

A scenic view of a turquoise mountain lake, likely Moraine Lake in the Canadian Rockies. The water is a vibrant blue-green color, reflecting the surrounding snow-capped mountains and evergreen trees. The foreground is dominated by large, dark, jagged rocks. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful, high-altitude landscape.

# Beyond the Horizon: Reclaiming Indigenous Narratives of Columbus

Aladdin Badawi

# Beyond the Horizon

Copy right:

Book Name: Beyond the horizon

Author: Aladdin Badawi

Publication year 2026



## Table Of Contents

Beyond the horizon	1
Chapter 1: Columbus background:	3
Chapter 2: The Fifteenth century:	7
Spain & the Geo-political world	7
The Ottoman empire:	17
Chapter 3: Columbus Voyages:	26
The first voyage:	26
Susequent voyages:	27
Chapter 4: Indigenous Perspectives	35
Chapter 5: Reinterpreting Columbus	41
Chapter 6: Voices from the Land	52
Chapter 8: The Journey Towards Reclamation	60
Chapter 9: Looking to the Future	67
Chapter 10: Conclusion: A New Horizon	72

# Chapter 1: Columbus background:

## Historical Context

The history of Christopher Columbus is often presented through a Eurocentric lens, which overlooks the profound impact his voyages had on Indigenous communities. For many, Columbus is celebrated as a hero who discovered the Americas, yet this narrative fails to acknowledge the rich histories and cultures that existed long before his arrival. Understanding this historical context is crucial for reclaiming Indigenous narratives that have been suppressed or distorted over centuries.

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 in the Republic of Genoa, a bustling maritime city that thrived on trade and commerce. His early life was shaped by the vibrant culture of the Mediterranean, where he developed a fascination with the sea and exploration. Growing up in a family of wool weavers, Columbus was not born into nobility, but his aspirations quickly set him apart from his peers. He was keenly aware of the opportunities that lay beyond the horizon, which would eventually lead him to pursue a career in navigation.

It is said that Pope Boniface the eighth created the UNAM sanctum which is an express trust claiming the most powerful families on the planet since the middle ages, as Farnese & Orsini bloodlines.

The Rothschilds come from the Farnese bloodline (queen Elizabeth from Orsini bloodline).

The grey Pope is Orsini, interestingly the Medici family controls the media & medicine (same name!!).

The Colonna blood line is where Christopher Columbus originates, also this family controls the district of Columbia!

It is really astonishing how our past is still in control now, with strong impact on the near future

## Beyond the Horizon

At the age of 14, Columbus began his seafaring career, working on merchant ships that sailed the Mediterranean and beyond. This experience allowed him to hone his skills in navigation and cartography, essential tools for any aspiring explorer. He was particularly influenced by the writings of earlier navigators and the advances in maritime technology of the time. These formative years were crucial in shaping Columbus's ambition to find a new trade route to Asia by sailing west, a notion that was considered daring and somewhat radical.

Columbus's early life was also marked by a series of personal challenges and setbacks. His family faced financial difficulties that forced him to seek his fortune elsewhere. Despite these hardships, Columbus remained determined and resourceful. He sought patrons for his ambitious plans, which included the quest for a westward route to the Indies. His persistence in presenting his ideas to the Spanish Crown would eventually pay off, but not without a long and arduous journey.

In 1485, after years of lobbying and numerous rejections, Columbus finally gained the support of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. Their backing was crucial, as it provided the necessary ships and crew for his expedition. This marked a turning point in his life, transforming him from a struggling navigator to a figure of historical significance. With the royal endorsement, Columbus set out on a journey that would change the course of history and alter the fate of the New World.

Columbus's early life and background reveal the complexities of his character and the context in which he operated. While he is often celebrated as a heroic explorer, his journey was fraught with challenges that shaped his ambitions and decisions. Understanding this background offers a deeper insight into the motivations behind his voyages and the historical debates that continue to surround his legacy. The man who set sail in 1492 was not merely an adventurer but a product of his time, driven by a mix of ambition, curiosity, and a desire for recognition.

## Beyond the Horizon

Throughout history, the desire for exploration has been driven by a variety of motivations, each intertwined with the human spirit's quest for knowledge and discovery. The age of Columbus marks a pivotal moment in this narrative, as it encapsulated not only the thirst for wealth but also the allure of the unknown. European nations, particularly Spain and Portugal, were eager to expand their influence and to stake claims in new territories, motivated by the potential for trade and resources that lay beyond the horizon.

Religious fervour also played a significant role in motivating exploration during this era. The Reconquista, which seemingly ended shortly before Columbus's voyages, instilled a sense of religious duty among the Spanish to spread Christianity. Columbus viewed his journey as a means to engage in this divine mission, believing that he could expand the reach of the Catholic faith alongside his quest for riches. This blend of economic ambition and spiritual zeal illustrates the complex motivations driving exploration at the time.

In addition to wealth and religion, personal ambition and the desire for glory were significant factors that propelled Columbus forward. The explorer sought not only to bring honour to his sovereign but also to carve his name into the annals of history. His voyages were as much about personal legacy as they were about discovery, revealing the deep-seated human desire for recognition and achievement that transcends time.

One of the most pivotal influences on Columbus was the knowledge he gained from reading ancient texts and maps. Works by Ptolemy and Marco Polo provided him with a sense of the world that was both expansive and attainable. These texts inspired Columbus to envision a westward route to Asia, which he believed would not only be shorter but also less perilous than existing paths. Such intellectual pursuits were instrumental in shaping his understanding of geography and navigation, driving his desire to embark on what would become a monumental journey.

## Beyond the Horizon

Columbus was also profoundly influenced by the support he received from powerful patrons, particularly Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain. Their backing was crucial to his voyages, as it provided him with the ships and crew necessary to undertake his ambitious plans. The political landscape of Spain at the time, marked by the Reconquista and the desire for new trade routes, further catalysed Columbus's ambitions. Their faith in his vision transformed Columbus from a dreamer into a man of action, enabling him to realise his quest for discovery.

In addition to royal patronage, Columbus benefited from the guidance of seasoned navigators and explorers. Figures such as Martin Waldseemüller and others contributed to his understanding of celestial navigation and cartography. Their mentorship was invaluable, providing Columbus with practical skills that complemented his theoretical knowledge. This blend of guidance and personal ambition equipped him with the tools necessary to lead his expeditions across uncharted waters.



## Beyond the Horizon

This is a statue for Columbus behind him what appears as the repeated small mosque top shapes, meanwhile pointing to something or someone, mostly pointing to those fleeing from Spain to a new land, with the same target:

Complete the Reconquista

### Chapter 2: The Fifteenth century:

#### Spain & the Geo-political world

The Reconquista, the centuries-long process by which Christian kingdoms reclaimed the Iberian Peninsula from Muslim rule, was driven by a complex interplay of factors. Religious zeal was a primary motivator, fueled by the desire to restore Christian dominance and combat the perceived threat of Islam. Political fragmentation within the Islamic Al-Andalus, characterized by internal conflicts and rivalries among various taifa kingdoms, created opportunities for Christian advances. Economic considerations also played a role, as Christian rulers sought to expand their territories and control valuable resources. Finally, the gradual strengthening of Christian kingdoms in northern Spain, coupled with military innovations and strategic alliances, provided the necessary impetus for a sustained and ultimately successful campaign of reconquest.

## Beyond the Horizon

The Reconquista, a centuries-long period of conflict in the Iberian Peninsula, was driven by a confluence of religious, political, and social factors. The initial impetus stemmed from the Islamic Umayyad Caliphate's conquest of Visigothic Spain in the 8th century. Christian kingdoms in the north, such as Asturias, León, and Navarre, saw the opportunity to reclaim lost territories and re-establish Christian rule. Religious zeal fueled the movement, portraying it as a holy war against Islam. The process of Reconquista was gradual and complex, marked by periods of expansion, consolidation, and internal conflict among both Christian and Muslim factions. Key strategies involved military campaigns, strategic alliances, and the repopulation of reconquered lands. The Christian kingdoms advanced southward, establishing fortified towns and offering land and privileges to settlers. Internal divisions within the Muslim Al-Andalus, including fragmentation into smaller Taifa kingdoms, weakened their resistance and facilitated Christian advances. The Reconquista culminated in 1492 with the fall of Granada, the last Muslim stronghold, marking the completion of Christian dominance in Spain.

## Beyond the Horizon

The Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition (Spanish: Tribunal del Santo Oficio de la Inquisición) was established in 1478 by the Catholic Monarchs, King Ferdinand II of Aragon and Queen Isabella I of Castile and lasted until 1834.

It began toward the end of the Reconquista and aimed to maintain Catholic orthodoxy and replace the Medieval Inquisition, which was under papal control. Along with the Roman Inquisition and the Portuguese Inquisition, it became the most substantive[citation needed] of the three different manifestations of the wider Catholic Inquisition.

The Inquisition was originally intended primarily to identify heretics among those who converted from Judaism and Islam to Catholicism. The regulation of the faith of newly converted Catholics intensified following royal decrees issued in 1492 and 1502 ordering Jews and Muslims to either convert to Catholicism, leave Castile or face death.

Hundreds of thousands of forced conversions, torture and executions, the persecution of conversos and moriscos, and the mass expulsions of Jews and Muslims from Spain all followed.

