

HST 201: History of United States ONLINE

F17 (Escobar 20886)

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Week 3 Forum

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Christopher Columbus Podcast

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9:47 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Christopher Columbus Podcast topic.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Christopher Columbus Podcast

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Re: Disease Spread Between Indians and Europeans

by Preston Cobb - Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 1:26 PM

In the article [Celebrating Columbus, Brave and Bright](#) the author states “It’s preposterous to postulate that he should have known what would happen when two hitherto unfamiliar worlds collided.” This struck me because many think with all the diseases that that the Europeans brought with them, that caused many deaths to the native; that the Europeans should have known what they were doing to the indigenous species. Columbus thought he was sailing to west Asian and India, who’s people have encountered the Europeans already. Columbus and many others as stated in the article had no knowledge that when the two new worlds collide disease would easily be spread between the populations. Blame must be set on both parties,

yes when I say this I even mean the Indians. In paragraph eight the author states "Indians for unwittingly giving the visitors syphilis, which they took back with them and which subsequently wiped out upwards of 5 million Europeans." It may not have impacted the Europeans as much as the Indians were hit with disease, however they are at blame as well.

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Re: Disease Spread Between Indians and Europeans

by Marla Rogers - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:52 PM

The way I understood it was that if people *insist* on calling Columbus and the European explores "mass murders" because of the numerous deaths caused by smallpox infections in the Native Americans, then they can only call the Native Americans the same because of the syphilis they infected the Europeans with. Although, I think the real point the author is trying to make is that *neither* can truly be blamed.

Say for example, you or I were around around someone, perhaps an elderly person whose immune system is compromised, and we had the flu. Maybe it was the first couple of days and we thought is was just a cold, so we didn't even think of the risks of exposing it to others. However, this elderly person contracted the flu from us, and due to their compromised immune system (which is essentially what the differing parties had because they had no antibodies built up to the new diseases) they died because of the flu virus that we gave to them. Does that mean that we should be charged with murder? It's 2017, and we absolutely understand how disease spreads and how the immune system work, but no person would even think of trying someone for murder because they accidentally infected another with the flu.

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Re: Disease Spread Between Indians and Europeans

by Desiree Mantey - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 5:27 PM

That same quote from the article, Celebrating Columbus, Brave and Bright, was also very interesting to me. People do tend to blame Columbus and other Europeans for bringing disease to the America's which eventually wiped out thousands of Native American's. But at that point in time germ theory was not a thing and nobody even knew what most diseases were much less how they were spread. Although I am not a fan of Columbus, it is a valid point that the spread of disease was not a result of his intention but like everything else that Columbus did it was by accident.

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Celebration of Christopher Columbus

by Katrina Alsup - Tuesday, October 10, 2017, 6:09 PM

The topic that intrigued me in the podcast was about how people view the celebration in the USA. I think the reason Columbus day is so popular in the US is not only due to the Italian American pride, but to what him and his voyages started. Columbus is known for his voyages to the Bahamas, and the voyages are what sparked the interest in the new world. If Columbus

didn't get the opportunity to sail, then other mariners wouldn't have taken off to discover new land and settle colonies. We wouldn't be where we are today if weren't for discovery of new land.

I think the reason a lot of people protested the 500th celebration was due to the fact that the new discoveries lead to the near extinction of natives. I don't agree that he is as bad as they paint him to be, but I'm not saying he was great either, he was just an average man, and like every other man at the time, looking for money and fame, in Spain, who was in the right place at the right time. His voyages sparked the greed of the conquistadors who sailed even further to find riches. It was the conquistadores that were ruthless and selfish, who nearly wiped out the natives over gold and silver.

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Re: Celebration of Christopher Columbus

by Marla Rogers - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 8:00 PM

I have to say, I was taken by surprise with the view of the Italian-Americans that were talked about in the podcast. I had grown up with the narrative that Columbus was a man guilty of genocide of an entire population. I never really stopped to think that without him, I wouldn't be here today, and neither would millions of other people. The effects on the Native Americans that were caused by his journey and other's subsequent journeys are atrocious, but everyone living in the United States today must pay some respects to Columbus, because without him traveling to the Americas and paving the way for many other explorers and settlers, we simply wouldn't exist.

