

**OUTLINES OF LECTURES
ON HISTORY, ADDRESSED
TO THE STUDENTS OF
THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

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Outlines of lectures on history, addressed to the students of the Cornell University by Andrew D. White

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ANDREW D. WHITE

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PART I

*THE FIRST CENTURY OF MODERN
HISTORY*



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OUTLINES
OR
LECTURES ON HISTORY

THE AGE OF DISCOVERY.

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I. Importance of the Period extending from the Middle of the Fifteenth to the Middle of the Sixteenth Century.

A. In the impulse given to new enterprise in thought and action:—*The Great Voyages and Discoveries.*

B. In the diffusion of thought:—*The Invention and Spread of Printing.*

C. In political affairs:—*The Centralisation of Monarchical Power.*

D. In literature and science:—*The Revival of Learning.*

E. In art:—*The Renaissance in Sculpture, Painting, and Architecture.*

F. In religion and morals:—*The Reformation.*

II. General Acknowledgment of the Importance of this Period.

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lot, the Abbé Gaume, and Ruskin.

OUTLINES OF LECTURES ON HISTORY.

III. Mediæval Views of Geography.

A. The theological bias of Mediæval Science. Its effect upon the doctrine of the rotundity of the earth, the antipodes, etc. Ideas of the Fathers,—Lactantius, Eusebius. The Cosmography of Cosmas Indicopleustes.

B. Tinge given to general thought on scientific subjects. Example in sundry maps (country of Gog and Magog),—in Munster's Cosmography—in the Nuremberg Chronicle—in travels of Sir John Maundeville—in Cardinal d'Ailly.

C. General notions at the end of the Middle Ages regarding the earth's surface. Legacy of knowledge left by Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela, Plan Carpin, Rubruquis, Marco Polo and others in the thirteenth century.

D. Clews neglected. Herodotus's account of early discoveries. Neglected mediæval maps.

E. Various traditions accepted. The *Mare tenebrosum*. The fiery zone. The viscid sea.

IV. The Mediæval Paths of Commerce.

Effects of the Crusades on these paths and the control of them. Power of Genoa and Venice. Their struggle for supremacy. Victory of the latter. Theological difficulties in the way of mediæval trade with the East. Effect of these in giving supremacy to Venice.

V. Scientific Preparation for Maritime Discovery.

Works of the Arabians. Astronomical observations. Use of the compass. Difficulties in the way of Christian investigation in science.

THE AGE OF DISCOVERY.

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I. Prince Henry of Portugal and Portuguese Discoveries on the West African Coast (1415-1486).

Greatness of Prince Henry's character and work. His surroundings at Sagres. Expeditions sent out by him. Their steady progress after his death, under the impulse given by him. Culmination of this series of voyages in the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope by Bartholomew Diaz (1486).

Participation of Martin Behaim in these voyages. His perfection of the Astrolabe in 1480. His Nuremberg globe of 1492.

II. Columbus and the Spanish Transatlantic Voyages (1492-1530).

Preparation of Columbus. Scientific advantages. Toscanelli's map. The Astrolabe. Religious exaltation and political ambition of Columbus. His geographical views, —mixture in them of one great truth with two errors. His efforts. Difficulties. Effect of theological bias as seen in the Portuguese Junta and in the Junta of Salamanca. Inadequate scientific views used against him. His voyage and its success. His after voyages. His final view of his work.

The Cabots on the American coast (1497-9). Cabral in Brazil (1500). Ponce de Leon in Florida (1512). Balboa upon the Pacific at the Isthmus (1513).

Part taken by Amerigo Vespucci. His voyages. His