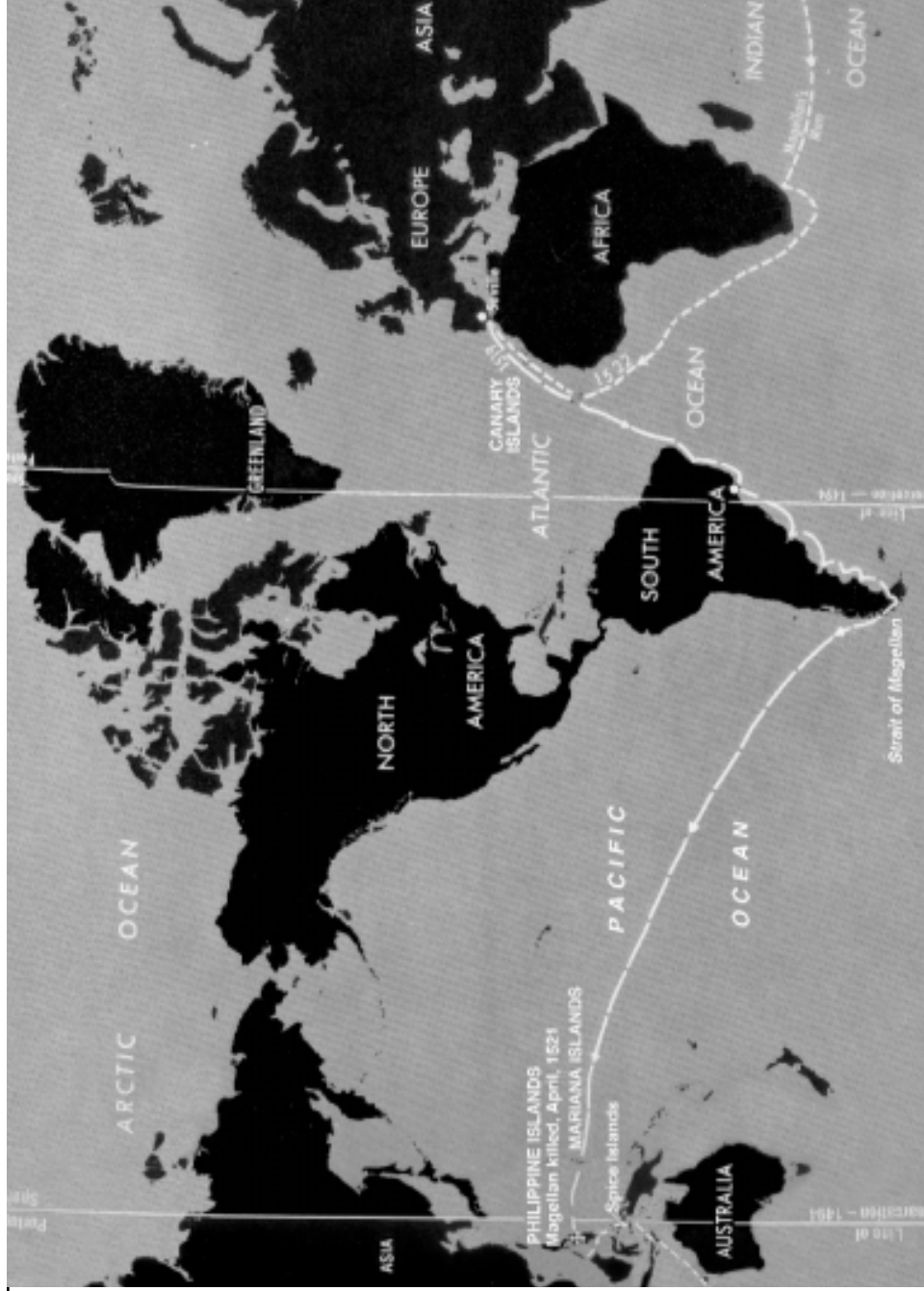


CHAPTER 1

Magellan – The Boy

His first name was Ferdinand. But as a boy, his friends and family called him Pedro. He was born into a noble Portuguese family in 1480. The Magellan family had once been rich. It still owned lands here and there. But it no longer had a great deal of money.

Pedro's father had great hopes for his son. He hoped that Pedro would rise to a high post in the government. To pave the way, he got the boy placed as a page at the Portuguese court. Pedro



learned he was to be page to the queen of Portugal. One might think that would be an honor. But it was not.

In fact, it was a lowly job. Pedro had to run errands. He had to clean the queen's rooms. He helped in the palace kitchens. He waited on tables. Worst of all, he was on call 24 hours a day. He was often waked in the middle of the night for some unimportant task. There was no point in complaining. There were many boys who would be more than happy to take his place.

The job did have one bright spot. A page was given a good education. He was taught to read and write and to do sums. He learned a bit of history. The study of geography did not take