

TREATY OF ZARAGOGA

1. Following the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, which divided the New World along a meridian 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands, Spain and Portugal continued to clash over territories in Asia and the Pacific, particularly the Moluccas (Spice) Islands. Both nations aimed to dominate the profitable trade in cloves, nutmeg, and other highly valued spices—commodities considered more valuable than gold in Europe.
2. Spain argued that the Moluccas were in their hemisphere, citing Magellan's Voyage (1519–1522) and claiming they were south of the Tordesillas line. Portugal countered, citing earlier Indian Ocean exploration and eastern navigation routes to assert that the islands were under its jurisdiction. This geographical ambiguity stemmed from the fact that the Tordesillas line divided the Atlantic but did not define the opposite side of the globe, leading to disputes over the antimeridian.
3. The Treaty of Zaragoza, signed on April 22, 1529, was an agreement between Emperor Charles V of Spain and King John III of Portugal, finalized in Zaragoza, which is in present-day Spain.
4. Main Provisions –
 - The new Demarcation line is set at 297.5 leagues (roughly 17 degrees east of the Moluccas), establishing the influence zone in Asia and the Pacific.
 - Portugal's influence also included taking control of the Moluccas (Spice Islands).
 - Spain's compensation was 3,50,000 ducats of gold in exchange for relinquishing its claim to the Moluccas.
 - Navigation Rights cover Spain's commitment not to navigate or trade in the regions west of the new demarcation line, which falls within the Portuguese sphere.
 - The Treaty of Zaragoza also included a crucial clause of mutual Non-Interference. This meant that both parties agreed not to infringe on each other's territories, fostering a spirit of cooperation and maintaining peace in trade and exploration, a key aspect of the treaty that ensured stability in the region.

5. Geopolitical Impact –

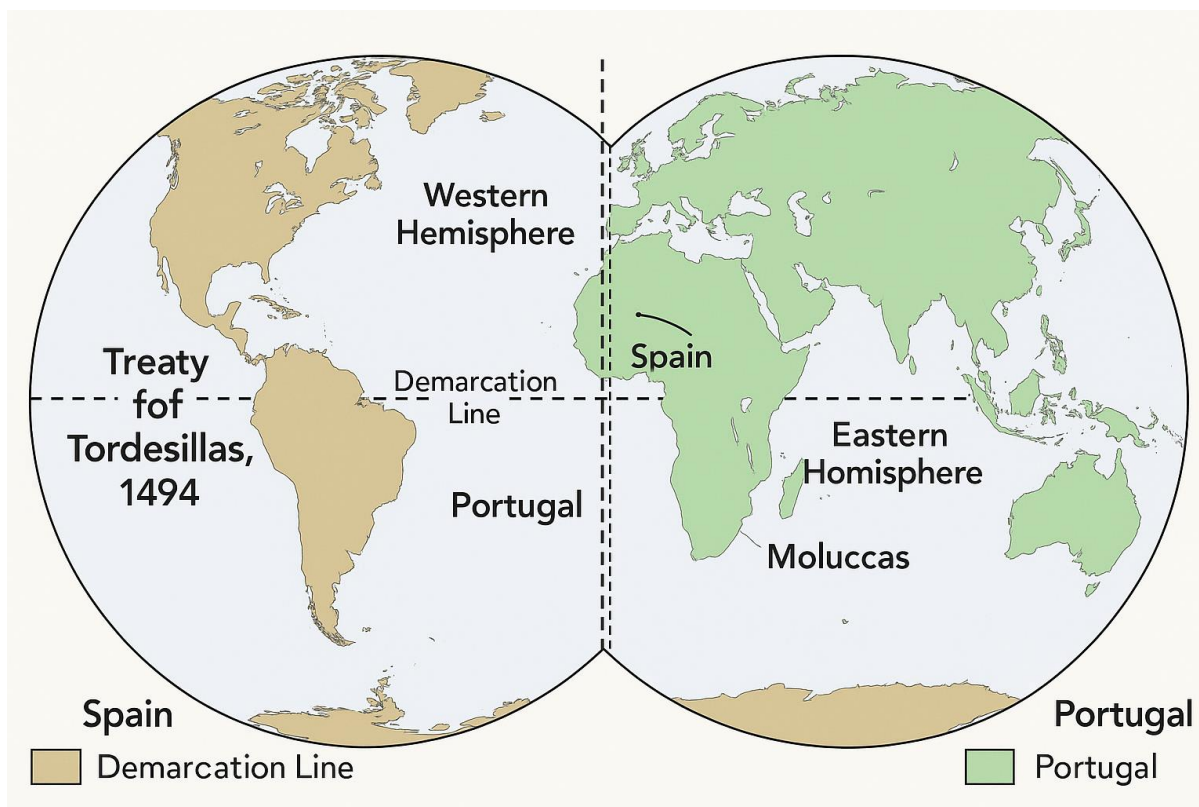
- Portugal's influence in the East was strengthened through a treaty that secured its control over the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and the Spice Islands, establishing a monopoly on the spice trade.
- Spain's westward expansion shifted its focus to the Pacific and the Americas following its exclusion from the East Indies. It prompted exploration of the Philippines, which Spain claimed in 1542 and started colonizing in 1565.
- The Global Balance of Power encompasses the Treaty of Zaragoza and the Treaty of Tordesillas, which marked the first division of global territories among European colonial powers.
- The term "Spheres of Influence" was coined by treaties such as the Treaty of Zaragoza and the Treaty of Tordesillas, which originally partitioned the world into specific zones of influence. This concept continued to shape global politics and imperialism in the centuries that followed, a testament to the enduring legacy of these early treaties.

6. Technical Aspect – The "Antimeridian" Issue

- The Treaty of Tordesillas established a meridian in the Atlantic Ocean; however, because Earth is spherical, the opposite side of the globe would be divided by the antimeridian, which is likely in the Pacific.
- The Treaty of Zaragoza primarily aimed to clarify and formalize this antemeridian, although during that period, geographic knowledge was limited, and precise longitude measurements weren't possible until the 18th century.

7. In brief –

- The Treaty of Zaragoza (1529) was the first to partition territories worldwide, granting Portugal control over Asia's spice routes and encouraging Spain to explore and expand its presence in the Pacific. This pivotal agreement was instrumental in shaping colonial borders during the early modern period, a significant chapter in the history of European exploration and colonization.



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Date of post: 22.07.2026