

Journal #3217 from sdc 10.9.14

We are in the Season.....Sept/Oct/Nov all provide conversation material.....and there is "emphasis on all thing Native/Indian.

So I am just including some interesting/provocative/amazing/depressing articles and resources that have crossed my desk for awhile.

*Many articles were in a format that would not fit in these pages, so I suggest if you need some more material, contact **André Cramblit** andrekaruk@gmail.com To read a blog of interest to Natives go to: <http://nativenewsnetwork.posthaven.com>*

Kudos to Seattle.

"That Day" stuff

National Museum of the American Indian uses a new exhibit to spread its message

After its first decade, Smithsonian unit launches an exhibit that shows Indian history as a part of American history. [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

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#### **7th Annual Abolish Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day Rally and March**

Sunday, October 12 at 12:00pm                      Westlake Park in Seattle, Washington

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Indigenous People's Day, October 13, 2014 Monday, October 13 at 12:00am

This is an Online Awareness event :)

<https://www.facebook.com/sikkestnativez101/photos/a.482257675184249.1073741824.330920516984633/690981240978557/?type=1>

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#### **Bye Columbus! Seattle to Celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day Instead**

Protesters in Seattle congregated at City Hall this past Tuesday to voice their support to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous...                      [www.powwows.com](http://www.powwows.com)

#### **Goodbye Columbus: Council votes to honor "Indigenous Peoples Day"**

The Seattle City Council, embracing symbolic acts that is its trademark, unanimously voted Monday to proclaim the second Monday in October as "Indigenous Peoples Day", a date previously and...                      [blog.seattlepi.com](http://blog.seattlepi.com)

## Seattle to Replace Columbus Day With Indigenous Peoples' Day

*Phuong Le, Associated Press*

Excerpt: "The Seattle City Council has voted to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day on the same day as the federally recognized holiday, Columbus Day. The resolution that passed unanimously Monday honors the contributions and culture of Native Americans and the indigenous community in Seattle. Indigenous Peoples' Day will be celebrated on the second Monday in October." [READ MORE](#)

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### '1491': Vanished Americans By KEVIN BAKER

MOST of us know, or think we know, what the first Europeans encountered when they began their formal invasion of the Americas in 1492: a pristine world of overwhelming natural abundance and precious few people; a hemisphere where - save perhaps for the Aztec and Mayan civilizations of Central America and the Incan state in Peru - human beings indeed trod lightly upon the earth. Small wonder that, right up to the present day, American Indians have usually been presented as either underachieving metahippies, tree-hugging saints or some combination of the two.

The trouble with all such stereotypes, as Charles C. Mann points out in his marvelous new book, "1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus," is that they are essentially dehumanizing. For cultural reasons of their own, Europeans and white Americans have "implicitly depicted Indians as people who never changed their environment from its original wild state. Because history is change, they were people without history."

Mann, a science journalist and co-author of four previous books on subjects ranging from aspirin to physics to the Internet, provides an important corrective - a sweeping portrait of human life in the Americas before the arrival of Columbus. This would be a formidable task under any circumstance, and it is complicated by the fact that so much of the deep American past is embroiled in vituperative political and scientific controversies.

Nearly everything about the Indians is currently a matter of contention. There is little or no agreement about when their ancestors first came to the Americas and where they came from; how many there were, how and where they lived and why they were not more effective in resisting the European invasion. New archaeological discoveries and interpretations of Indian materials are constantly altering the historical record, and every debate comes equipped with its own bevy of archaeologists, anthropologists and other social scientists tossing around personal invective with the abandon of Rudy Giuliani on a bad day.

Mann navigates adroitly through the controversies. He approaches each in the best scientific tradition, carefully sifting the evidence, never jumping to hasty conclusions, giving everyone a fair hearing - the experts and the amateurs; the accounts of the Indians and their conquerors. And rarely is he less than enthralling. A remarkably engaging writer, he lucidly explains the significance of everything from haplogroups to glottochronology to landraces. He offers amusing asides to some of his adventures across the hemisphere during the course of his research, but unlike so many contemporary journalists, he never lets his personal experiences overwhelm his subject.

