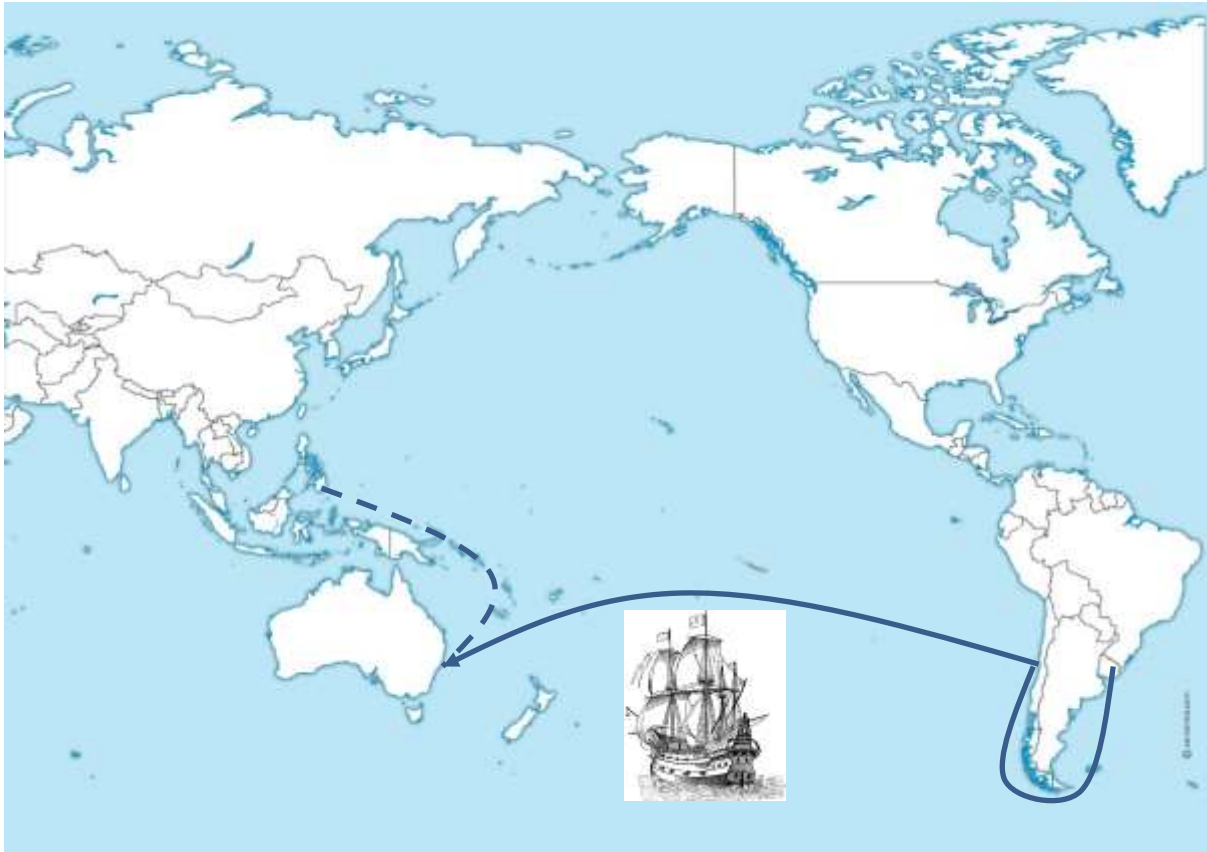




*The Australian Association
for Maritime History Inc.*

Invasion



Spain planned to attack Britain's new colony in **Australia** with a 100-vessel armada as part of an operation designed to "take the fight to the British in the Pacific", according to newly uncovered archival documents.

The documents, discovered in Spanish navy archives by Chris Maxworthy, from The Australian Association for Maritime History, reveal that King Carlos IV approved the plot after a Spanish expedition arrived in Sydney in 1793, just five years after the establishment of the British settlement.



As the European imperial powers struggled for supremacy of the Pacific, the Spanish invasion was intended to ensure that the southern colony would not be used by the British to cause "great harm" to Spain's colonial interests in central and southern America and the Philippines.

The Spanish intended to unleash a new type of "hot shot" cannon that involved firing heated shots that could set fire to ships or buildings.