Portugal attacked Morocco in 1415 with intent to conquer and get access to African gold. It captured Ceuta, and, by 1521, established several bases on its Atlantic coast, but Moroccan forces recaptured these in 1541 and in 1578 annihilated a Portuguese invasion force. However, Portuguese innovations in the design of ships and navigational instruments made it possible to circumnavigate Africa and trade directly with India and other Asian destinations from 1497 onwards.