Instead, Mann builds his story around what we want to know - the "Frequently Asked Questions," as he heads one chapter. He moves nimbly back and forth from the earliest prehistoric humans in the Americas to the Pilgrims' first encounter with the Indian they (mistakenly) called "Squanto"; from the villages of the Amazon rain forests to Cahokia, near modern St. Louis, the sole, long-vanished city of the North American Mound Builders; from the cultivation of maize to why it was that the Incas apparently developed the wheel but never used it as anything but a child's toy.

Mann remains resolutely agnostic on some of the fiercest debates. What he is most interested in showing us is how American Indians - like all other human beings - were intensely involved in shaping the world they lived in. He is sure that "many though not all Indians were superbly active land managers - they did not live lightly on the land." Just how they did live, so long uninfluenced by the vast majority of the world's population in Africa and Eurasia, forms the bulk of his fascinating narrative.

What emerges is an epic story, with a subtly altered tragedy at its heart. For all the European depredations in the Americas, the work of conquest was largely accomplished for them by their microbes, even before the white men arrived in any great numbers. The diseases brought along by the very first unwitting Spanish conquistadors, and probably by English fishermen working the New England coast, very likely triggered one of the greatest catastrophes in human history. Before the 16th century, there may have been as many as 90 million to 112 million people living in the Americas - people who could be as different from each other "as Turks and Swedes," but who had cumulatively developed an incredible range of natural environments, from seeding the Amazon Basin with fruit trees to terracing the mountains of Peru. (Even the term "New World" may be a misnomer; it is possible that the world's first city was in South America.)

Then, disaster. According to some estimates, as much as 95 percent of the Indians may have died almost immediately on contact with various European diseases, particularly smallpox. That would have amounted to about one-fifth of the world's total population at the time, a level of destruction unequalled before or since. The exact numbers, like everything else, are in dispute, but it is clear that these plagues wreaked havoc on traditional Indian societies. European misreadings of America should not be attributed wholly to ethnic arrogance. The "savages" most of the colonists saw, without ever realizing it, were usually the traumatized, destitute survivors of ancient and intricate civilizations that had collapsed almost overnight. Even the superabundant "nature" the Europeans inherited had been largely put in place by these now absent gardeners, and had run wild only after they had ceased to cull and harvest it.

In the end, the loss to us all was incalculable. As Mann writes, "Having grown separately for millennia, the Americas were a boundless sea of novel ideas, dreams, stories, philosophies, religions, moralities, discoveries and all the other products of the mind. Few things are more sublime or characteristically human than the cross-fertilization of cultures. The simple discovery by Europe of the existence of the Americas caused an intellectual ferment. How much grander would have been the tumult if Indian societies had survived in full splendor!"

Kevin Baker is the author of the forthcoming historical novel "Strivers Row." <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/09/books/review/09baker.html>

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**Outrageous (and Mostly True) Quotes on Native Americans by Famous People**  
[ICTMN Staff](#)

9/29/14

Everybody, it seems, has an opinion on American Indians, and precious few of them actually know what they're talking about. Over the years, many of those who've given the matter some thought have formulated unpopular opinions about the series of injustices and brutality that constitutes American History with respect to the Natives of Turtle Island. And when a celebrity says something, it's news.

From basic acknowledgements of fact to opinions on what ought to be done, nine of these statements have the ring of truth, even if America has turned a deaf ear. On the other hand, there are the callous sentiments of Mr. John Wayne, from a 1971 *Playboy* interview.