The inquisition expanded to other domains under the Spanish Crown, including Southern Italy and the Americas, while also targeting those accused of alumbradismo, Protestantism, witchcraft, blasphemy, bigamy, sodomy, Freemasonry, etc.

A key feature was the auto-da-fe, where the accused were paraded, sentences read, and confessions made, after which the guilty were turned over to civil authorities for the execution of sentences. According to some modern estimates, around 150,000 people were prosecuted for various offences during the period, of whom 3,000-5,000 were executed, mostly by burning at the stake. Other punishments included penance and public flogging, exile, enslavement on galleys, and prison terms from years to life, together with the confiscation of all property.

## Beyond the Horizon

An estimated 40,000–100,000 Jews were expelled in 1492 and much more Muslims. Conversos were subjected to blood purity statutes (*limpieza de sangre*), which introduced racially-based discrimination and antisemitism, lasting into the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Spanish Inquisition was abolished in 1834, during the reign of Isabella II, after a long period of declining influence. The last person executed for heresy was Cayetano Ripoll in 1826, for teaching Deism to his students.

While Muslims in the Holy Land were the primary targets of the Crusades, other perceived enemies of Christianity soon became targets. In 1184 Pope Lucius III created the Episcopal Inquisition to combat Catharism in southern France. Heretics were to be handed over to secular authorities for punishment, have their property seized, and face excommunication.

When this failed to stem the heresy, Pope Innocent III called forth the Albigensian Crusade. The Crusaders killed 200,000 to 1,000,000 Cathars, perpetrated massacres (e.g. at Béziers), and burned hundreds at the stake. It was the start of a centralization in the fight against heresy.

The Dominican Order was established to preach against the heresy, later serving as inquisitor throughout Europe.

In 1252 Pope Innocent IV issued the bull *Ad extirpanda*, authorizing inquisitors **to use torture against heretics**.

European Muslims & Jews became targets, leading to massacres and expulsions. While papal bulls sought to shield Jews from violence, starting in the twelfth century papal bulls also prohibited Muslims & Jews from holding public office, required them to wear distinctive badges, ordered the burning of Qur'an & Talmud, limited their employment, confined Jews to ghettos, and expelled them from the Papal States, along with other restrictions aimed at subordinating Jews.

In 1231 Pope Gregory IX expanded the Papal Inquisition to Aragon. Cathars, Muslims, Jewish converts and others deemed heretics were targeted, with trials, imprisonments and executions.

So, the start of fleeing from Spain to Africa or sea expeditions for new land took place to escape descremination & cruelty.

## Beyond the Horizon

Books by Spanish friars attacked Jews and Muslims. In Castile the Church Synod of Zamora protested rights granted Jews by the king. Calls for restrictions on Spanish Muslims & Jews were made by Popes and Cortes (assemblies of the Church, nobles and cities).

Some kings protected Jews, since they benefited from Jews' taxes, and Jews serving as courtiers and tax collectors. The Shepherds' Crusade of 1320, started to help reconquer Spain from the Muslims, instead killed thousands of Muslims & Jews in France and Spain.

In 1328, mobs inflamed by the sermons of Franciscan preacher Pedro Olligoyen massacred several Muslim & Jewish communities in Navarre. Years of virulent anti-Muslim & Jewish preaching by Ferrand Martínez, Archdeacon of Ecija, climaxed in the massacres of 1391 when riots broke out in Seville, Barcelona, Valencia, Toledo, Mallorca and elsewhere, killing thousands of Muslims & Jews.

To save themselves, some fled, mainly to North Africa, while an estimated 100,000, or one half of all Spanish Jews, converted to Catholicism. Following anti-Muslim & Jewish riots in 1435 in Mallorca, Papal Inquisitor Antonio Murta played a key role in forced conversions of local Muslims & Jews.

The converts were called conversos. While mostly poor or of modest means, some conversos became successful in government and commerce, drawing resentment. Conversos were also suspected of continuing to practice their religion in secret.

The Spanish Inquisition expanded to other territories under the Spanish Crown - Southern Italy, including Sicily and Sardinia, and Central and South America, with tribunals in Lima, Peru, Mexico City and Cartagena (present-day Colombia).

Tomás de Torquemada established Inquisition procedures in 1484, creating a 28-article code, *Compilación de las instrucciones del oficio de la Santa Inquisición*, based on Nicholas Eymerich's *Directorium Inquisitorum*.

That code remained largely unchanged for over three centuries. The Church deemed heresy to be treason, punishable by death.

Courts announced a 30-day grace period for self-confessions and denunciations, requiring individuals to report themselves and others, including relatives and friends, for attending Jewish prayer meetings.

## Beyond the Horizon

Inquisitors collected accusations from neighbors. Signs of crypto-Muslim or Judaism included no chimney smoke on Saturdays, buying many vegetables before Passover, or purchasing meat from a converted butcher. Courts presumed the accused guilty, withholding accusers' identities.

Trials aimed to extract confessions, often using water torture, the rack, or suspending individuals by their wrists with weights tied to their feet, repeatedly raising and dropping them.



Periods of stress, food shortages, plague and inflation led to attacks on conversos - in 1449 in Toledo (conversos were tortured and burned alive there), in 1462 in Carmona, again in Toledo in 1467, etc. In Cordoba in 1473 mobs killed conversos, regardless of sex and age, burning and looting their homes.

During the Spanish Inquisition, limpieza de sangre (blood purity statutes) targeted Jewish and Muslim converts to Christianity, introducing race-based discrimination and antisemitism. Toledo enacted the first statute in 1449 after anti-converso riots and killings. That statute barred conversos or those with converted parents or grandparents from holding public or private office or testifying in court. In 1496, Pope Alexander VI approved a purity statute for the Hieronymites. Religious and military orders, guilds, and other groups added bylaws requiring proof of "clean blood." Converso families faced discrimination or resorted to bribing officials and forging documents to claim Christian ancestry

## Beyond the Horizon

In 15th-century Spain, no distinction existed between religious and civil law. Breaking a religious law equated to violating tax laws—the Inquisition did not distinguish them.

It prosecuted crimes often unnoticed by the public, including domestic offenses, crimes against vulnerable groups, administrative violations, forgeries, organized crime, and offenses against the Crown.[citation needed] These crimes encompassed sexual and family-related offenses, including rape and sexual violence—which the Inquisition uniquely prosecuted nationwide—bestiality, pedophilia (often overlapping with sodomy), incest, child abuse, neglect, and bigamy.

Non-religious offenses included procurement (not prostitution), human trafficking, smuggling, forgery of currency, documents, or signatures, tax fraud, illegal weapons, swindles, disrespect to the Crown or its institutions (including the Inquisition, church, guard, and kings), espionage, conspiracy, and treason. Non-religious crimes formed a significant portion of Inquisition investigations, though distinguishing them from religious crimes in records is challenging, as no official divide existed.

Many crimes fell under the same legal article; for instance, "sodomy" included pedophilia as a subtype, with some data on male homosexuality prosecutions actually reflecting pedophilia convictions. Religious and non-religious crimes, while distinct, were often treated equivalently. Public blasphemy and street swindling, both seen as misleading the public, received similar punishments. Likewise, counterfeiting currency and heretical proselytism, viewed as spreading falsifications, faced death penalties and similar subdivisions. Heresy and material forgeries were treated comparably, suggesting equivalence in the Inquisition's view.

Trials were complicated by witnesses or victims adding charges, particularly witchcraft. As with Eleno de Céspedes, such accusations were typically dismissed but often appeared in investigation statistics

## Beyond the Horizon



This is a rack on display at the Torture Museum in Toledo, Spain

According to Toby Green, the unchecked power given to inquisitors left them "widely seen as above the law".

They sometimes had motives that had nothing to do with punishing religious nonconformity. Green quotes a complaint by historian Manuel Barrios, about one Inquisitor, Diego Rodriguez Lucero, who in Cordoba in 1506 burned to death the husbands of two women; he then kept the women as mistresses.

According to Barrios: "...the daughter of Diego Celemin was exceptionally beautiful, her parents and her husband did not want to give her to [Lucero], and so Lucero had the three of them burnt and now has a child by her, and he has kept for a long time in the alcazar as a mistress"!

## Beyond the Horizon



This is an engraved depiction of water torture

Recently, a 2025 study found that the Spanish Inquisition "had important chilling effects, reducing scholars' willingness to interact with others and inducing them to divert their efforts **away** from STEM fields (or to pursue them outside Spain)". It led to "reversals in previously upward trends in university attendance and book output in STEM fields". STEM scholars typically left Spain or reduced their scientific output in fields that might fall afoul of the inquisitors.

## Beyond the Horizon

The Spanish Inquisition emerged from a complex interplay of social, political, and religious factors. The "multi-religious hypothesis" highlights Spain's diverse society, where Catholics, Jews, and Muslims coexisted in relative peace (*convivencia*), though with unequal legal status, until anti-Muslim Jewish riots in 1391 led to mass conversions.

The "enforcement across borders hypothesis" suggests the Inquisition was a tool for the Catholic Monarchs to assert royal authority over fragmented noble factions, using Catholicism as a unifying force.

The "placate Europe hypothesis" posits that the Inquisition and expulsions of Jews and Moriscos aimed to counter Spain's negative image as a land of "impure blood" and align it with European Christian norms to secure alliances.