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Give credit where credit is due

by Anita Spoor - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 12:48 PM

The topic of Christopher Columbus not being the first to discover America kinda got me. I know that there is always more to the story especially when the story is a rhyme used to help school aged children remember an important date. But lets just stop there for a second and really think about this, If we are wanting to teach children something about our history, why would we not just start with the facts? Why would or should we even waste the time and energy it takes to teach them if it is not even the truth? As an adult I knew that there was probably earlier explorations of the New World but due to being taught at a young age that Columbus was the first to discover it, I assumed it was after his time. The article that I enjoyed the most would have to be "Celebrating Columbus, Brave and Bright" by Charles C. W. Cooke. I really enjoyed the fact that they not only cleared up some things about the first to discover America but they also gave credit where credit was due. The article did a great job at clearing things up.

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Re: Give credit where credit is due



by Desiree Mantey - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 9:09 PM

Anita,

You make a good point that it makes no sense for anyone of any age to be taught something that is untrue. However, the issue is we don't know who taught the teachers who taught us the false information in the first place. I really doubt that elementary school teachers are making a conscious effort to lie to children who in most cases wouldn't even care if Columbus was the first to find the America's. Our generation obviously wasn't the first to be misinformed.

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New way of thinking

by Marla Rogers - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 12:54 PM

I first started learning about Columbus and the exploration of the Americas in elementary school. My school was very focused on Native Americans Studies. So we were taught at a very young age of the genocide inflicted on the Native Americans by the early European settlers. I have always had that particular narrative in my head, and didn't think to question it. As time goes on, our society focuses even more on equality for indigenous people and minorities. So that idea of Columbus as a mass murderer is further ingrained into my head. Reading this article, and listening to this podcast, made me realize there are many other ways of looking at it—and those other ways don't mean you are being insensitive to any indigenous people's plight. The notion of keeping in mind the ways of the world and people during the time Columbus lived is a thought provoking idea. As well the fact that he didn't introduce the practices of violence and slavery to the Native Americans—that they were in fact already guilty of those practices themselves.

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Re: New way of thinking

by Desiree Mantey - Friday, October 13, 2017, 4:20 PM

I find it very interesting how there is such a big difference between what I was taught in elementary school about Columbus and what you were taught. My school taught us about the Native Americans but not really as victims of Columbus' brutality. It brings the race question to mind for me. I, although biracial, grew up in a very white suburb and it makes me wonder if this lack of racial diversity had an impact on how and what I was taught about Columbus.

On another point, although Columbus may not have introduced violence to the Native American's he did introduce extremely brutal tactics based on lack of knowledge and racism. He believed that just because the Native American's were different than him they were obviously inferior and that is a concept that is still wide spread today. Columbus showed this first when he landed in the Bahamas. What was one of his first thoughts after landing in this new place? This is a beautiful place, full of beautiful people, who could be easily enslaved to serve us. In my opinion Columbus' actions were the true start of racism in the America's.

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2



Re: New way of thinking

by Marla Rogers - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 2:01 PM

It is really interesting how differently certain schools approach things! I went to school in west Eugene. And as we all know pretty well, Eugene is predominately white. So it doesn't necessarily fit the idea of a diverse school.

I remember though, having powwows led by local native Americans every few weeks in our cafeteria. They were something I always looked forward to!

Maybe we just had great administration, or teachers who fought to be able to teach their students about diversity. But I will always be grateful for everything Bethel School District provided us.

And you do do make a very good point about Columbus not being innocent when it comes to violence. But I just thought it was interesting to hear a side I had never really thought about before.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: New way of thinking

by Audrey Millard - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 8:25 PM

Maria,

I feel like history is one of those topics were either, you speak fact or fiction. From what I'm learning now in this class, compared to past education, a lot of what I learned was fiction. Each school teaching history differently is SO odd and kinda sad to me. I remember my school having pow-wows as well, but ours was never related to Columbus.... It's cool your school did that too!!!!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



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Re: Christopher Columbus Podcast

by Maribel Frickey - Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 3:21 PM

I guess the claim that had the biggest impact is that Columbus was at fault for all the deaths of the natives. To me, it just seemed like a huge accusation to throw at someone. As it was stated in the article, Celebrating Columbus, Brave and Bright, the majority of the devastation inflicted on upon the Indian tribes was inadvertent." It had not been his intention to kill so many off by disease in that time they really didn't know that tiny organisms caused disease and much less that the Indian tribes had no immunity to them.

