Western expansion. Trade & Christianity would typically complement each other in the process of Western expansion.

4) Cultural motivation - The intellectual movement known as the Renaissance (late 1300s - 1500s) generated a new thirst for experience & knowledge. Henry the Navigator's zeal to explore the unknown & Christopher Columbus' adventurousness had closely to the Renaissance mentality.

5) Inter-state rivalry also a factor. Newly-created national monarchies (Portugal, Spain) competed with older, revitalized kingdoms (England, France) for discoveries & colonies. Thus Western colonial expansion can be seen as an extension of European power politics.

Portuguese Colonial Expansion
- Begins in early 1400s - discovery of Canary Islands, Azores
- Extends down African coast to Cape of Good Hope by 1498 - Vasco de Gama first to sail into Indian Ocean.