Annotated Bibliography


The secondary documents on the topic of Christopher Columbus are focusing on the decreasing reputation of him. “From his last years, his reputation dipped: writers were obliged to belittle him in the service of monarchs who were locked in legal conflict with Columbus’ family over the level of reward he had earned.” shows how as modern days approach, people are criticizing some of the histories that have been seen in a single perspective. However, the secondary source here focuses that Christopher Columbus in the villain perspective was not only a modern idea, but it was approached since a long time ago. “Like Columbus-the-hero, Columbus-the-villain is also an old character in a long literary tradition. Most of the denunciations of him written in his day have not survived but we can judge their tenor from surviving scraps.” The quote in the source supports that the idea was help ever since Christopher Columbus was considered as a hero a long time ago when Europeans benefited from Americas. This secondary source deals with the topic of “Justice” and how it can be defined in terms of Christopher Columbus, his discovery of America, and the effects that were caused by the discovery. The source talks about misjudging Native Americans, massacre and spreading of disease in America, slavery. However, the source balances itself through introducing the positive effects that has been led by the discovery. The source ends with neutrality by discussing both pros and cons of the event, and the conclusion is not set because there is still a lot of debates going on around the world for whether the discovery was justifiable.


The text or letter is based on information that is forwarded to a high rank person or the king. The topic is a description of a new land that has been discovered by Christopher Columbus and his crew; the description includes acute observation of the native people, the land, environment, and the mood of the new land. It can be clearly seen that the story is written in America since the story is based purely on observation. The broad issue here is discovery of new land, and the immediate occasion is the happy and extraordinary descriptions of how the new land is fertile and prosperous. The text is directed towards the king of Spain because the text was written for the king and the European people to inform them of new land that has just been discovered. It was important that many people get informed with the story because the story is very fresh, and the story can therefore have a lot of influence in a short period of time. From the primary document shown, the new may have brought incredible joy to the European people, because discovery of new land may mean new chance, like discovering another planet that can hold humans in current days. However, the source also describes the situation of Native Americans. How they were premature, kind yet lacking technology, and having a lot of resources. The overall tone of the text is cheerful and tolerant against the native Americans, and it can be insured that Columbus was definitely a hero to the Europeans. Although Christopher Columbus uses
some of the languages that belittles the natives of the new land when describing the people who inhabit in the new world, but he is satisfied with how he has succeeded in finding an undiscovered land. The evidence is his description of fertile and beautiful land and how he mentions that more people will be able to settle and use the wonderful resources.

http://www.cbsnews.com/2100-201_162-5377741.html

This article about the considering sides of Christopher Columbus deals on current day analysis and view of Christopher Columbus and whether he is considered a villain or a hero. The source states that the current day schools and researchers began to look more on the negative effects that Columbus discovery of America had, balancing the perspective between good and bad. Some of the negative perspectives include the effects of Columbian Exchange and how slavery was brought to the Americas. This, stated by the historians, was the trigger of racism that had a long term effect of discrimination until today. The source states that the other long term negative effects of Columbus discovery were Indian Massacre, which included spreading disease over American continent and destroying different heritage of America, therefore extinguishing the cultural value of the ancient empires that have existed for a long time. Also, the text deals with the brutalities focused on the deeds done by the migrating Europeans to foreigners, that are considered inhumane in today society. Although the source focuses mainly on the unpopular perspective of Christopher Columbus by different teachers and historians, the source also gives opinions why Christopher Columbus is not a villain. one of the examples include the analysis on the overpowering effects of good side compared to the bad side. "Every hero is somebody else's villain," said Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, a scholar author of books related to history, especially those of Christopher Columbus. From the given secondary source, it is able to determine the rising diversity of different perspectives on the heroism that was considered a bright side of history of United States for more than five centuries. The secondary document is stating that it is important for modern people to think about both the positive and negative impacts from the discovery of America.

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/columbus1.asp

This primary source on Columbus’s journey during his exploration to the America has a positive effect on making him the hero. The document shows that Columbus did not have intention of discovering Americas, did not have intentions of fighting with the Indians, and did not have intentions or predictions of what brutality may happen in the next centuries. Rather, the primary document states the efforts Christopher Columbus made in discovering the New World, such as sailing days and night, encouraging his crew to prevent mutiny, and dealing with the possible disasters that restricted Christopher Columbus psychologically. “Sunday, 16 September. Sailed day and night, west thirty-nine leagues, and reckoned only thirty-six. Some clouds arose and it drizzled.” is a context from the primary source that shows Christopher Columbus’s hard working attempt in discovering the New World. One possible question comes up in this journal: isn’t Christopher Columbus considered a villain, because all his hard efforts caused mass destruction of the
previously existing and peaceful Americas. This may have a valid thesis because the after effects led by the discovery of Americas was huge, considering the disease transport and massacre done by the migrating Europeans. The document also shows the discovery of new lands in between his trip to Americas. However, what is significant in these events is that Christopher Columbus’s main goal was not landing in the Americas, but finding a new route for India by going West and traveling around the world. “My intention was to follow the coast of the island to the southeast as it runs in that direction, being informed by the Indians I have on board” shows the innocence of Christopher Columbus that he was mistaking America as India even during his route to discovery. Therefore, the journal of Christopher Columbus supports the side that Christopher Columbus is not a villain, because he didn’t have any intentions or predictions about America and what cause and effect it will lead to further colonies, Indian massacre, and revolutions.


