

# **So You Think You Know Christopher Columbus?**

**By Montana Burr**

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In just fifteen days, America will be celebrating Christopher Columbus's arrival in 1492. Does it deserve to be celebrated? I don't think so.

There is more to the story than Columbus asking the Spanish crown for money, and then travelling to what he thought was India. The truth is he didn't set sail out of charity. He negotiated a deal with the Crown – he would set sail for India in exchange for a significant reward, money and control.

Sometime after his arrival, he began to treat the natives very poorly. He would enslave them and force them to give up their bows and arrows at the request of his men, subjecting them to death if they didn't. Of Columbus's tyranny, priest Bartolome de las Casas said Columbus tried so hard "to please the King that he committed irreparable crimes against the Indians." Samuel M. Elliot described the whole event as a genocide.\*

In summary, he was a greedy, murderous man. He was not the kind of man one ought to call a hero. I am sickened by the fact that the US treats

Columbus as a hero. We should not look at October 8<sup>th</sup> as a holiday. We should look at it as an opportunity to remember the natives who perished under the devilish hand of Christopher Columbus.

\*genocide: the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, religious, or national group  
-Wikipedia