### **10 Outrageous (and Mostly True) Quotes on Native Americans by Famous People**

"The white people should go back to Europe, and the country should be returned to the American Indians. This is the future I would like to see for the so-called United States." —Bobby Fischer

"It's like, how did Columbus discover America when the Indians were already here? What kind of shit is that, but white people's shit?" —Miles Davis

"The American Indians were Communists. They were. Every anthropologist will tell you they were Communists. No rich, no poor. If somebody needed something the community chipped in." —Pete Seeger

"I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from [Indians]. Our so-called stealing of this country from them was just a matter of survival. There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves." —John Wayne

"The way to kill a man or a nation is to cut off his dreams, the way the whites are taking care of the Indians: killing their dreams, their magic, their familiar spirits." —William S. Burroughs

"We used to root for the Indians against the cavalry, because we didn't think it was fair in the history books that when the cavalry won it was a great victory, and when the Indians won it was a massacre." —Dick Gregory

"So the American government lied to the Native Americans for many, many years, and then President Clinton lied about a relationship, and everyone was surprised! A little naïve, I feel!" —Eddie Izzard

"I always see America as really belonging to the Native Americans. Even though I'm American, I still feel like a visitor in my own country." —Nicolas Cage

"If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as when Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans." —Stephen Hawking

"We owe an historic debt to American Indians. They have a unique set of concerns that haven't been addressed, and I'd like to stand with them. Also, I'd like to get their views on immigration." —Al Franken

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**Myron Dewey**

*While in Graduate school at the University of Kansas Indigenous Studies dept. one of my classes we discussed the true history of Columbus and the atrocities and unspeakable acts he committed against indigenous people, this article by the huff.post does not sell it short with an overview of Columbus acts.*

*The reason I got into film-making, online media was to help articulate our indigenous stories by indigenous people and not entho-historians, supporting my Masters degree was just that, I sited our elders.*

*Growing up we learned a different point of view about Columbus in the Nevada School system and it was definatly not the horrific truth, in grade-school we would make ships and hats, sing song to honor Columbus Day, it was not a happy day for me while the non-native kids would make fun and comments about savages. As a kid, we did not have the parent support or knowledge to empower the school to correct the wrong history portrayed.*

*Times are different now, I do miss college lectures that inspire you to think outside the box about American history by Indigenous professors like Vine Deloria. As most indigenous families we have our "oral" stories about history, the crimes soldiers did to our wine. And children, local farmers who would rape the women and refuse to pay them otherwise, these stories will not make it to the local history books, mostly it's not a history current farm families would like to know about their grandfathers or family acts. My Grama would tell me these stories and say, that is why that family has Bass or part Chinese and Italian in their family line with no connections to that family.*

*History is not pleasant for our indigenous people during western contact, and as I educate myself on the history from our indigenous elders of stories passed on, I will also continue to pass on those stories the same way it was passed to me.*

*Today I honor those who have been so generous to a people they would give without thought that it would take advantage and commit mass genocide, slavery, rape and crimes would effect the Indigenous generations today.*

*In honor of our past, present and future generations to remember National Indigenous Day*

*Pe'wa*

*That's is all I have to say*

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Columbus Day? True Legacy: Cruelty and Slavery

Once again, it's time to celebrate Columbus Day. Yet, the stunning truth is: If [Christopher Columbus](#) were alive today, he would be put on trial for crimes against humanity. [Columbus' reign of terror](#), as documented by noted historians, was so bloody, his [legacy so unspeakably cruel](#), that Columbus makes a modern villain like Saddam Hussein look like a pale codfish.

Question: Why do we honor a man who, if he were alive today, would almost certainly be sitting on Death Row awaiting execution?

If you'd like to know [the true story](#) about Christopher Columbus, please read on. But I warn you, it's not for the faint of heart.

Here's the basics. On the second Monday in October each year, we celebrate Columbus Day (this year, it's on October 11th). We teach our school kids a cute little song that goes: "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." It's an American tradition, as American as pizza pie. Or is it? Surprisingly, the true story of Christopher Columbus has very little in common with the myth we all learned in school.

[Columbus Day](#), as we know it in the United States, was invented by the [Knights of Columbus](#), a Catholic fraternal service organization. Back in the 1930s, they were looking for a Catholic hero as a role-model their kids could look up to. In 1934, as a result of lobbying by the Knights of Columbus, Congress and President Franklin Roosevelt signed Columbus Day into law as a federal holiday to honor this courageous explorer. Or so we thought.

