Distant Expeditions

Spanish and Portuguese merchants aimed to find a new route to India and the East Indies in order to import desired goods from these areas cheaply. They were particularly interested in maritime routes because land routes had become very dangerous and expensive, as they were controlled by the Turks, who imposed high tolls and tariffs on transported goods. It is thanks to these merchants and explorers that we owe the development of geographical knowledge among Europeans of that time. Incredible tales of overseas lands full of gold, silver, and precious stones fueled imagination and prompted action because everyone wanted to become wealthy. Faraway expeditions offered the opportunity to gain fame and fortune.