The "Ottoman scare hypothesis" points to fears of Morisco collaboration with an expanding Ottoman Empire. The "Renaissance hypothesis" aligns the Inquisition with centralizing political philosophies, while the "checking the Pope hypothesis" views it as a strategic move to limit papal influence by placing the Inquisition under royal control. Economic motives and rising intolerance, mirroring broader European trends, may have also played roles, though purely religious devotion is debated given Ferdinand's pragmatic political persona.

[https://youtu.be/FQXDIUjr41M?si=6a\\_D2KkewtwlVKCI](https://youtu.be/FQXDIUjr41M?si=6a_D2KkewtwlVKCI)

Video link for the turmoil

[https://youtu.be/FQXDIUjr41M?si=6a\\_D2KkewtwlVKCI](https://youtu.be/FQXDIUjr41M?si=6a_D2KkewtwlVKCI)

Now having a background on how was the Spanish social status from the 11th to 15th century, we can figure out why many **would like to escape** from there to any new land.

### The Ottoman empire:

Surprisingly, at nearly the same time interval, there was a rise of another empire, the Ottomans.

The Ottoman Empire that controlled much of Southeast Europe, West Asia, and North Africa from the 14th to early 20th centuries; it also controlled parts of southeastern Central Europe between the early 16th and early 18th centuries. The empire emerged from a beylik, or principality, founded in northwestern Anatolia in c. 1299 by the Turkoman tribal leader Osman I.

His successors conquered much of Anatolia and expanded into the Balkans by the mid-14th century, transforming their petty kingdom into a transcontinental empire. The Ottomans ended the Byzantine Empire with the conquest of Constantinople in 1453 by Mehmed II.

With its capital at Constantinople and control over a significant portion of the Mediterranean Basin, the Ottoman Empire was at the centre of interactions between the Middle East and Europe for six centuries.

Ruling over so many peoples, the empire granted varying levels of autonomy to its many confessional communities, or millets, to manage their own affairs per Islamic law.

During the reigns of Selim I and Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century, the Ottoman Empire became a global power. While the Ottoman Empire was once thought to have entered a period of decline after the death of Suleiman the Magnificent, modern academic consensus posits that the empire continued to maintain a flexible and strong economy, society and military into much of the 18th century.

The son of Murad II, Mehmed the Conqueror, reorganized both state and military, and on 29 May 1453 conquered Constantinople, **ending the Byzantine Empire**.

Mehmed allowed the Eastern Orthodox Church to maintain its autonomy and land in exchange for accepting Ottoman authority.

Due to tension between the states of western Europe and the later Byzantine Empire, most of the Orthodox population accepted Ottoman rule, as preferable to Venetian rule, **contrary to what happened in Reconquista**

## Beyond the Horizon

This Geo-political world of the fifteenth century, led many to try to find new land & new horizons which actually started to happen by the eleventh century



This actually happened as Muslims have long been present in South America through the voyages of Cordoba's Muslims across the Atlantic, which Columbus later capitalized on.

Al-Mas'udi mentioned in his book (Meadows of Gold مروج الذهب), which was written in 956 AD, and he mentioned that Islam entered Latin America, including Colombia, since the discovery of America in the fifteenth century, with the slaves who were brought from North and East Africa, and most of them settled in Brazil, then spread to the rest of North and South America.

The migration of some Arab Muslims who were followers of the Moroccan Almoravid state, which lasted between the eleventh and twelfth centuries AD, says that this migration crossed a large sea devoid of islands and cut through its waves for more than one hundred days until it ended up in what is known today as America.

The Islamic historian Al-Sharif Al-Idrisi wrote about another Arab journey in his book: Nuzhat Al-Mushtaq fi Ikhtiraq Al-Afaq (نزهة المشتاق في إختراق الافاق) (The Delight of the One Who Yearns to Traverse the Horizons), which has gained considerable fame in recent years among some Western researchers and historians.

## Beyond the Horizon

It is clear from the matter of these two journeys that their owners returned to their homes and told their families that they had met in America people who had arrived there before them, and found them speaking the same language as them, the Arabic language!

In the early 14th century AD, another Islamic African expedition reached the shores of America, led by a king from Mali named Abu Bakr, who was legendary rich, as described by Ibn Battuta, Al-Qalqashandi, and Ibn Fadlallah Al-Umari.

The black people whom Christopher Columbus met and spoke about in his memoirs of the third voyage, he described as being black-skinned, carrying gilded weapons, and being rich in possessions and tools.

In his journal dated October 11, 1492, Columbus mentioned that he might have seen a mosque with a tall minaret off the Cuban coast. Columbus knew mosques well because he came from Muslim Andalusia in the year of its fall.

Under the conditions of the persecution of the Muslims of Andalusia by the Christian Inquisition, large numbers of them fled to North Africa, where they settled, while other large numbers crossed the Atlantic Ocean and settled in America. Traces of their Arabic language have been found – even today! – mixed with the language of the Native Americans, the original inhabitants of America, as definitively confirmed by former Harvard University professor Leo Weiner, who was known for his expertise in linguistics.

Columbus also mentioned seeing people resembling the inhabitants of Andalusia and expressed surprise at the prevalence of veiling among their women. Another Spanish explorer, Hernando Cortés, noted that these women wore the same burqas worn by women in Andalusia.

Inquisitions were repeated badly in America for Muslims, As Louis Cardillac states, "The Bureau of Inquiry did not merely investigate matters related to Muslims, but rather what lay behind every Islamic influence on the individual Christian" in the New World. The overall aim was to prevent Muslim influence on the beliefs of American Christians.

## Beyond the Horizon

One of the most pivotal influences on Columbus was the knowledge he gained from reading ancient texts and maps (Al-Idrisi maps). Works by Ptolemy and Marco Polo provided him with a sense of the world that was both expansive and attainable. These texts inspired Columbus to envision a westward route to Asia, which he believed would not only be shorter but also less perilous than existing paths. Such intellectual pursuits were instrumental in shaping his understanding of geography and navigation, driving his desire to embark on what would become a monumental journey.

Columbus's expeditions in the late 15th century marked the beginning of a new era of colonisation and exploitation in the Americas. Indigenous peoples faced violence, displacement, and disease as a direct consequence of European contact. The consequences of Columbus's actions were catastrophic, leading to the decimation of entire populations and the erosion of vibrant cultures. This historical reality is often glossed over in mainstream accounts, which tend to emphasise exploration and discovery rather than the ensuing devastation.

Indigenous perspectives provide a vital counter-narrative that challenges the glorification of Columbus. Many Indigenous communities view his arrival not as a moment of discovery but as a pivotal point of loss and trauma. These narratives highlight the resilience of Indigenous peoples who have continued to fight for their rights, identities, and lands in the face of ongoing colonialism. Recognising these perspectives is essential for fostering a more inclusive understanding of history.

The impact of Columbus's legacy extends beyond the historical events of the 15th century; it continues to shape contemporary discussions about identity, sovereignty, and reparations. Many Indigenous activists and scholars are working to reclaim their histories and assert their narratives against the dominant discourse. By engaging with these voices, we can begin to understand the long-lasting effects of colonisation and the importance of acknowledging Indigenous rights in today's society.



## Beyond the Horizon

The discovery of America is considered an epoch-making event. This event is also called the watershed, when they began to divide the world into Old and New.

America became known as the New World. The official discovery of America is attributed to Christopher Columbus, a Spanish navigator who reached the shores of New Land in 1492. His expedition ended up on the island of San Salvador on October 12, 1492, so this date is considered the official day of the discovery of America. However, Columbus himself believed that he opened the way to Asia, more precisely to India, so hence the names of the West Indies, Indians.

In 1499, the Florentine traveler Amerigo Vespucci equips an expedition and goes to the shores of America. Historians argue that it was Amerigo Vespucci who first suggested that the lands discovered by Columbus were not Asia, not islands, but a new huge mainland. In 1507, cartographer M. Waldzemüller proposed that open lands named by America after Amerigo Vespucci - this is considered the moment of the first use of the toponym "America."

However, other historians disagree with the view that the discovery of America is connected exclusively with Columbus or Amerigo Vespucci. It is believed that the Phoenicians (in the 4th century BC),

Vikings (in the 10th century AD) also reached the shores of America. Among the hypothetical discoverers, some historians distinguish the Malay Sultan Abubakar II (1330), the Chinese explorer Zheng He (1420) and the Portuguese Juan Cortereal (1471).

In an article published in authoritative journals in England and France, Starr writes that Columbus, in preparation for his expedition, used data from the works of both al-Biruni and another scientist, Ahmad al-Ferghana.

There are several authors who were among the first to present a version according to which Muslims discovered America before Columbus. The most important of them is the researcher and historian Abu al-Hassan al-Masudi (Ebu'l Hasan el-Mesudi), whose years of life cover the period from 896 to 956. In his work "Müruc-uz Zeheb," which was translated into Turkish under the name "Golden Meadows," Al-Masudi describes how a traveler originally from Andalusia (Cordoba) crossed the ocean, went ashore of the continent located opposite, and returned with valuable trophies.

## Beyond the Horizon

On the map of Al-Masudi it was already possible to observe the American mainland.

Latin America's familiarity with Islam dates back to the 12th century. America was **discovered not by Columbus**, but by Muslims in 1178. In his memoirs, Christopher Columbus mentions the existence of a hilltop mosque on the coast of Cuba.