There are several problems with this. First of all, Columbus wasn't the first European to discover America. As we all know, the Viking, [Leif Ericson](#) probably founded a Norse village on Newfoundland some 500 years earlier. So, hat's off to Leif. But if you think about it, the whole concept of discovering America is, well, arrogant. After all, the Native Americans discovered North America about 14,000 years before Columbus was even born! Surprisingly, DNA evidence now suggests that courageous [Polynesian adventurers](#) sailed dugout canoes across the Pacific and settled in South America long before the Vikings.

Second, [Columbus wasn't a hero](#). When he set foot on that sandy beach in the Bahamas on October 12, 1492, Columbus discovered that the islands were inhabited by friendly, peaceful people called the Lucayans, Taínos and Arawaks. Writing in his diary, Columbus said they were a handsome, smart and kind people. He noted that the gentle Arawaks were [remarkable for their hospitality](#). "They offered to share with anyone and when you ask for something, they never say no," he said. The [Arawaks had no weapons](#); their society had neither criminals, prisons nor prisoners. They were so kind-hearted that Columbus noted in his diary that on the day the Santa Maria was shipwrecked, the Arawaks labored for hours to save his crew and cargo. The native people were so honest that not one thing was missing.

Columbus was so impressed with the hard work of these gentle islanders, that he immediately seized their land for Spain and enslaved them to work in his brutal gold mines. Within only two years, 125,000 (half of the population) of the original natives on the island were dead.

If I were a Native American, I would mark October 12, 1492, as a [black day](#) on my calendar.

Shockingly, Columbus supervised the selling of native girls into [sexual slavery](#). Young girls of the ages 9 to 10 were the most desired by his men. In 1500, Columbus casually wrote about it in his log. He said: "A hundred castellanoes are as easily obtained for a woman as for a farm, and it is very general and there are plenty of dealers who go about [looking for girls](#); those [from nine to ten are now in demand](#)."

He forced these peaceful natives work in his gold mines until they died of exhaustion. If an "Indian" worker did not deliver his full quota of gold dust by Columbus' deadline, soldiers would [cut off the man's hands](#) and tie them around his neck to send a message. Slavery was so intolerable for these sweet, gentle island people that at one point, 100 of them committed [mass suicide](#). Catholic law forbade the enslavement of Christians, but Columbus solved this problem. He simply refused to baptize the native people of Hispaniola.

On his second trip to the New World, Columbus brought [cannons and attack dogs](#). If a native resisted slavery, he would cut off a nose or an ear. If slaves tried to escape, Columbus had them burned alive. Other times, he sent attack dogs to hunt them down, and the [dogs would tear off the arms and legs](#) of the screaming natives while they were still alive. If the Spaniards ran short of meat to feed the dogs, Arawak babies were [killed for dog food](#).

Columbus' acts of cruelty were so unspeakable and so legendary - even in his own day - that Governor [Francisco De Bobadilla arrested Columbus](#) and his two brothers, slapped them into chains, and shipped them off to Spain to answer for their crimes against the Arawaks. But the King and Queen of Spain, their treasury filling up with gold, pardoned Columbus and let him go free.

One of Columbus' men, [Bartolome De Las Casas](#), was so mortified by Columbus' brutal atrocities against the native peoples, that he quit working for Columbus and became a Catholic priest. He described how the Spaniards under Columbus' command cut off the legs of children who ran from them, to test the sharpness of their blades. According to De Las Casas, [the men made bets](#) as to who, with one sweep of his sword, could cut a person in half. He says that Columbus' men poured people full of boiling soap. In a single day, De Las Casas was an eye witness as the Spanish soldiers dismembered, beheaded, or raped 3000 native people. "Such inhumanities and barbarisms were committed in my sight as no age can parallel," De Las Casas wrote. "My eyes have seen these acts so foreign to human nature that now [I tremble as I write](#)."

De Las Casas spent the rest of his life trying to protect the helpless native people. But after a while, there were no more natives to protect. Experts generally agree that before 1492, the population on the island of Hispaniola probably numbered above [3 million](#). Within 20 years of Spanish arrival, it was reduced to only 60,000. Within 50 years, [not a single original native inhabitant could be found](#).

