

HST 201: US History F19 (Escobar)

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Columbus Podcast & Article

by [Joe Escobar](#) - Thursday, October 3, 2019, 7:53 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Columbus Podcast & Article topic.

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The perspective of when you learn about Columbus

by [Eric Runes](#) - Monday, October 7, 2019, 7:51 PM

The Podcast referenced and focused on the shifting opinions on the actions of Christopher Columbus in modern day America. Being an elementary school student in Southern California in the early 90's I could see how perspectives and opinions of Columbus could vary based on when you are learning about him. I experienced this in my elementary school years where I remember doing class projects celebrating and treating Columbus as an American icon. In High school there was a distinct shift when we analyzed and took a look at some of the truths and less romantic aspects of Columbus actions. All the way up to modern day,

where Columbus is seen at times as a smudge on history, and is longer celebrated, or in some cases even acknowledged... In 2019 in many places the holiday he is associated with is no longer known as "Columbus day" but has instead been changed to "Indigenous Peoples day".

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Re: Columbus Podcast & Article: the judgement of Columbus

by [Curtis Nordquist](#) - Thursday, October 10, 2019, 5:57 PM

The claim within both the article and the podcast that impacted me the most was the concept of judging Columbus on his crimes/accidental genocide. The article states that "we should judge him by the standards of that age" (p2) and not on our current standards of morality. On one hand, this is a good point, because he was commanded by the papal decree mentioned in class to conquer these new lands. On the other hand, however, as the podcast mentioned, he WAS arrested for his "incompetence" and "brutality" (11:05). So, he DID commit crimes and WAS arrested for them. Ultimately, he was judged for that. People argue that his "crimes" also include accidental genocide, but as the article points out, "he also did not propose germ theory" (2), so really, he was just ignorant about spreading germs; he just didn't know any better. This issue is significant to me because many people villainize Columbus simply based on his accidental genocide. I agreed with the article when it made the point about his general ignorance, and to blame people back in those days for their ignorance and morality issues based on today's modern knowledge/morality is wrong -- again, they didn't know any better back then (that, and they WERE being commanded to conquer these new lands, so it is really like a soldier following his commanders' orders). This concept of Columbus' general ignorance and morality of those times I'd heard argued about, but I didn't hear those criticizing him taking that into account.

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