**The Untold Version of Christopher Columbus’ Voyages**

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Throughout all my years of high school and even partially some of my elementary school years, my fellow classmates and I were taught about what a great explorer Christopher Columbus was. We were told about all the things he has done for our world, but not about all the terrible crimes he committed to get there. My teachers forgot to mention how he stepped on every other person to get what he wanted. We were told that he was such a brave and honest person; I myself strongly do not see him as a man with great honesty or bravery. Now that I have grown up and done my own research, I find myself somewhat disgusted with this man. This man may forever be the man who discovered North America for Europe, but there are so many other things I feel that people should know as well.

For starters, it was not Columbus himself who found the land that is now called the Bahamas, but one of his crew members, yet Columbus claimed that he found it and received the prize. So there goes the honesty aspect to his character I would say. He even said that he discovered land where people were already living, which was not true at the beginning of his discoveries. Maybe he was a little delusional too? Soon, he began a process that would literally destroy a whole population and its culture, religion, and traditions. Brave? I think not. He was nothing but a greedy man who voyaged for two things, gold and glory. He would stop at nothing t getwhat he wantedwhether or not that meant harming innocent people and destroying other people`s homes. He is not the man we were told he was.

Secondly, throughout his search for gold he killed many people and helped to almost wipe out an entire civilization. He did these things for of course personal gain and then for Spain. My family comes from Spain; therefore you can imagine how much Columbus is thought to be such a great human being. That is why I really wanted to do my research on this man: to dig a little deeper, and to inform people of the untold version of his story. If Columbus did not get enough gold for Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, they would not pay Columbus' trip. He knew that he had to pay them back and he would do anything to do just that. The need to repay his debt can be found in Columbus' diaries, as he raced from one Caribbean island to the next, stealing anything of value and killing or capturing Native Americans.

Columbus forced the Native peoples to find gold where there clearly was none, and when they failed to grant him his wishes, he killed them, in large part because he had superior weapons. Some of people that he did not kill were forced into slavery, but most of them died on their way back to Spain. Columbus and his men just disposed of the dead bodies by simply throwing them over the side of the boat into the ocean, while the rest of them were forced to work on plantations or mines, where they too eventually died from the hard working conditions. This maddens me because these people did not deserve this; they greeted the Europeans to their land with open arms. To me, this is not brave what the Europeans did, but cowardly, and I no longer think of Christopher Columbus to be anything but that. I know he has done great things, but one should not have to do such things for glory. One should not have to step on top of other people to reach their goals. To me that is no hero, just a selfish and greedy man who wanted nothing but fame, glory, and wealth.

I get that he opened up the Americas for European colonization, but set that aside and really there isn’t much other that he did with a good outcome. I know things happen for a reason but I just cannot stand listening to people talk about him in such a great manner and with such reverence. He does not deserve to be put up on such a high pedestal. He is an example of how low people are willing to sink for their own selfish needs. It brings me back to power and how it is often put into the wrong hands. He was a powerful man because he had powerful people who were supporting him and powerful weapons and he wanted fame and glory and nothing else. Today I feel like there are more and more people who are like Columbus who are willing to do anything for money. It amazes me what people would do for money or back then for gold, and most of all, what we human beings will do for plain and simple power over others who are different.