

Singularly focused mission.

**SOURCE 1**

History Channel article,  
*Christopher Columbus, Explorer*

Find riches and conquer new lands.

Columbus & team treated indigenous groups as obstacles to mission.

Forced conversion to Christianity.

Introduced new diseases with dramatic long-term effects.

Columbus & men enslaved native inhabitants.

Ordered natives to be seized; make good servants.

Enacted policies of forced labor; natives put to work for profits.

Brutal crackdown of natives to deter rebellion; dismembered bodies; paraded through streets.

Columbus/Europeans brought new diseases; devastated the native population.

Methods & actions caught up with Columbus; settlers accused him of mismanagement.

King & Queen detained Columbus and his brother; shipped home & jailed.

Lost governorship & much prestige.

Age of exploration; enormous transformation.

Columbus famous for historic voyages across Atlantic Ocean.

Shipwrecked at 25 yrs old (1476); swam to shore and settled in Lisbon, Portugal.

Fascinated by the idea to sail west from Europe to Asia.

Trade of silk & spices important and profitable.

Journey was long and dangerous.

Nautical experts thought he would only make it halfway; run out of food & supplies.

Took 6+ years (1486-1492) to convince King & Queen to fund trip.

Didn't find gold at San Salvador; continued to sail.

Brought to Europeans a little gold, natives, turkeys, pineapples, parrots, & tobacco.

Rewarded with "Admiral of the Ocean Sea" title and governor of new lands.

Rewarded with more men & money for second, larger expedition.

Settlers blamed Columbus for poor conditions in 1500.

Columbus' voyages had huge impact on trade & colonization.

## **SOURCE 3**

Newsela article,  
*PRO/CON: Should we celebrate  
Christopher Columbus?*

Columbus blamed for spread of European diseases.

Small pox killed 70-80% (estimated) Native Americans.

Deaths happened over many decades; holding Columbus responsible isn't logical.

Disease went both ways; Black Death killed 40% of European population.

War, slavery, & human sacrifice pre-dated 1492 and Columbus' arrival.

All wars are prone to same savage impulses.

Great explorer, fearless adventurer, man of faith, leader/blazed path to modern world.

Centuries of violent history and government-approved killing.

Natives massacred, villages destroyed, tribes forcibly relocated.