

The great sea voyages changed the world forever.



European merchants found customers eager to buy spices and other luxury goods from Asia.

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Work on the great Renaissance masterpiece of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome began in 1506 and was completed in 1615.

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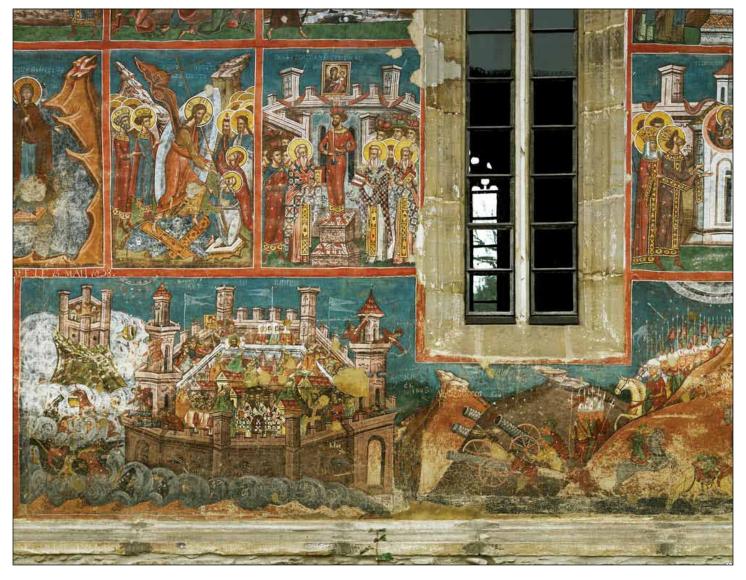
This Russian aristocrat was called a boyar. We can tell he was very high ranking, because of his long beard. Only the highest levels of boyars were allowed to wear beards.



Louis XIV of France became known as the Sun King. The sun was the heavenly body which gave life to all things. Louis XIV wanted his subjects to see him the same way.



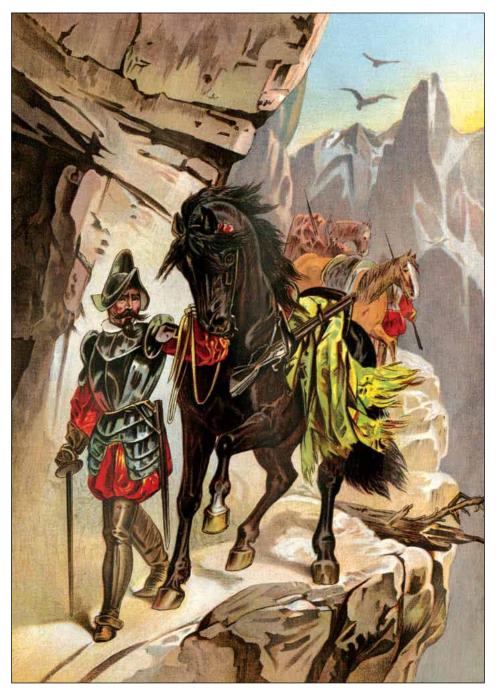
Knights from France and Genoa used cannon to bombard the fortified town of Mehadia in North Africa in 1390.



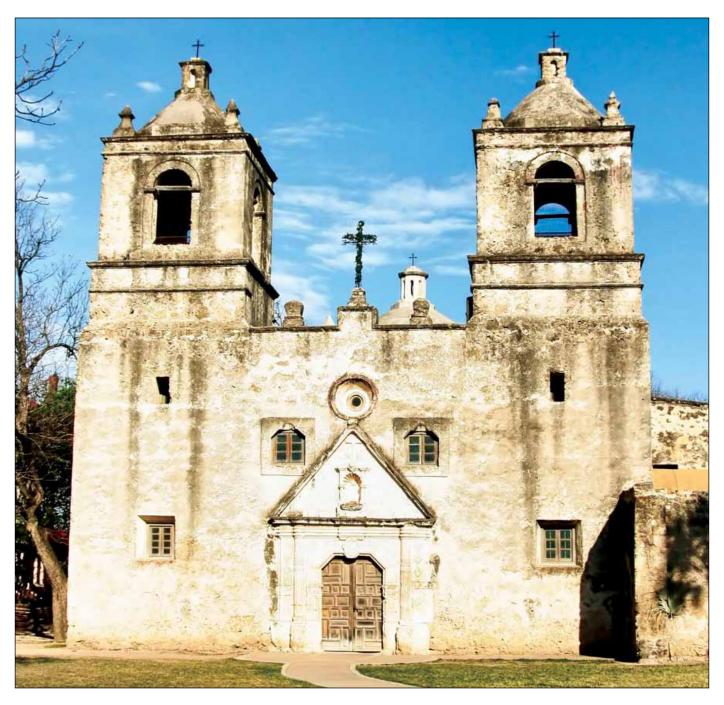
This painting on a building in Romania shows Ottoman cannon bombarding Constantinople in 1453. Gunpowder technology helped the Ottomans take Constantinople and end the Byzantine Empire.



