

COLONIAL SYSTEM OF PORTUGAL

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The great geographical discoveries of the late XV century laid the foundation for a sharp struggle between Spain and Portugal for new, unknown lands and for sea routes to them. The dispute between these feudal states of the Iberian Peninsula about the "right" to seize all the newly discovered regions of the globe was transferred to the court of the pope. In 1493, Pope Alexander VI issued several bulls in a row, which each time set a new line for dividing the alleged possessions of Spain and Portugal from north to south across the Atlantic Ocean. All the space to the west of this line was considered Spanish, to the east - Portuguese. In the end, the line of demarcation in the Atlantic Ocean was established by the Tordesillas treatise on June 7, 1494, signed by Spain and Portugal. This line ran 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde Islands. All newly discovered lands east of this "Papal Meridian" were declared the possessions of Portugal, and to the west - the possessions of Spain¹. However, the first round-the-world trip of Magellan (1519-1522) and the capture of the Philippine Islands by Spain again raised the question of delimiting the zones of domination of Spain and Portugal, but already in the Pacific. The Zaragoza treatise of 1529 established a line along the Pacific Ocean, dividing the domination zones on the globe between the two states of the Iberian Peninsula. True, Spain from the very beginning violated the conditions of the partition by not returning the Philippines captured by it in the Portuguese zone to Portugal. Based on this section, sanctioned by the pope, Spain and Portugal considered not only the land, but also

the waters of all newly discovered areas their forbidden zone. Every ship was subject to confiscation, and its crew - to be executed or enslaved by the Doctrine of Discovery. The division by the pope of the whole newfound peace between Spain and Portugal served as a convenient justification for the refusal to allow other states to enter colonial conquests. However, the strength of this justification remained only as long as Spain and Portugal dominated the seas. The collapse of this domination at the end of the XVI century. Led to the loss by Spain and Portugal of their monopoly in colonial conquests.

With completely different conditions, the Portuguese met in India. Here they had to deal with the peoples of ancient high culture, who were at the stage of developed feudalism, well acquainted with firearms. It was impossible to conquer India, Indo-China, Indonesia, China and other countries that were part of the zone that Portugal had "inherited" under the partition with Spain. But the Portuguese managed to take advantage of one important advantage: they had a stronger fleet than the small feudal lords in India, Indonesia, Indo-China. Capturing, robbing, destroying the crews of the ships of Muslim merchants who held in their hands the sea trade of India before the arrival of Europeans, the Portuguese became masters of the South Seas and the Indian Ocean. Having achieved dominance here, they completely seized the sea communications in the Indian Ocean and around Africa². The Portuguese secured their dominance in the South Seas with a network of fortified naval bases at the most

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important strategic points. that entered this zone without proper permission

In 1510, Goa was captured in India, becoming the center of the Portuguese colonial empire in the East, the residence of the vice king. Then, Diu, Daman and Bombay (India), Hormuz (Persian Gulf), Malacca (Malay Peninsula), Macau (China), Taiwan, the Moluccas and several other points were captured. Based on this network of fortresses, the Portuguese forced the small feudal lords to give them in the form of tribute or at minimum prices all the extraction of precious spices.

The Portuguese seized enormous wealth in the East both by piracy on the seas and by robbing cities and feudal lords of South Asia. Finally, they received huge profits from trade with Asian and African countries. On the export of spices from Asian countries, they usually extracted 400 or more percent of profit. Lisbon and Goa became the largest markets for slaves. The Indians spoke of the Portuguese conquerors: "It is fortunate that the Portuguese are as few as tigers and lions, otherwise they would destroy the whole human race."

The Portuguese in India did not have enough strength to complete the military capture of the country, as the Spanish did in America, but they systematically carried out colonial robbery in the form of monopolistic appropriation and export of the most valuable products of the eastern countries. Where possible, the Portuguese acted in exactly the same way as the Spaniards. In Brazil, the Portuguese introduced the same system of exploitation as the Spaniards. The huge revenues from the Portuguese colonial empire in India and Brazil went primarily in favor of the treasury, since all the most profitable items of trade were declared a royal monopoly. The feudal nobility and the nobility were enriched as representatives of royal power in the colonies; finally, the Catholic Church, forcibly converting

the population of Brazil and Portugal fortified points in India to Christianity, also drew significant conclusions from the Portuguese colonial empire³.

However, the importance of the formation of the first overseas colonial empires by Spain and Portugal was reduced not only to the enrichment of these countries. The formation of these empires opened the era of colonial conquest of Europeans and created some important conditions for the formation of the world market. In Europe itself, it helped strengthen the process of so-called initial accumulation, led to a "price revolution", and was a powerful impetus for the further development of capitalist relations in countries such as Holland, England, and France. "The discovery of gold and silver mines in America, the eradication, enslavement and burial of the native population alive in mines, the first step towards the conquest and plunder of the East Indies, the transformation of Africa into a reserved hunting ground for blacks - such was the morning dawn of the capitalist era of production. These idyllic processes are the main points of the initial accumulation"

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