This means that even before Columbus discovered the American mainland, the Islamic religion developed and spread there.

"The school taught us that Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. But, is that really a lie? Evidence shows that Columbus was aware of Muslim interactions with the New World. Muslim geographers were excellent at producing very detailed and accurate maps.

Columbus studied them.

There were al-Masudi (871-957), al-Idrisi (1100-1165), ibn-Batuta (1304-1369), ibn-Mazhid (1430-1500), Piri Reis (1465-1553) and many more Muslim geographers. Columbus read the book of Roger Bacon (Rojar Bekah) before his first trip.

The book contained resources in Arabic indicating geographical regions. Columbus' first voyage consisted of 3 ships - "Nina," "Pinta" and "Santa Maria." It is said that the co-owner of Nina & Pinta - Martin Pinzon - was a Muslim and a descendant of the Marinid Sultan who ruled Morocco in 1366-1366.

His brother Vicente. "Columbus" hired two Moroccan Muslim captains (brothers Martin and Janez Pinzon of Vincent). He hired them despite criticism from the Spanish crown, which despised Muslims.

Many of the people on his journey were Moriscos who escaped when they went ashore.

When Columbus wrote about seeing a masjid (mosque) on a hill in Cuba with Quranic inscriptions.

## Beyond the Horizon

He wrote about the natives of modern Haiti - they talked about how black peoples came to this land with spears made of metal called "kwanin" (Mndinka means "gold"; "gina" is Arabic for wealth).



Hundreds of cities in North America bear Muslim names: Kalifia (California), Allah-Bumya (Alabama), Talla Hasse (Tallahassee), Islamorada, Mecca, Medina, Hazen.

Very wealthy Mandin Muslims from West Africa also traveled across the Americas as far as Columbus in the 1300s.

They married the natives and left behind letters and inscriptions. Dr. Barry Fell, a linguist and archaeologist, investigated the arrival of Islam in America, according to him, in the 7th century. Perhaps in the era of Caliph Usman.

Testify to the presence of Muslims. Let's take a look at some of them. Thanks to archaeological excavations in the western United States (Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Indiana), inscriptions, drawings, diagrams were found. This inscription reads: "In the name of God (Allah)" Fig. 1. It was found on a rock in Nevada and dates back to the 7th century. It is written in Arabic "kufik" style, which is very characteristic of that time period

## Beyond the Horizon

Hundreds of cities in North America bear Muslim names:

Kalifia (California), Allah-Bumya (Alabama), Talla Hasse (Tallahassee), Islamorada, Mecca, Medina, Hazen, Mahoney. And why many words come from Arabic, such as: sheriff (sharif), mayor (amir) and many others. Despite all this evidence, Columbus is still credited with discovering America. Christopher Columbus studied Muslim captains on his first voyage.

Many historical narratives credit Christopher Columbus with the "discovery" of America in 1492. However, a more nuanced examination reveals compelling evidence suggesting pre-Columbian voyages to the Americas by various groups. While definitive proof remains elusive in some cases, the accumulated evidence points towards the likelihood of earlier transatlantic contact. Norse seafarers, led by Leif Erikson, established a settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland around 1000 AD. Archaeological evidence definitively confirms their presence, marking the earliest known European arrival in North America. Beyond the Norse, speculation exists regarding other potential pre-Columbian voyages. Some historians and researchers propose that Polynesians may have reached the Americas, citing genetic similarities between certain South American populations and Polynesian groups, as well as the presence of crops like sweet potatoes in both regions. Similarly, theories persist about possible voyages from Africa or Asia, although concrete evidence remains scarce. In conclusion, while Columbus's voyages undeniably initiated a new era of sustained contact between Europe and the Americas, the notion that he was the first to arrive is inaccurate. The Norse settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows provides irrefutable evidence of a prior European presence, and suggestive clues hint at the possibility of even earlier voyages by other cultures. The question of "who went to America before Columbus?" remains an active area of historical inquiry, with ongoing discoveries potentially reshaping our understanding of pre-Columbian transatlantic interactions.

### Chapter 3: Columbus Voyages:

#### The first voyage:

The voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492 marked a pivotal moment in history, not just for Europe but for the entire world. Driven by the ambition to find a new route to Asia, Columbus embarked on this expedition with three ships: the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. His journey across the Atlantic Ocean was fraught with uncertainty, yet it was this very uncertainty that would lead to the discovery of lands previously unknown to Europeans. This event ignited a series of explorations and conquests that would forever alter the course of history.

Upon reaching the Bahamas, Columbus believed he had found a new route to Asia, mistakenly calling the indigenous people he encountered "Indians." This misidentification underscored the broader misconceptions Europeans held about the world beyond their borders. The immediate interactions between Columbus and the natives were marked by curiosity and mutual misunderstanding, setting the stage for future encounters that would become increasingly complex and fraught with tension. The initial friendly exchanges quickly gave way to exploitation, as the Spanish sought to assert their dominance over the newly discovered lands and peoples.

Columbus's discovery sparked a wave of exploration by other European powers, each eager to stake their claim in the New World. Spain, Portugal, France, and England all sought to expand their empires, leading to a race for territory and resources. The implications of this competition were profound, resulting in the colonisation of vast areas of the Americas. This period of exploration brought about significant cultural exchanges, but also devastating consequences for the indigenous populations, who faced violence, disease, and displacement.

## Beyond the Horizon

In conclusion, the first voyage of Columbus was not merely a discovery of new lands; it was the beginning of a new era of exploration and exploitation. The reverberations of this journey are still felt in contemporary discussions about history and identity. As we reflect on this critical moment, it is essential to consider the diverse perspectives that shape our understanding of the past, ensuring that we acknowledge both the achievements and the tragedies that accompanied this significant chapter in human history.

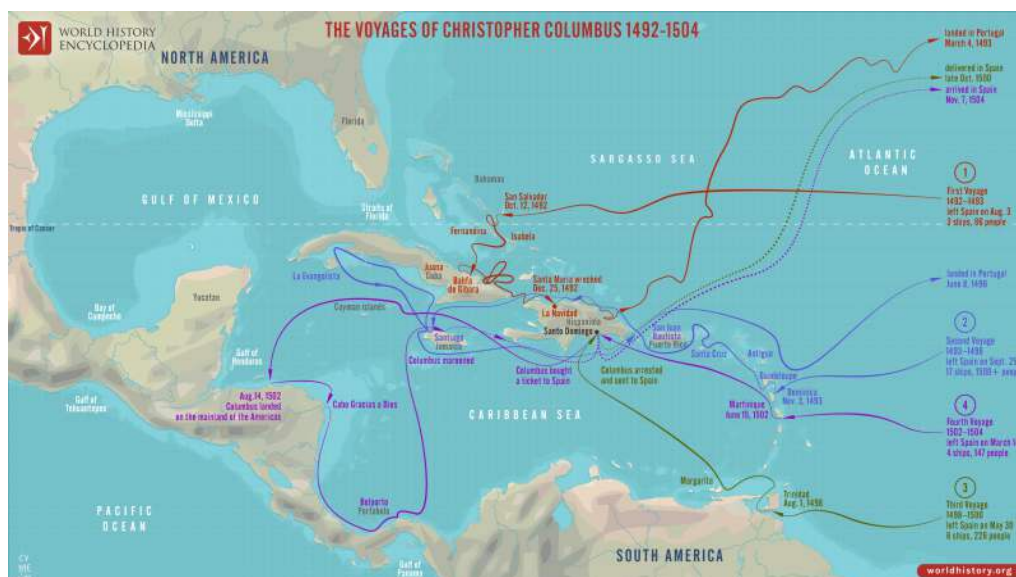
## Subsequent voyages:

Following Columbus's initial expedition in 1492, his subsequent voyages were marked by evolving objectives that reflected both the ambitions of Spain and the complexities of the New World.

On his second voyage in 1493, Columbus returned with a larger fleet and a more diverse crew, aiming not only to explore but also to establish a permanent Spanish presence in the Caribbean.

