



# Drake's Circumnavigation of the Globe, 1577-80

## The factor of... Rivalry with Spain



1558

1568

1588

1603

### Causes of English-Spanish Rivalry

- Since 1494, the 'New World' had been divided by the Pope between Spain and Portugal- England didn't recognise this!
- Silver was being mined in Central and South America in enormous quantities.
- Spain banned other countries from trading with their colonies, or setting up their own in the Americas.
- The Catholic Church was starting to spread into South and Central America, much to the concern of Protestants.
- The Spanish guarded their knowledge of the New World closely- for example, they banned English traders from looking for a shortcut to the Far East through the Straits of Anian.

### Consequences of Drake's Circumnavigation

- Drake showed that Spanish control of the Americas could be challenged- the Spanish were terrified of 'El Drago' after this!
- Drake had opened up the Far East and the New World to English trade.
- He had established English claims to colonise land in the Americas.
- The knowledge that Drake returned with meant that others could follow his example.

**Rivalry with Spain**

### Rivalry seen on the Circumnavigation

- Drake planned to sail round South America, and explore the trading and colonisation opportunities in the areas controlled by the Spanish, then return the same way. Along the way, he was to raid Spanish ships and settlements.
- Drake soon captured a Portuguese ship, with a rutter detailing ports and routes along the way.
- After rounding Cape Horn, Drake attacked Spanish ships and ports, stealing their treasure.
- He also went north, searching for the Strait of Anian, and claimed land as an English colony, Nova Albion.
- Instead of going back the way he came, Drake chose to return via the valuable trading ports in the Far East, which previously Spain controlled access to.

### But...

- English trade remained focused on the Netherlands, not these new areas.
- The easiest place for England to confront Spain was in the Netherlands.
- Spain increased security for their colonies, making future raids much harder.
- The Nova Albion colony went nowhere, and future English colonies were far away from Spanish controlled areas.
- Drake failed to find the Strait of Anian, and future voyages focused on trying to find that.