In 1516, Spanish [historian Peter Martyr](#) wrote: "... a ship without compass, chart, or guide, but only following the trail of dead Indians who had been thrown from the ships could find its way from the Bahamas to Hispaniola."

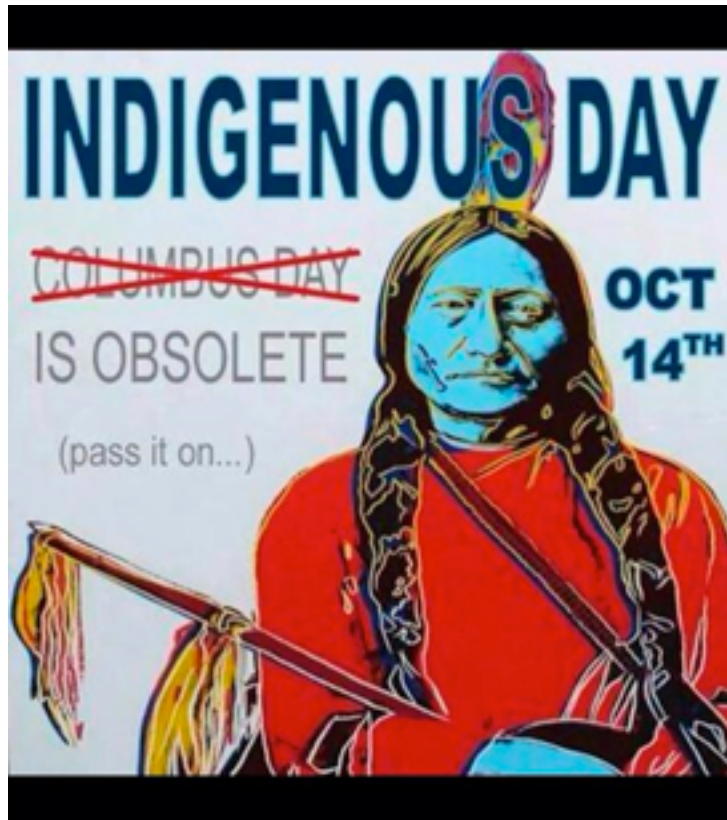
Christopher Columbus derived most of his income from slavery, De Las Casas noted. In fact, Columbus was the first slave trader in the Americas. As the native slaves died off, they were replaced with black slaves. Columbus' son became the first African slave trader in 1505.

Are you surprised you never learned about any of this in school? I am too. Why do we have this extraordinary gap in our American ethos? Columbus himself kept detailed diaries, as did some of his men including De Las Casas and Michele de Cuneo. (If you don't believe me, just Google the words [Columbus, sex slave, and gold mine](#).)

Columbus' reign of terror is one of the darkest chapters in our history. The REAL question is: Why do we celebrate a holiday in honor of this man? (Take three deep breaths. If you're like me, your stomach is heaving at this point. I'm sorry. Sometimes the truth hurts. That said, I'd like to turn in a more positive direction.)

Call me crazy, but I think holidays ought to honor people who are worthy of our admiration, true heroes who are positive role models for our children. If we're looking for heroes we can truly admire, I'd like to offer a few candidates. Foremost among them are school kids.

Let me tell you about some school kids who are changing the world. I think they are worthy of a holiday. My friend Nan Peterson is the director of the Blake School, a K-12 school in Minnesota. She recently visited Kenya. Nan says there are 33 million people in Kenya... and 11 million of them are orphans! Can you imagine that? She went to Kibera, the slum outside Nairobi, and a boy walked up to her and handed her a baby. He said: My father died. My mother died... and I'm not feeling so good myself. Here, take my sister. If I die, they will throw her into the street to die.



There are so many orphans in Kenya, the baby girls are throwaways!

Nan visited an orphanage for girls. The girls were starving to death. They had one old cow that only gave one cup of milk a day. So each girl only got ONE TEASPOON of milk a day!

After this heartbreaking experience, Nan went home to her school in Minnesota and asked the kids... what can we do? The kids got the idea to make homemade paper and [sell it to buy a cow](#). So they made a bunch of paper, and sold the paper, and when they were done they had enough money to buy... FOUR COWS! And enough food to feed all of the cows for ONE FULL YEAR! These are kids... from 6 years old to 18... saving the lives of kids halfway around the world. And I thought: If a 6-year-old could do that... what could I do?