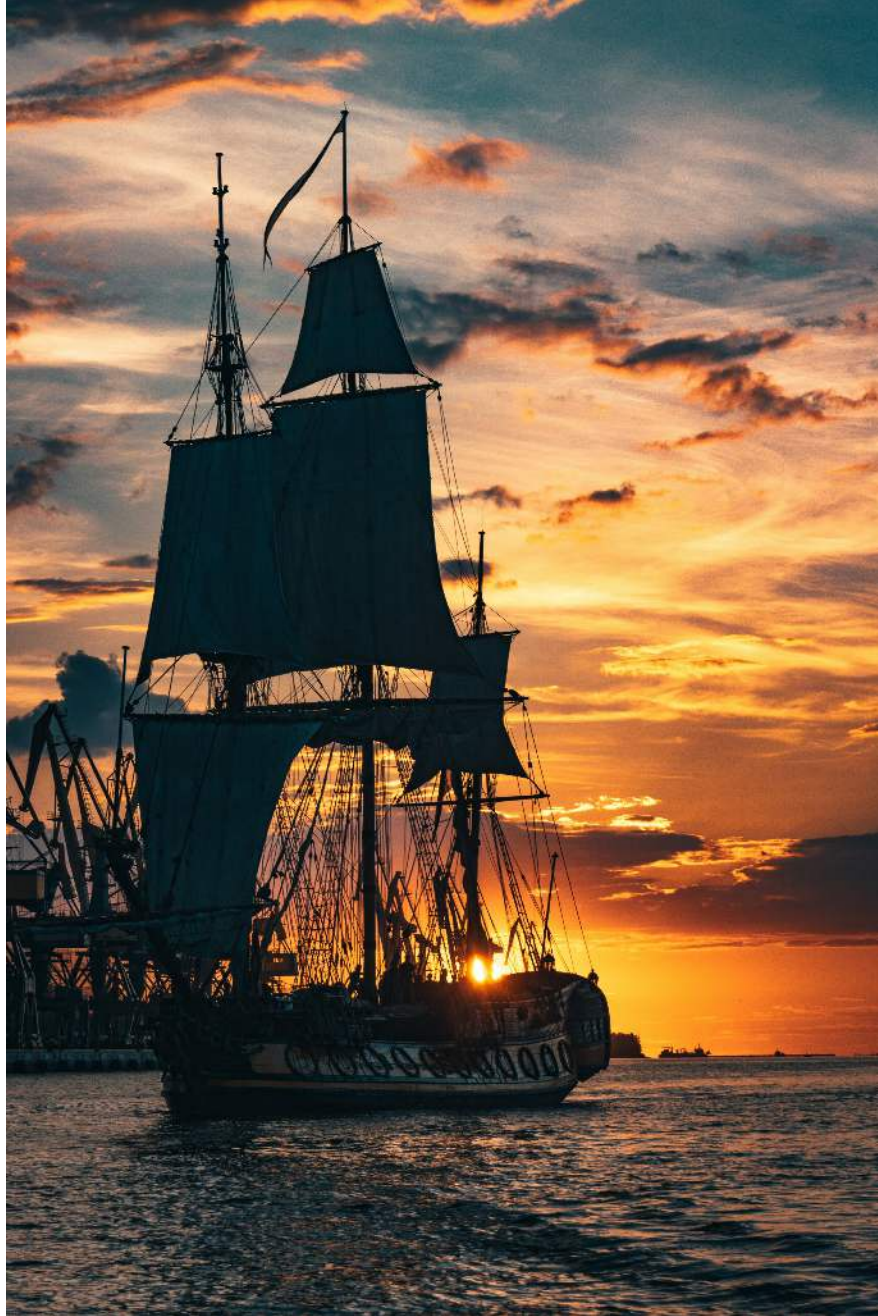
This expedition laid the groundwork for future settlements, as Columbus sought to assert Spain's dominance in this newly discovered territory.

Columbus led four transatlantic expeditions between 1492 and 1504 under the patronage of Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile



A map to show Columbus voyages and places visited

## Beyond the Horizon



Reclaiming Indigenous Narratives of Columbus

### Indigenous Civilisations Pre-Columbus

Many historical narratives credit Christopher Columbus with the "discovery" of America in 1492. However, a more nuanced examination reveals compelling evidence suggesting pre-Columbian voyages to the Americas by various groups.

While definitive proof remains elusive in some cases, the accumulated evidence points towards the likelihood of earlier transatlantic contact. Norse seafarers, led by Leif Erikson, established a settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland around 1000 AD. Archaeological evidence definitively confirms their presence, marking the earliest known European arrival in North America. Beyond the Norse, speculation exists regarding other potential pre-Columbian voyages.

The introduction of European goods, ideas, and technologies drastically altered the lives of Native American populations. While some tribes adapted and engaged with the newcomers, others faced devastating consequences, including violence and disease. The Columbian Exchange, named after Columbus himself, facilitated the transfer of crops, animals, and even human populations, reshaping economies and societies on both sides of the Atlantic.

However, the legacy of Columbus is not without controversy. His actions have sparked intense debate regarding the morality of his conquests and the resulting colonisation. Many argue that Columbus' discovery led to the exploitation and oppression of indigenous peoples, raising questions about the glorification of his achievements in modern narratives. As a result, Columbus has become a polarising figure, with some viewing him as a brave explorer while others see him as a harbinger of colonialism.

## Beyond the Horizon

Some historians and researchers propose that Polynesians may have reached the Americas, citing genetic similarities between certain South American populations and Polynesian groups, as well as the presence of crops like sweet potatoes in both regions. Similarly, theories persist about possible voyages from Africa or Asia, although concrete evidence remains scarce. In conclusion, while Columbus's voyages undeniably initiated a new era of sustained contact between Europe and the Americas, the notion that he was the first to arrive is inaccurate. The Norse settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows provides irrefutable evidence of a prior European presence, and suggestive clues hint at the possibility of even earlier voyages by other cultures. The question of "who went to America before Columbus?" remains an active area of historical inquiry, with ongoing discoveries potentially reshaping our understanding of pre-Columbian transatlantic interactions.

Before Columbus set sail in 1492, the Americas were home to a diverse array of indigenous civilisations, each with its own rich culture, traditions, and governance systems. From the sophisticated urban centres of the Aztecs and Mayans to the intricate societies of the North American tribes, these civilisations had developed complex social structures and deep spiritual beliefs that connected them profoundly to their land. Their achievements in agriculture, astronomy, and art testify to their advanced understanding of the world around them.

The Aztec Empire, centred in what is now Mexico, was known for its monumental architecture, vibrant marketplaces, and a calendar system that reflected their astronomical knowledge. The Mayans, on the other hand, are celebrated for their advancements in mathematics and writing, creating one of the most sophisticated scripts in the ancient world. These civilisations were not merely primitive societies, as often misrepresented, but had intricate trade networks and diplomatic relations that extended across vast distances.

## Beyond the Horizon

In North America, various tribes such as the Iroquois, Sioux, and Navajo developed unique ways of life that were deeply intertwined with their environments. The Iroquois Confederacy, for instance, is often viewed as a model of democratic governance, influencing later political structures, including aspects of the United States Constitution. Their stories, traditions, and governance systems showcase a profound sense of community and respect for nature, which contrasts sharply with the exploitative practices that would follow European contact.

The arrival of Columbus marked a turning point that led to the disruption of these thriving civilisations. The subsequent colonisation efforts brought violence, disease, and displacement, fundamentally altering the social fabric of indigenous communities. However, despite these challenges, many indigenous peoples continue to reclaim and celebrate their heritage, resisting the narratives that seek to erase their histories.

Understanding the richness of indigenous civilisations before Columbus is essential in recognising the resilience of these cultures today. As we delve into their stories, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of their societies and the legacies that endure. This exploration not only honours their past but also paves the way for a more inclusive narrative that acknowledges the profound impact of Columbus' legacy on these ancient peoples.

### Misconceptions about Discovery

The narrative surrounding Christopher Columbus has long been dominated by myths that glorify his voyages as heroic discoveries. However, this perspective often overshadows the rich histories and cultures of Indigenous peoples who inhabited these lands long before Columbus arrived. Many people believe that Columbus was the first European to 'discover' America, yet this misconception dismisses the existence of thriving Indigenous societies with their own complex systems of governance, trade, and social structure.

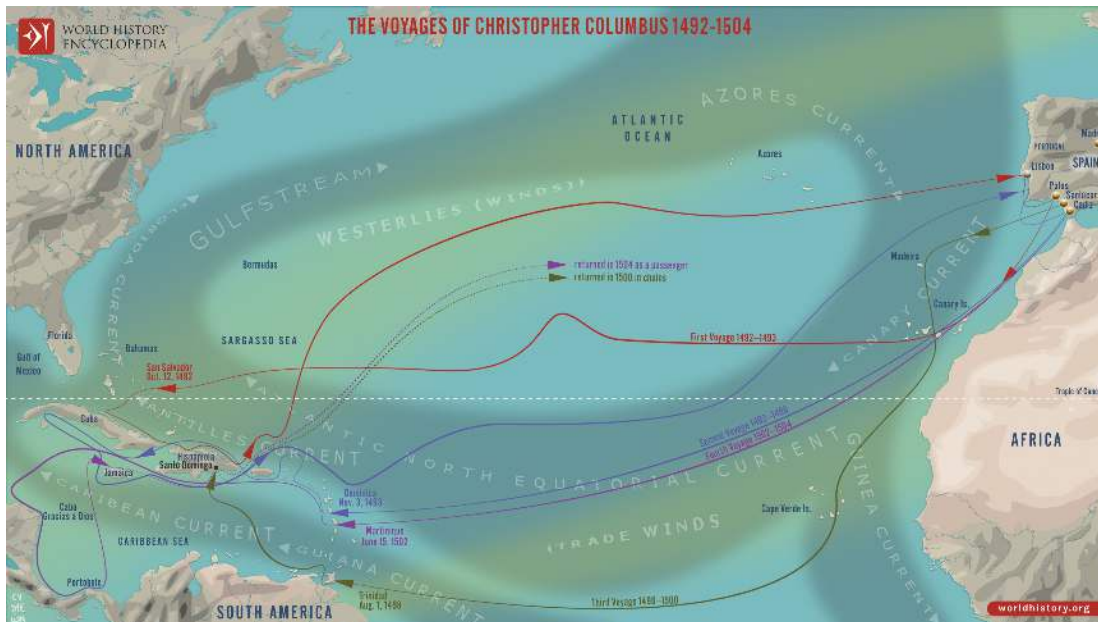
## Beyond the Horizon

The **Age of Exploration** marks a pivotal moment in human history which actually started before Columbus. This was characterised by the relentless pursuit of knowledge and new lands. This era, which spanned from the late 11th century to the early 17th century, saw European powers venturing into uncharted territories across the globe. The motivations behind these explorations were multifaceted, involving a complex blend of economic, political, and religious factors. The promise of wealth, particularly in the form of spices and precious metals, spurred nations like Spain, Portugal, and later England and France to seek new trade routes and colonies. Also, to escape from oppression was a major factor.

