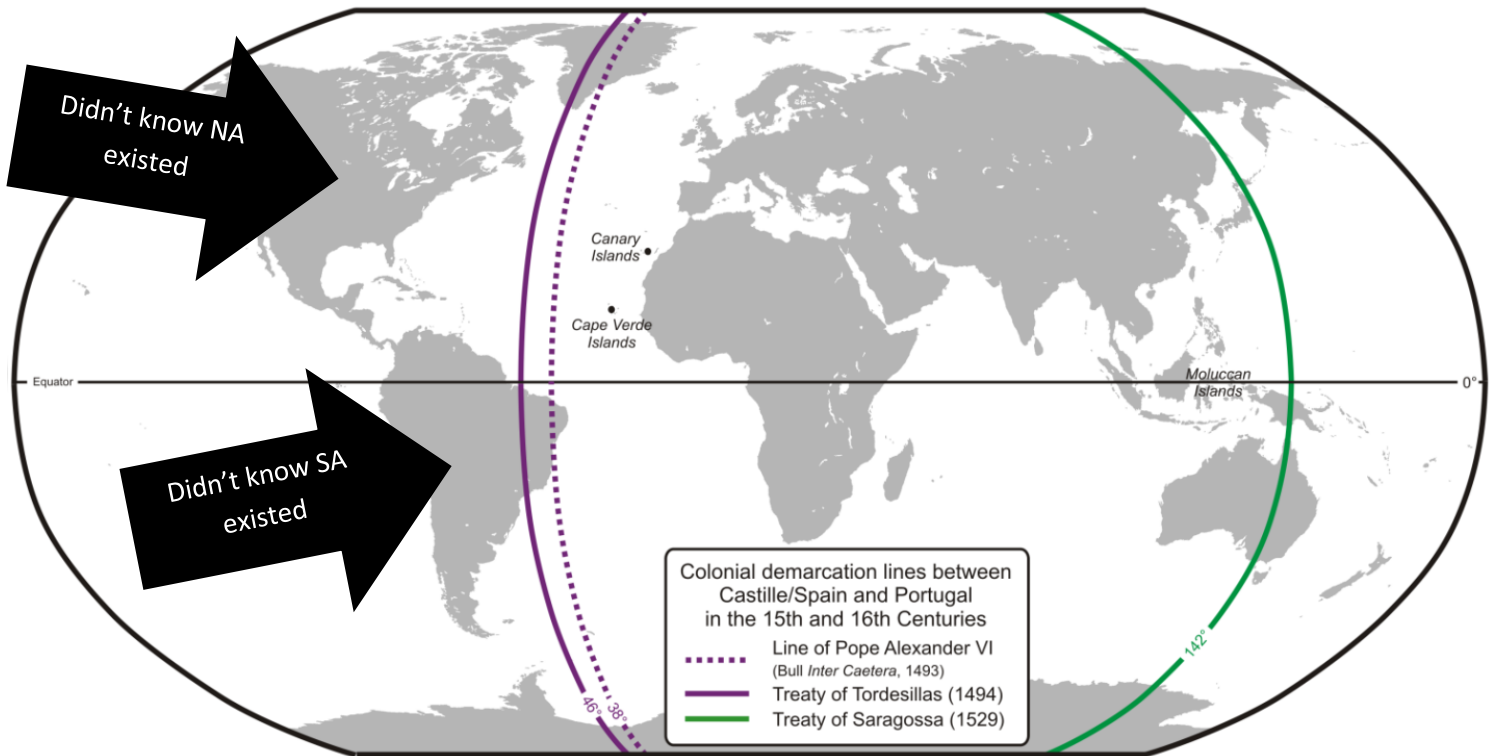


The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)

The Power of the Roman Catholic Pope



- Returning from his expedition to the "Indies", Columbus landed in Lisbon (forced by a storm). There he had the opportunity to meet with John II, King of Portugal, to talk about his discoveries to the west. The Portuguese monarch immediately claimed that he was the owner of the new lands under the rights of the Treaty of Alcacovas (which said that all the lands at the south of the Canary Islands belonged to Portugal).
- The King and Queen of Spain appealed directly to the Pope (the Spanish Alexander VI) to decide who ultimately owned the land. The Pope drew a line down the map, granting everything east (Africa, India, etc.) to Portugal and everything west (the Caribbean – and ultimately North and South America which were then unexplored) to Spain.

This is why the official language of Brazil is Portuguese while in everywhere else across South America it is Spanish