At Casady School in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, seemingly "average" school kids raised \$20,000 to dig clean water wells for children in Ethiopia. These kids are heroes. Why don't we celebrate "Kids Who Are Changing the Planet" Day?

Let me ask you a question: Would we celebrate Columbus Day if the story of Christopher Columbus were told from the point-of-view of his victims? No way!

The truth about Columbus is going to be a hard pill for some folks to swallow. Please, don't think I'm picking on Catholics. All the Catholics I know are wonderful people. I don't want to take away their holiday or their hero. But if we're looking for a Catholic our kids can admire, the Catholic church has many, many amazing people we could name a holiday after. How about Mother Teresa day? Or St. Francis of Assisi day? Or Betty Williams day (another Catholic Nobel Peace Prize winner). These men and women are truly heroes of peace, not just for Catholics, but for all of us.

Let's come clean. Let's tell the truth about Christopher Columbus. Let's boycott this outrageous holiday because it honors a mass murderer. If we skip the cute song about "In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue," I don't think our first graders will miss it much, do you? True, Columbus' brutal treatment of peaceful Native Americans was so horrific... maybe we should hide the truth about Columbus until our kids reach at least High School age. Let's teach it to them about the same time we tell them about the Nazi death camps.

While we're at it, let's rewrite our history books. From now on, instead of glorifying the exploits of mass murderers like Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Genghis Khan, and Napoleon Bonaparte, let's teach our kids about true heroes, men and women of courage and kindness who devoted their lives to the good of others. There's a long list, starting with Florence Nightingale, Mahatma Gandhi, Rev. Martin Luther King, and John F. Kennedy.

These people were not adventurers who "discovered" an island in the Caribbean. They were noble souls who discovered what is best in the human spirit.

Why don't we create a holiday to replace Columbus Day?

Let's call it [Heroes of Peace Day](#).

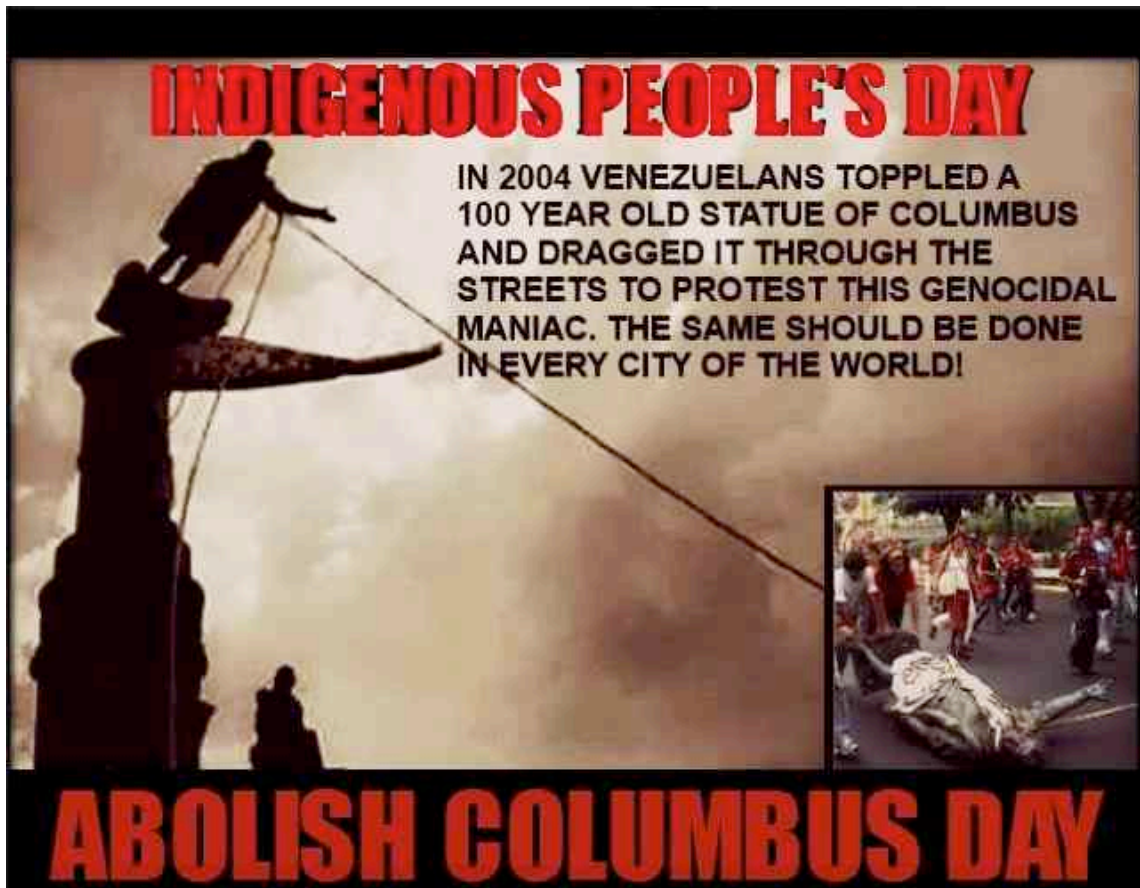
[8 Myths and Atrocities About Christopher Columbus and Columbus Day](#)