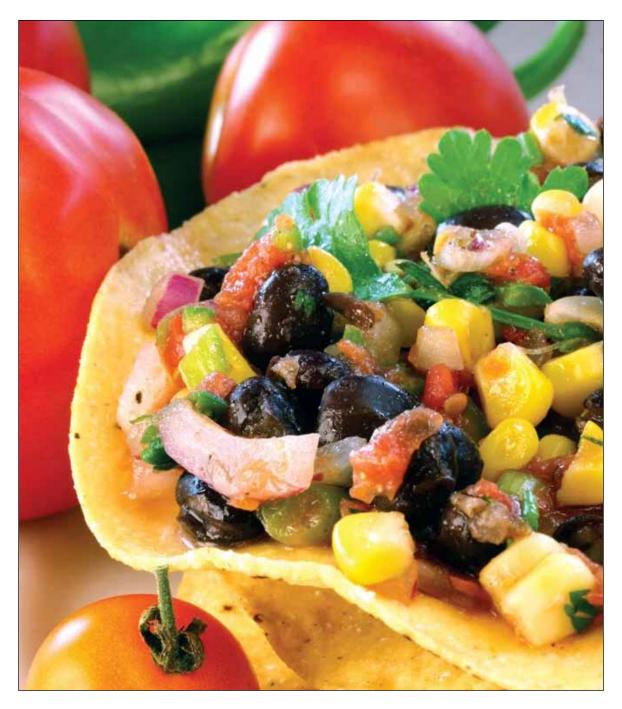
Overseas trade helped European nations grow strong. These warehouses in Canton, China, belonged to British and Dutch companies in the early 1800s.



Francisco Pizarro led his army through the Andes to conquer the Inca empire in Peru in 1530.



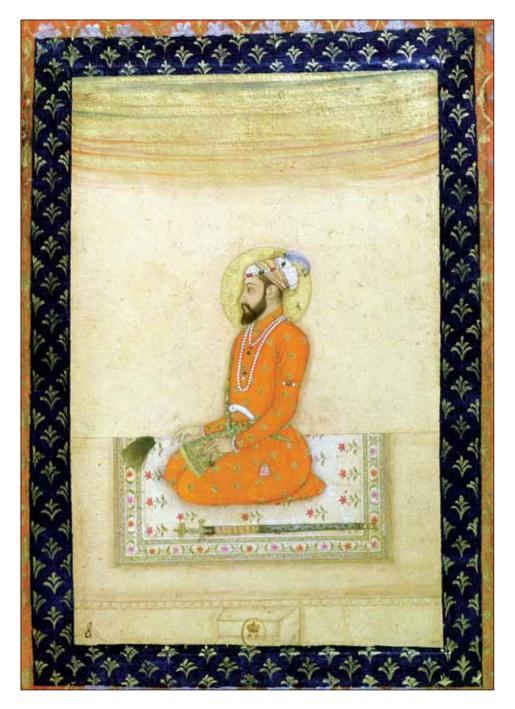
The Catholic Church built many missions in Spanish America to convert American Indians to Christianity. This is Mission Concepción in what is now San Antonio, Texas.



