

off the fence.

Into The Rising Sun

4 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. The Barrier of Fear

Cape Bojador, along the northwest African coast, was known as the 'Barrier of Fear.' It had to be crossed in the search for a sea route to the East.

This is the story of Henry the Navigator, who was determined to conquer it, and his men, who courageously inched their way to the cape, despite a paralyzing fear of what lay beyond.

When finally rounded in 1434, the business of exploration could begin in earnest. No longer terrified by their vision of the unknown, Portuguese explorers rapidly progressed along the West African coast.

2. Beyond the Cape of Storms

Battling heavy seas, Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias called a massive cape near the southern tip of Africa the 'Cape of Storms.' His king renamed it Good Hope, since the sea route to the Indies was finally open. But Good Hope for Portugal would mean bad news for a lot of others.

This second episode in the series chronicles the epic voyages along thousands of miles of African coast that prepared the way to the Cape. Each pushed back the frontier of the unknown, revolutionising Europe's view of the extent of humanity. And each voyage forced different cultures to meet, irrevocably shaping their future.

3. The Passage to India

Vasco da Gama's voyage to India remains one of the great adventure tales of all time: a 27,000 mile round trip, much of it through unknown waters. Against all odds, Da Gama managed to return with a handful of spices. But more importantly, he came back with information. Used by the West, it would shape the fate of the East.

This third episode in the series retraces the arduous voyage to India as told in the one surviving eye-witness account. It is a story of awe and wonder, peril and hardship, and single-minded determination. But most important, it is the story of a crucial meeting between East and West, which would have dramatic effects on the shape of the world.

4. A Liar's Tale

Portuguese merchant adventurer Mendes Pinto travelled widely throughout Asia, attending key events from the Red Sea to Japan in the mid-16th century. But Pinto witnessed more than Portugal's astounding rise in the East. Hidden throughout his account are hints of defeat and corruption; the first signs of its eventual demise in Asia.

This fourth and final episode in the series tracks Pinto's incredible adventures throughout the East. It is difficult to separate fact from fiction in his account, but one thing is clear. Understanding our world begins with knowing what Pinto saw at a time when East and West were first forced to deal with one another.