

Gold, God, Glory

“Gold, God, Glory” virtually describes the three main motivations of countless European explorers. The expedition across the Atlantic had high risks of starvation, drowning and disease and these words kept them going with a positive mindset. God would reward them. “Gold, God, Glory” were the factors that encouraged exploration.

Gold- Not gold as in literal sense but gold as in wealth. It was one of the main reasons why explorers explored the New World. The explorers believed that there was an abundant amount of riches in the New World and they wanted it to get richer. For example, Christopher Columbus traded with the indigenous people for gold at a great profit for Spain.

God- Religion was one of the most popular motives to explore then. With Europe christianized, the Europeans saw spreading the Christianity as a good thing. Colonization of the Americas resulted in converting the indigenous people to Christians. The explorers believed that by doing so, God would reward them.

Glory- There was a lot of honour and prestige associated with discovering a new settlement or finding new resources. Glory made explorers to rich lords, instead of poor sailors. Also more territory meant more national glory.