) China? While Europeans were interested in Yuan (Mongol) and Ming China, why on the other hand did China pull back from exploration under the Ming dynasty? From his letter, where did Columbus believe that his voyage of exploration had arrived? In what ways did Marco Polo’s account of China appear to influence what Christopher Columbus expected to find during his voyage of exploration? How did Christopher Columbus describe the New World and the Native peoples he encountered? How did Columbus’ descriiption of the New World ultimately differ from Marco Polo’s descriiption of China? Essays should be generally free of spelling, grammatical, and stylistic errors. They should use complete sentences and paragraphs. A paragraph is comprised of 4-6 sentences. Essays should have an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement that provides the essay’s argument, the main body of several supporting paragraphs that address the questions, and a conclusion that wraps up the essay and refers again to the thesis statement. Essays should be indented at the beginning of each paragraph. Essays should be typed in 12-point font with a simple, clean font such as Times New Roman. Use 1” inch margins on all sides and double-space the text. Essays should provide specific examples and use evidence in answering the questions. This includes citing sources, either with direct quotes or summarized information. As a general rule of thumb, essays should have at least one citation per paragraph. Essays should avoid lengthy or block quotations. Essays should not use the first person, e.g. I, me, or my. Source citations should use a commonly accepted citation style such as MLA or Chicago. You should choose one of these citation styles from the outset and use it consistently throughout your essay. For more information on accepted citation styles, please see the General Essay Guideline on the syllabus.