This secondary documents summarizes the cruelties that were demonstrated to the Indians by the time America was discovered. Cruel acts against other race, in modern terms, is morally discriminated because such violence is not accepted among human race today. However, the text states how Indians were treated badly by the Spaniards by the time of American discovery. Some examples include taking away political rights and using them as slaves without agreement. Not only did the Americans annihilate the slaves through mechanical force during the war, they also brought disastrous diseases to the Indians, killing them by huge numbers. The Spaniards also treated the Indians morally wrong, seeing them as not a human being, but as another distinguishable creatures that were below European level. Furthermore, the text explains how the Europeans took away natural resources such as gold and minerals from the Indian land without permission. These all together lead to a consensus that Christopher Columbus’s discovery of the America in 1492 led to brutal deeds to the Indians that should not have been done in society of human beings. Also, this text may support the long term point of view that the Indians became extinct because of European discovery of America.


This secondary document focuses on the Indian treatment of Americans as well. It states very detailed information on the history of Indians before Europeans settled in America, the history of Europeans and their economic situation, and the collision between the two. The document criticizes Spaniards as brutal being who saw discovery of America and colonization as progress against Indians. The conflict between Indians and Spaniards were viewed as justice, and the Indians were described with premature being without clothes. The document also explains the overwhelming wealth of Spain and how Spain took away valuable resources from the Indians. However, the document also explains how Columbus was not actually heading for the New World, but to India mainly for resources, which balances out the evil deeds that were done in the New World. The document demonstrates close description of spreading of European plague all over America, which caused massive
disaster to the Indians. The document finally explains the point of view that are held in current day United States and some of the contradictory opinions that can be made through the history about heroism. The document shows how Indians were helpful to setting up America, such as in helping the constitution in Jamestown and helping colonists grow crops on the new lands.


As previous documents all stated the mechanical conflicts between the Europeans and the Indians, this document primarily focuses on the European point of view of the Indians. Before summarizing the document, it must be understood that Europeans were immature as in the level of human society against new races, which caused discrimination against the Indians. The description primarily states that the Europeans were first amazed by the Indians; how they are organized, how they rule themselves, how they look, how they treat their families, how they farm, their body strength, and their reactions. The Europeans viewed Indians as subject to change and control, as in religion and natural resources. The document also describes the view of the Europeans on Indian myth and religion, and the document gives detailed description. Overall, the view of Indians is not all positive, but it is not all negative as well, according to the document.


The African influence on America from since the day of discovery America and the start of slavery has been noteworthy, in a way that today’s culture is formed. The document deals primarily with the mixed culture between Africans and Americans, and the geographic studies. The Africans have developed American hip hop, jazz, dances, and arts as well as new languages, cultures, and religions. This document maybe helpful in analyzing the pros and cons of American discovery and slavery, because slave adoption in America certainly did help unique mixture in Americans and Africans to develop in the United States until the current day. Also, the author mentions about the population of Africans compared to the Americans since the colonization period, and how the mix in population from Africa to America caused diversity in ethnicity around the world. This impact has crucial meaning in the topic, because the diversity in ethnicity, unique culture, and abolishment of racism are all examples of good outcomes due to discovery of America and slavery that has been adopted in the early years of colonization. Furthermore, the documents protects the wrong deeds done by the early colonists by stating that the early slavery didn’t take all the rights away, and that the culture was able to develop through adoption of slavery.

This secondary document shows various of statistics on racism during 1900s. This resource is very valuable because not only does this give information today’s racism statistics, this shows the progress and problems at the same time. It can be seen from this secondary document that racism still does exist in America, and around 14 percent of American citizens show this in public. Furthermore, the document states that over 50 percent of Americans do have anti-black sentiment after all. Along our website that discusses the problems of American racism and the consequences the African Americans and Indians went under after European discovery of America, the resources from this secondary document can be very useful. The document shows various of statistics, such as the rate of African American to White marriage acceptance, White acceptance of Africans living next door, and the crime rate of the blacks.


This secondary document shows information about Ku Klux Klan, the klan formed to discriminate the black race. The document shows information about how the Ku Klux Klan controlled fear of African Americans, when they were formed, what they do, and where they are. These information are crucial in the research of racism and African Indian discrimination because Ku Klux Klan is the symbol of racism and actions to prevent African Americans from gaining power. This signifies the problems that we face due to such problems.


This is a source written by another explorer from Italy. He came to England, Bristol when he reached the age of 50. In 1496, he received Letter Patent from the king, which granted his rights to explore toward west. He was a friend of Christopher Columbus, and he heard the lore that his old friend Columbus had found the West Indies by going through the Atlantic Ocean (which is actually America). Cabot, inspired by Columbus, also heads west toward the Indies, and he reaches where today is known as Newfoundland of Canada. And these are the set of letters that John Cabot had sent to his Duke in Milan.


This web has various facts including the kind of tribes, and artworks, as well as their language. Basically covering every aspects of them, this web has everything about American Native Indians. It organizes the facts about Native Americans facts by facts efficiently.


The source is a timeline that chronologically organized the events that occurred in America that has connections with the discovery, and the development of it. It starts of with Native Indians migrating internally, and goes on with the discovery of America by Columbus. And
it brings up several other explorers such as John Cabot, Juan Ponce de Leon. It goes onto the founding of Jamestown and the colonial frontiers by England.


This source is an article written through an eye of a historian. He draws the information that the Native American Genocide was spawned by the Spanish and Christopher Columbus. Which indirectly indicates that the discovery of America was such a negative thing, at least for the Natives, in the history.


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