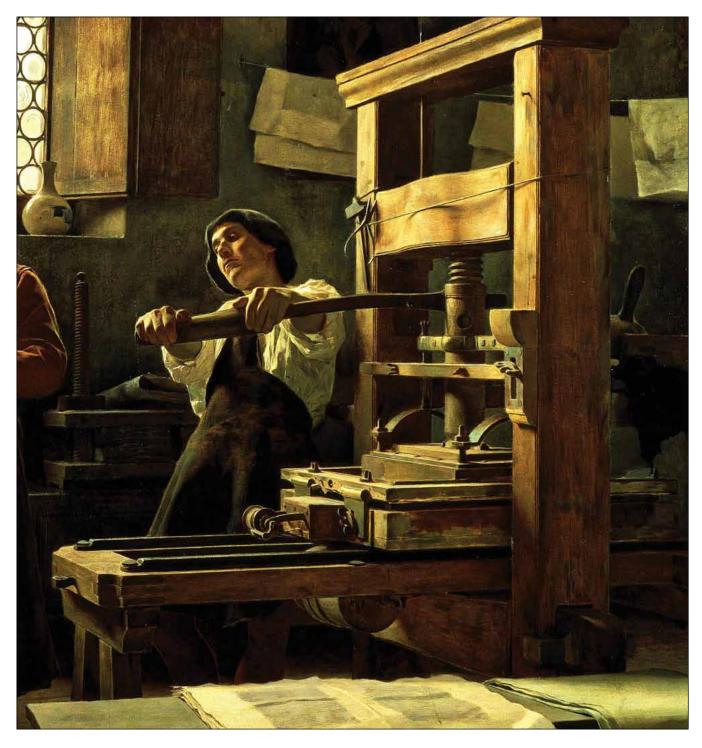
Without the Columbian Exchange, only those who lived in the Americas would be able to enjoy foods such as this black bean and corn salsa.



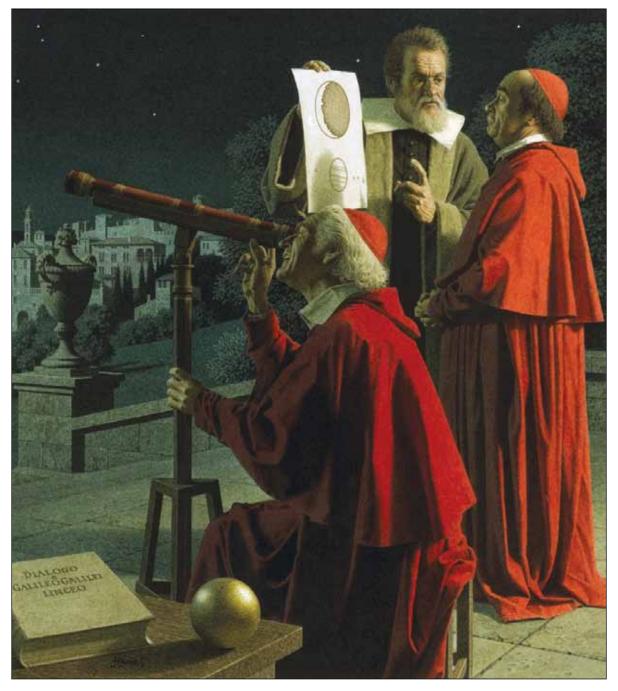
During smallpox epidemics in Europe, about 25 percent of cases were fatal. When smallpox came to the Americas, the illness often wiped out whole villages. Indians had not been exposed to the disease before, and they had no resistance to it.



Under Aurangzeb, who ruled India from 1658 to 1707, the Mughal Empire reached its greatest size. His zeal for spreading Islam led to persecution of Hindus.



A pressman produces a copy of Martin Luther's treatise against the Catholic Church. He could print nearly a hundred of these in a day.



Galileo's telescope helped him make many discoveries. He found that the surface of the moon is rough, not smooth. He also saw four of Jupiter's moons and the rings that surround Saturn.



Peter the Great was described by Princess Catherine Dashkova, who knew many great Enlightenment thinkers, as " quick-tempered, brutal, and despotic, he treated all without distinction like slaves who had to bear everything."

16