The historical debate surrounding Columbus's legacy has been contentious. Some view him as a brave navigator and a pivotal figure in the Age of Discovery, while others highlight the darker aspects of his voyages, including colonisation and the mistreatment of native people. Others find him guided on a mission by the Spanish crown to continue the Spanish Inquisition. This duality in perception illustrates the complexities of historical narratives, where heroes and villains often coexist. The reassessment of Columbus's impact continues to provoke discussions about colonialism and its lasting effects on societies today

Furthermore, the term 'discovery' itself is problematic, as it implies a sense of ownership and entitlement over lands and peoples that were already inhabited. This language perpetuates the colonial mindset that justified the exploitation and erasure of Indigenous cultures. By framing Columbus's journey as a discovery, we risk reinforcing harmful stereotypes and narratives that continue to affect Indigenous communities today.

## Beyond the Horizon



Map of the 4 Columbus voyages sponsored by the Spanish crown to complete Inquisition & spread colonization

Many ordinary people may not realise that Columbus's arrival marked the beginning of a harsh colonial regime that led to significant suffering and loss for Indigenous populations. The romanticised view of Columbus as a brave explorer overlooks the realities of violence, disease, and displacement that followed his voyages, that further emphasis the main reason for the journey, as if was only "discovery" it would have stopped or to show more inter-racial communication.

A more nuanced understanding acknowledges the devastating impact of colonisation on the lives of Indigenous peoples, who were often seen as obstacles to European expansion rather than as distinct nations with their own rights.

## Beyond the Horizon

As European powers established colonies, the competition for dominance intensified, leading to conflicts and alliances that reshaped political landscapes. The quest for territory and resources not only spurred exploration but also laid the groundwork for future imperial expansions. The Age of Exploration ultimately set the stage for the modern world, influencing everything from trade practices to cultural exchanges that continue to resonate today. However, the way to do that was devastating, as the forcing crown power and to continue Inquisition led to miseries for the fleeing immigrants.

In recognising these misconceptions, it becomes essential to listen to Indigenous narratives that have been historically silenced. Indigenous scholars and community leaders offer valuable insights that challenge the traditional narratives taught in schools.

By engaging with these perspectives, ordinary people can gain a deeper appreciation for the resilience and strength of Indigenous cultures, which continue to thrive despite centuries of adversity.

As **after Columbus**, typical colonization with people enslavement started to happen all over the continent.

Ultimately, addressing the misconceptions about discovery is a crucial step in reclaiming Indigenous narratives and fostering a more accurate historical understanding. This shift not only honours the truth of Indigenous histories but also encourages a more inclusive dialogue about our shared past. By redefining how we view Columbus and his legacy, we can begin to dismantle the colonial frameworks that have shaped our perceptions for far too long.



## Chapter 4: Indigenous Perspectives

### Oral Traditions and Storytelling

Oral traditions and storytelling have long been vital components of Indigenous cultures, serving as both a means of preserving history and a way to impart moral lessons. These narratives, passed down through generations, encapsulate the values, beliefs, and experiences of diverse Indigenous peoples. As such, they offer a rich tapestry of perspectives that challenge the conventional narratives surrounding historical figures like Columbus.

## Beyond the Horizon

In many Indigenous communities, storytelling is an interactive experience that engages listeners, fostering a sense of community and shared identity. The oral tradition is not merely about recounting events; it often involves a dynamic exchange where listeners are encouraged to interpret and reflect upon the stories being told. This participatory nature of storytelling strengthens communal bonds and ensures that the lessons within these tales resonate deeply with each new audience.

The stories told by Indigenous peoples about Columbus and his voyages reveal a complex understanding of colonisation's impact. Rather than a simplistic view of discovery, these narratives often highlight the resilience and resistance of Indigenous communities in the face of invasion. Through oral traditions, the truths of history are articulated, offering insights into the struggles and triumphs that have shaped Indigenous identities over centuries.

Moreover, the act of storytelling itself becomes a form of resistance against the erasure of Indigenous voices from mainstream historical accounts. By reclaiming their narratives, Indigenous storytellers challenge the dominant discourse surrounding Columbus, asserting their right to define their own histories. This reclamation is crucial in fostering a more nuanced understanding of the past and promoting respect for Indigenous perspectives in contemporary society.

Ultimately, oral traditions and storytelling serve as powerful tools for cultural preservation and social commentary. They remind us that history is not a singular narrative but a multitude of voices that deserve to be heard. By engaging with these stories, we not only honour Indigenous heritage but also enrich our own understanding of history, paving the way for a more inclusive future that acknowledges the complexities of our shared past.

### The Impact of Colonisation

The impact of colonisation is profound and multifaceted, particularly when viewed through the lens of Indigenous narratives. Columbus's arrival in the Americas marked the beginning of a series of events that led to the widespread disruption of Indigenous cultures, societies, and ecosystems. The initial encounters, often romanticised in mainstream history, were fraught with violence and exploitation, laying the groundwork for centuries of oppression.

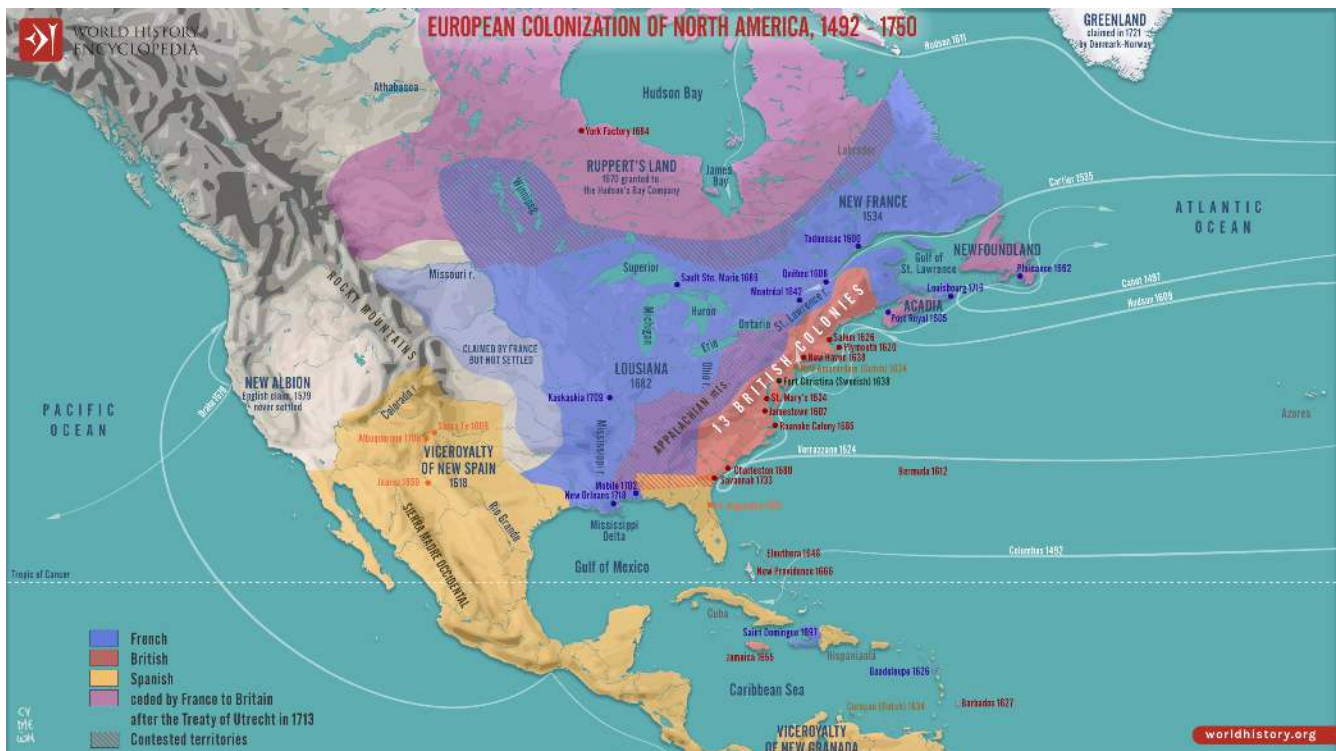
As European powers expanded their territories, Indigenous peoples faced forced displacement from their ancestral lands. This loss was not just physical; it encompassed the erasure of cultural practices, languages, and spiritual traditions. Colonisation imposed foreign systems of governance and economic exploitation, which disrupted the harmonious relationship many Indigenous communities had with the land and each other.

Moreover, the introduction of new diseases by European settlers devastated Indigenous populations who had no immunity to these illnesses. The demographic collapse that ensued further weakened the social structures of Indigenous societies, making it easier for colonisers to impose their rule. This aspect of colonisation is often overlooked, yet it highlights the tragic consequences of European expansion.