I agree with what is stated in the article to it makes a pretty logical argument in support of Columbus Day as do parts of the podcast. I don't see what is so wrong with Columbus Day; in the article, the author talks about how we should celebrate that his voyage and such discovery Bahamas started the beginning of our identity as Americans.

The article and podcast did somewhat support what I had already thought of Columbus and I learned that one of the biggest issues with the way Columbus is viewed is because we are dissecting his action with the eyes of our modern understanding instead of seeing his actions within the time period for which it occurred.

I think that the article supported what I had felt all along but brought in a more logical way of seeing Columbus and Columbus Day that I could have done so myself. The podcast didn't challenge what I thought of Columbus it just brought to the forefront why other people are opposed to celebrating the day.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Columbus, Discovering the Truth

by Kristopher Kiliadis - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 9:01 AM

After reading the article "Celebrating Columbus, Brave and Bright", as well as chapter one in our book Liberty, Equality, Power the seventh edition, I was quite astonished to what I learned. Reminiscing years back to elementary and middle school I couldn't recall learning about how Columbus wasn't the first outsider to discover America. Misconceptions from social media platforms and hear say leads to misinformation on this subject. Always hearing how Columbus was the first outsider to discover America and how great he was. I found it very fulfilling to be reading over this material, and learning that around 1000 A.D. Leif Ericson and the Vikings had made it to North America. Although they didn't stick around it really makes me wonder how long they stayed in North America for. Did they interact with the natives of North America and if so did they get along. These are things I didn't see in the material or in the textbook I mentioned above. They reason I wonder this is because Columbus and his men made the lives of the Natives absolute hell. They killed, terrorized, tortured, and enslaved the native peoples. All of this came as a great surprise to myself, It definitely changed my outlook on Columbus and who he was. I do believe that his accidental discovery of America, and bringing it to light for the new world was vital to our history. I also believe that in glorifying who he was, we should educate people more on who he actually was and what he did. Being 27 years of age myself and not knowing this, shows that people can live without knowing the truths, even of what we celebrate as holiday's.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Christopher Columbus

by Sarah Amoson - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 12:14 PM

I have had a personal interest in this whole Christopher Columbus dispute that's been going on the last few years now. Just about everything I heard in the podcast was information I already knew because I have read up on this a few times on my own. I was always taught the typical Columbus story as a kid, but in my senior year of high school I had a friend with Native American ancestry who told me the truth behind Columbus. Since then I have always been intrigued by it. I don't believe that we should have a "Columbus Day" anymore, because all Columbus ever did was get lost. I don't think we should call Native American's "Indians" because they're not. Columbus thought he was in India. There is truly no reason to celebrate Christopher Columbus, before he sailed people knew the earth was not flat, millions of people

inhabited North America before he sailed there, and the Vikings even sailed to North America hundreds of years before he did. I also believe that when we are taught the story of Christopher Columbus in grade school, we should be taught the truth.

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Christopher Columbus

by Kristopher Kiliadis - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 2:25 PM

I agree that we as a country shouldn't necessarily celebrate a day about Christopher Columbus. I believe we should celebrate a day for the the beginning of the new world, that led to what we now know was our modern lives. Our youth should be taught the truth from day one and not have history altered to fit a politically correct agenda. Although in those times it may have been normal to take land and slaughter others, we morally all know it is wrong. Columbus discovered something that a whole other civilization of people called home already.

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Re: Christopher Audio vs Article

by Preston Cobb - Thursday, October 12, 2017, 2:22 PM

I would also have to say that the article supported more of my thinking and understanding of Christopher Columbus. I always saw Columbus as this great navigator/discoverer. Like many others as stated in the article I believed that Columbus both discovered America and proved that the earth was not flat. Even though Columbus may have not discovered America he can be looked at as one of the most important individuals who discovered the new world as stated in the article in paragraph six.

Whereas the article supported more of my thinking and understanding of Columbus, the audio challenged that. I never really saw Columbus as a "mass murder" as some might say he is. However, I understand why people protest against him. If people really thought about it though they would understand that it was a part of the time. How would the Europeans know how to act/handle the natives that they encountered in the Americas? They didn't know, the European cultures were used to conquering land and taking it over as their own just like in Africa with the imperial colonies(even though its further in time than this).