On the second Monday of October each year, Native Americans cringe at the thought of honoring a man who committed atrocities against Indigenous People

indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com

[Lastrealindians](#)

The land, water, sacred sites, 4legged, winged ones & other sources do not fret over our anthrocultural differences. They are above that; only we fret about ethnocentrism, denomination, classification etc, but we can all honor these holy entities in our own ways and they are all true. The keepers of true civilization were "discovered" here.



A Faithful Response

A Faithful Response to the 500th Anniversary
of the Arrival of Christopher Columbus

As adopted by the Governing Board
May 17, 1990

A Resolution of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

As U.S. Christians approach public observances marking the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's first landing in the Western hemisphere, we are called to review our full history, reflect upon it, and act as people of faith mindful of the significance of 1492. The people in our churches and communities now look at the significance of the event in different ways. What represented newness of freedom, hope and opportunity for some was the occasion for oppression, degradation and genocide for others. For the Church this is not a time for celebration but a time for a committed plan of action insuring that this "kairos" moment in history not continue to cosmetically coat the painful aspects of the American history of racism.

1. In 1992, celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the "New World" will be held. For the descendants of the survivors of the subsequent invasion, genocide, slavery, "ecocide", and exploitation of the wealth of the land, a celebration is not an appropriate observation of this anniversary.

Christopher Columbus and the Indian by Howard Zinn

[Howard Zinn is an author and lecturer. His most noted work, from which this selection is excerpted, is [A People's History of the United States.](#)]

Arawak men and women, naked, tawny, and full of wonder, emerged from their villages onto the island's beaches and swam out to get a closer look at the strange big boat. When Columbus and his sailors came ashore, carrying swords, speaking oddly, the Arawaks ran to greet them, brought them food, water, gifts. He later wrote of this in his log:

"They... brought us parrots and balls of cotton and spears and many other things, which they exchanged for the glass beads and hawks' bells. They willingly traded everything they owned.... They were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features.... They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane.... They would make fine servants.... With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want."

These Arawaks of the Bahama Islands were much like Indians on the mainland, who were remarkable (European observers were to say again and again) for their hospitality, their belief in sharing. These traits did not stand out in the Europe of the Renaissance, dominated as it was by the religion of popes, the government of kings, the frenzy for money that marked Western civilization and its first messenger to the Americas, Christopher Columbus.

Columbus wrote: "As soon as I arrived in the Indies, on the first Island which I found, I took some of the natives by force in order that they might learn and might give me information of whatever there is in these parts." The information that Columbus wanted most was: Where is the gold?

The Indians, Columbus reported, "are so naive and so free with their possessions that no one who has not witnessed them would believe it. When you ask for something they have, they never say no. To the contrary, they offer to share with anyone...." He concluded his report by