In the present day, the legacy of colonisation continues to affect Indigenous communities. Issues such as land rights, cultural preservation, and social justice are at the forefront of Indigenous movements seeking recognition and restitution. The struggle to reclaim narratives and assert identity is a direct response to the historical injustices that colonisation wrought, emphasising the resilience and strength of Indigenous peoples.

## Beyond the Horizon

Understanding the impact of colonisation is essential for fostering meaningful dialogue about reconciliation and healing. By acknowledging the past and its ongoing effects, we can work towards a future that respects Indigenous perspectives and promotes equity. This requires a commitment to listening to Indigenous voices and integrating their narratives into the broader historical context, paving the way for a more inclusive understanding of our shared history.



Map illustrating European colonization subsequently

## Resilience and Resistance

Resilience and resistance are central themes in the narratives of Indigenous peoples, especially when reflecting on the legacy of Columbus. For centuries, Indigenous communities have faced immense challenges, yet they continue to thrive, demonstrating remarkable strength and adaptability in the face of adversity. This resilience is rooted in their deep connection to the land, culture, and traditions that have sustained them for generations. Through storytelling, art, and community gatherings, they reclaim their identities and assert their presence in a world that often seeks to marginalise them.

## Beyond the Horizon

The resistance to colonial narratives is pivotal in reshaping the understanding of Columbus' impact on Indigenous societies. Instead of viewing Columbus as a hero, many Indigenous perspectives highlight the devastating consequences of his voyages, which initiated centuries of oppression and exploitation. This resistance is not merely historical; it is a living movement, empowering Indigenous voices to challenge dominant narratives and demand recognition of their histories and rights. By educating others, they foster a broader understanding of the injustices faced by their ancestors and the ongoing struggles they endure today.

On the other hand, these consequences might not be related to Columbus only, as the cultural spread afterwards could have been more smooth by not killing people present, then enslave others from another continent for man power!!

**Extreme injustice** for both Indigenous societies, and mainly African societies mainly taken as slaves to do the job in place of the indigenous ones!!!

Cultural revitalisation plays a significant role in both resilience and resistance. Indigenous peoples are increasingly reclaiming their languages, traditions, and practices that were suppressed or nearly lost due to colonial policies. This resurgence of cultural pride serves as a powerful counter-narrative to the historical erasure imposed by colonialism. Through ceremonies, language programmes, and intergenerational knowledge transfer, Indigenous communities are not only preserving their heritage but also asserting their right to define their own identities.

## Beyond the Horizon

In the face of ongoing challenges, such as systemic inequality and environmental degradation, Indigenous resilience manifests through advocacy and activism. Many Indigenous leaders and organisations are at the forefront of movements that address social justice, land rights, and environmental protection. Their efforts often highlight the interconnectedness of these issues, advocating for a holistic approach that respects both the land and the rights of Indigenous peoples. This activism is a testament to their enduring spirit and commitment to creating a just future for all.

Ultimately, the narratives of resilience and resistance are vital for understanding the true impact of Columbus and the broader colonial legacy. By centring Indigenous voices in these discussions, we can begin to acknowledge the complexities of history and the significance of reclaiming narratives. This journey towards recognition and healing is not just for Indigenous peoples but for all of society, as it fosters a more inclusive understanding of our shared past and a pathway towards a more equitable future.



## Chapter 5: Reinterpreting Columbus

### Challenging the Myth of Discovery

The immediate reactions to Christopher Columbus's voyages were as varied as the landscapes he encountered.

Upon his return to Spain in 1493, he was met with a hero's welcome, celebrated for his daring journey across uncharted waters. The Spanish court was eager to hear tales of the New World, and Columbus's accounts of lush islands and indigenous peoples captivated the imaginations of many.

His discoveries promised new territories for conquest and riches beyond measure, prompting a surge of enthusiasm across Europe

## Beyond the Horizon

The narrative surrounding Christopher Columbus often centres on the idea of discovery, painting him as a heroic figure who unveiled the Americas to the European world. This perspective, however, neglects the rich tapestry of Indigenous histories and cultures that existed long before Columbus's arrival. By framing his journey as a discovery, we inadvertently diminish the complexities of the societies that had thrived for millennia on these lands, perpetuating a myth that needs to be challenged and redefined.

Indigenous peoples had already established sophisticated systems of governance, trade, and spirituality long before Columbus set sail. Their deep connections to the land and sea were rooted in traditions that respected and maintained the balance of nature. Acknowledging this reality forces us to reconsider the implications of Columbus's voyage, which heralded not a discovery, but a moment of intrusion that would lead to devastation for countless Indigenous communities.

The term 'discovery' carries with it a connotation of ownership and entitlement, suggesting that the land was unclaimed and ready for the taking. This view not only misrepresents the existence of thriving civilisations but also erases the narratives of resistance and resilience that emerged in response to colonisation. By challenging the myth of discovery, we begin to honour the voices and experiences of Indigenous peoples, recognising their rightful place in the history of the Americas.

Reclaiming Indigenous narratives involves a commitment to understanding the past from multiple perspectives. It requires us to listen to the stories of those whose ancestors were here long before Columbus and who continue to fight for recognition and justice today. This process is not merely academic; it is a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation, acknowledging the wrongs of history while celebrating the rich legacies of Indigenous cultures.

## Beyond the Horizon

As we move forward in this discussion, it is essential to emphasise that the myth of discovery is not just a historical artefact; it has real implications for contemporary society. By perpetuating this myth, we contribute to a culture that marginalises Indigenous voices and experiences. Challenging this narrative is crucial for fostering understanding, respect, and collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Red Indians, this the narrative that we only know about the indigenous people!

But if we see closer we will find many cultures and religions were present.

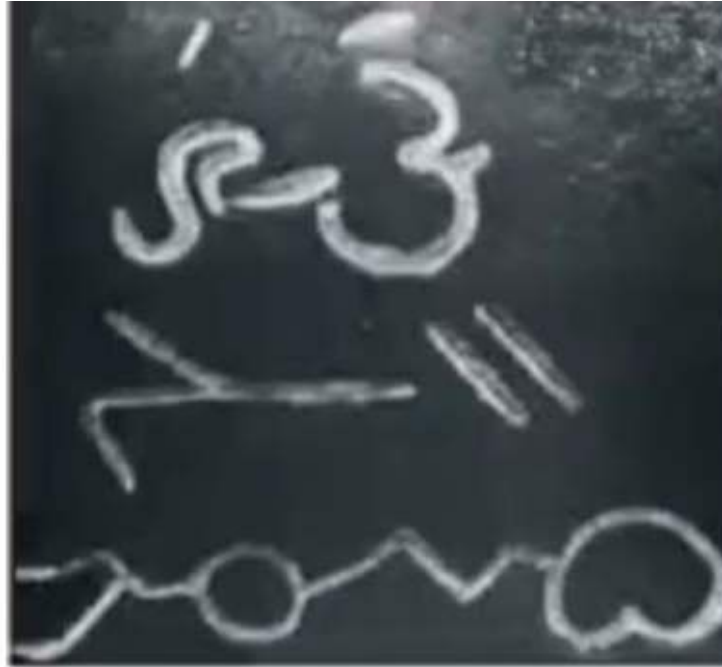
Muslim societies were present, but disappeared, this gives a hint about one of the main reasons for repetition of Columbus journeys.

Actually, many books assured Muslims presence early in America, with many inscriptions and coins photographed, the cover of these books will be displayed, also some coins that were used.



shows the inscription "Muhammad (peace to him and blessing) the prophet of Allah" also in Arabic script in the Kufic style

## Beyond the Horizon



### Columbus in Indigenous History

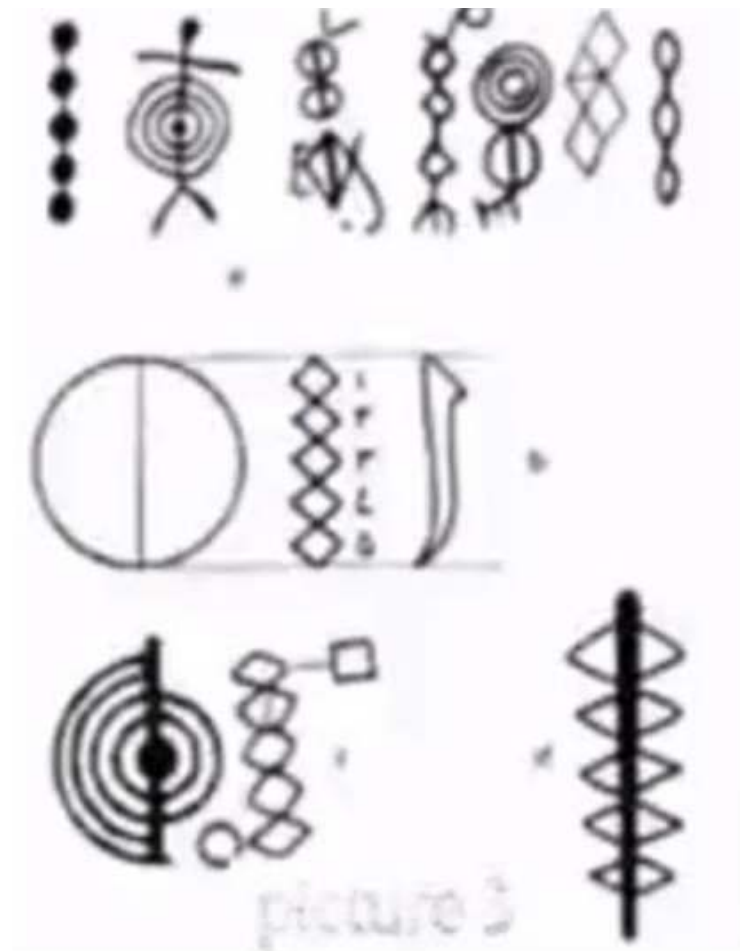
Christopher Columbus is often portrayed as a heroic figure in history, celebrated for his voyages that led to the so-called discovery of the New World. However, for Indigenous peoples, his arrival marked the beginning of a painful period of colonisation and violence. This subchapter seeks to reclaim the narratives of Indigenous history by highlighting the profound impacts Columbus had on native populations and their cultures, which are frequently overlooked in mainstream accounts.