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Christopher Columbus: a false idol

by Desiree Mantey - Friday, October 13, 2017, 9:32 AM

I had a very different view of Christopher Columbus before I listened to the podcast and read the article. My preconceived notions about him were simple, that he was the hero who found America. After listening to the podcast I realized how inaccurate my beliefs were. It made me wonder why my classmates and I were taught that Christopher Columbus was a noble man and great explorer. From what I heard and read in the aforementioned material it appears to have been known for centuries that in truth he was a barbaric, greedy, racist man only in search of gold, slaves, and glory. The Columbus Podcast blames his elevated status on a

best-selling biography but what made the author of that book disregard so many of Columbus' mistakes and downfalls and instead put him on a pedestal as a hero who should be celebrated? Was the author of this biography Italian? Or is it possible that they were a great, great, great, great, great nephew of Columbus? It makes no sense to me that so many of his evil acts could be overlooked. The Columbus Podcast and article (Celebrating Columbus Brave and Bright) although very different both agreed on many facts. In truth, Columbus wasn't the first to "discover" America, as many others had lived there temporarily throughout the years, such as the Vikings and those who crossed Beringia. Columbus was not the first to say the world was round. This belief was widespread and had been common since the days of Socrates and Aristotle. And by the time of his death Columbus no longer shared this belief; he thought that he was sailing up hill and that the earth was shaped like a pear. He favored mystical texts which made him believe that the world was much smaller than it actually was. He was described as being hopeless on land and was arrested and brought back to Spain after he ran away from his settlement when things weren't going his way. Once back in Spain he was charged for being incompetent, irresponsible, and brutal. Although he wasn't imprisoned for long, by the end of his life he was looked at as a failure and he died as a sad broken figure. The article kind of played devil's advocate and looked at both sides of the situation. Although the article made some good points about it not being Columbus' fault that so many natives were wiped out by disease and that although he may not have been the first to land in the Americas he was the first to create a permanent settlement. However, in my opinion these things can be true without Columbus being a hero. In my mind these things still don't make him worthy of a holiday or any type of celebration. In truth, Christopher Columbus only found America because of a happy accident and he did not even believe that he had found a new world. Columbus got lucky and his story is that of accidental discovery. He was naïve and misinformed in his ways of thinking and nothing that he did that was considered great was purposeful.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



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Re: Christopher Columbus: a false idol

by Audrey Millard - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 8:29 PM

Desiree,

Wow, it is so incredible how differently we were all taught! I find that sort of crazy, that history can be betrayed so many different ways. Thank you for sharing!

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

0



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Re: Christopher Columbus Podcast

by Audrey Millard - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 7:29 PM

First off, this podcast was great!

In elementary school, we hardly learned about Columbus. I remember learning that he WAS NOT the first to come to North America, it was in fact the Vikings, also that he thought he was in India and that he had 3 boats, The Niña, The Pinta and the Santa María (I have no clue how I always remembered that, we learned it in 3rd grade). That's it. I knew he had to beg the queen in Spain to give him boats for his voyage. They also taught that he was the one to discover the world is round and not flat (which is not true). I had no idea he was Italian until this

assignment. In high school, they began explaining the massive genocide. I didn't know there was people that actually "celebrated" Columbus Day, honestly, I thought it was just a made up holiday so people could have 3 day weekends. This class so far has taught me a lot about Columbus I never knew. I realized he was a ...to be blunt... pretty crappy dude, but was never really taught about his history. I found out he thought the world had a nipple shape on the top, that was a heaven or eden, and actually thought it was a joke, the fact that he actually thought that is pretty hilarious. I never knew he was arrested either. A significant issue for me that comes up from this audio is the fact, that I was never taught this. The things elementary schools, high schools and colleges teach about Columbus should be CORRECT. I will differently be fact checking any info on Columbus I hear, and I hope the younger generations are taught the truth.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



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Re: Christopher Columbus Podcast

by Preston Cobb - Sunday, October 15, 2017, 9:21 PM

It's funny to me how we all could be taught many different things, depending on the area we group up in and the teachers we had. Growing up I was taught in 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue and that he discovered the Americas. This class(yes in the three short weeks) has taught me many things about Columbus and all the other conquistadores. It is just crazy that everyone can be taught the many different things yet those things may not always be right. However I am now glad those uncertainties are finally being learned.

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1



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