The Eastern and Western Maritime Routes to Asia

The fall of the Bizantium Empire closed the land route to Asia

Constantinople (1453)

Portugal was able to trade with India without Arab middle men (most of the Arab fleet was sunk by 1515)

From 1419 to 1487, Portuguese ships explore the west coast of Africa

Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean by rounding the southern tip of South America (1520)

Vasco de Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope and reached India (1497-1499)

The Cape of Good Hope at the southernmost end of Africa is reached, involving the possibility to reach Asia by a maritime route

The fall of the Bizantium Empire closed the land route to Asia

Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Dept. of Economics & Geography, Hofstra University