The arrival of Columbus in 1492 initiated a series of events that fundamentally altered the lives of Indigenous communities across the Americas. Diseases brought by European settlers decimated populations that had no immunity, while the ensuing colonisation efforts led to the loss of land, resources, and cultural practices. Indigenous narratives often emphasise resilience and adaptation in the face of these challenges, which are critical to understanding their history and identity beyond Columbus's legacy.

But, only one race was completely eliminated!

## Beyond the Horizon

Indigenous oral traditions and historical accounts provide a rich context for understanding the consequences of Columbus's voyages. These stories often recount the experiences of displacement, resistance, and survival among Indigenous people. By weaving together these narratives, we can better appreciate the complexities of their histories and acknowledge the multifaceted nature of their responses to colonisation.



This "5 diamonds are equal to Alifa" in the North African Arabic style are stored at the University of California.

## Beyond the Horizon



This are typical comparative inscriptions found in various places that can be linked together. Now, if you look at the **A** inscription in the upper left corner, you will see that it was found in the 8th and 9th centuries in Morocco.

Now take a look at **B**. This inscription was found in the East Walker River.

The one you see: **C**, that was found in Nevada.

Also **D**: Nevada.

**F** was found in Morocco.

**G** in Libya.

And **H** was found in Cottonwood Canyon

## Beyond the Horizon

Moreover, Columbus's legacy continues to be a contentious topic, with many Indigenous groups advocating for a re-examination of history that honours their perspectives. This includes calls to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day, a celebration of Indigenous cultures and a recognition of the injustices they have faced. Such efforts not only aim to rectify historical narratives but also seek to empower Indigenous voices in contemporary discussions about identity and heritage.

Ultimately, understanding Columbus in the context of Indigenous history invites us to confront uncomfortable truths about colonisation and its ongoing repercussions. By centring Indigenous perspectives, we can foster a more inclusive narrative that acknowledges the strength and resilience of Indigenous peoples. This approach not only enriches our understanding of the past but also encourages a more equitable dialogue about the future of Indigenous communities in a post-colonial world.

Upon seeing Columbus tomb in a famous cathedral, it's clear then that he was well rewarded by the crown of Spain & the church to accomplish his mission, Reconquista!!

Christopher Columbus' tomb sits just inside the grand entrance of the Seville Cathedral. Positioned bang in the middle, it's impossible to miss.

The monument is a massive structure, elevated by four figures representing the historical kingdoms of Spain—Castile, Aragon, Navarre, and León.

These figures aren't just decorations; they symbolize the power and authority of the regions central to Columbus' life and legacy.

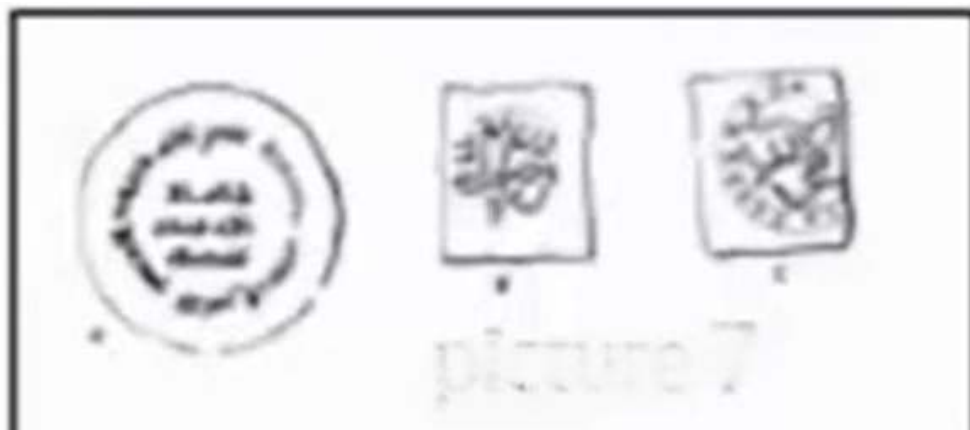
## Beyond the Horizon

### The Legacy of Colonial Narratives

The colonial narratives surrounding Christopher Columbus have long shaped public perception of exploration and discovery. These narratives often portray Columbus as a heroic figure, a pioneer who bravely ventured into uncharted territories.

However, this perspective frequently neglects the profound impacts of these voyages on Indigenous populations. As we delve deeper into the legacies of these narratives, it becomes clear that they have perpetuated a singular view of history that marginalises Indigenous voices and experiences.

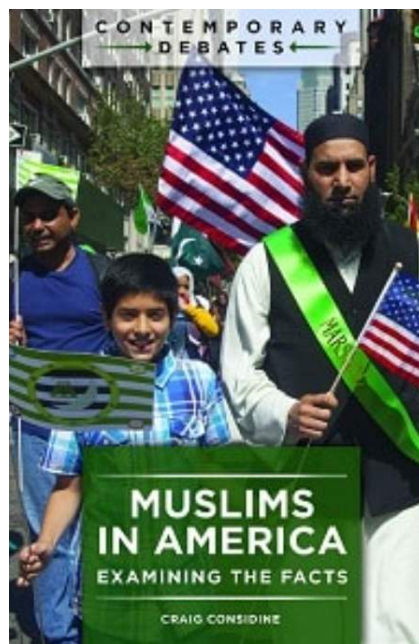
Even till centuries after Columbus, as can be seen by the use of coins that were found later and surely, not done by the governments then!



This are photos of Samarkand Dirhams 7th-8th centuries were found in Massachusetts. And it says: "La ilaha il-Allah, Muhammadan rasulillah" (there is no god except Allah, Muhammad is his messenger).

## Beyond the Horizon

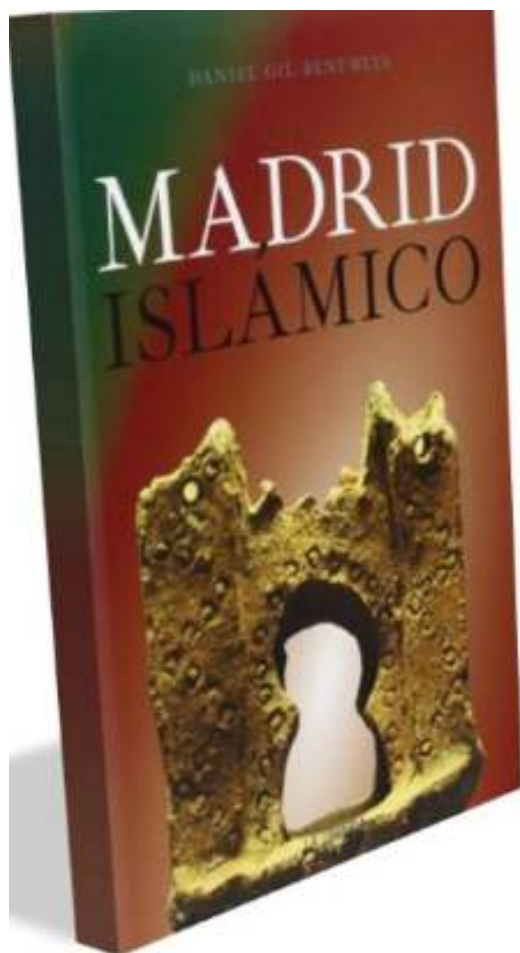
The legacy of colonial narratives is evident in the way history is taught and understood. Many educational systems continue to present Columbus as a symbol of progress and enlightenment, glossing over the atrocities that followed his arrival. This selective storytelling not only distorts historical facts but also diminishes the sovereignty and cultures of Indigenous peoples. By examining these narratives critically, we can begin to dismantle the myths that have been constructed over centuries and acknowledge the voices that have been silenced. Many books highlighted this issue some of them will be displayed.



Indigenous perspectives on Columbus' legacy provide a necessary counter-narrative to the dominant historical accounts. These perspectives highlight the resilience and richness of Indigenous cultures that existed long before Columbus set sail. They challenge the notion of discovery by asserting that these lands were already inhabited and cherished by diverse communities. By centring Indigenous voices in this discourse, we can foster a more inclusive understanding of history that respects and honours these longstanding traditions.

To the extent that some books pointed out that even the capital of Spain was originally done by the Arab Muslim inhabitants then, as specially the name **Madrid** is derived from the Arabic term (Magra elgalid - مجرى الجليد)

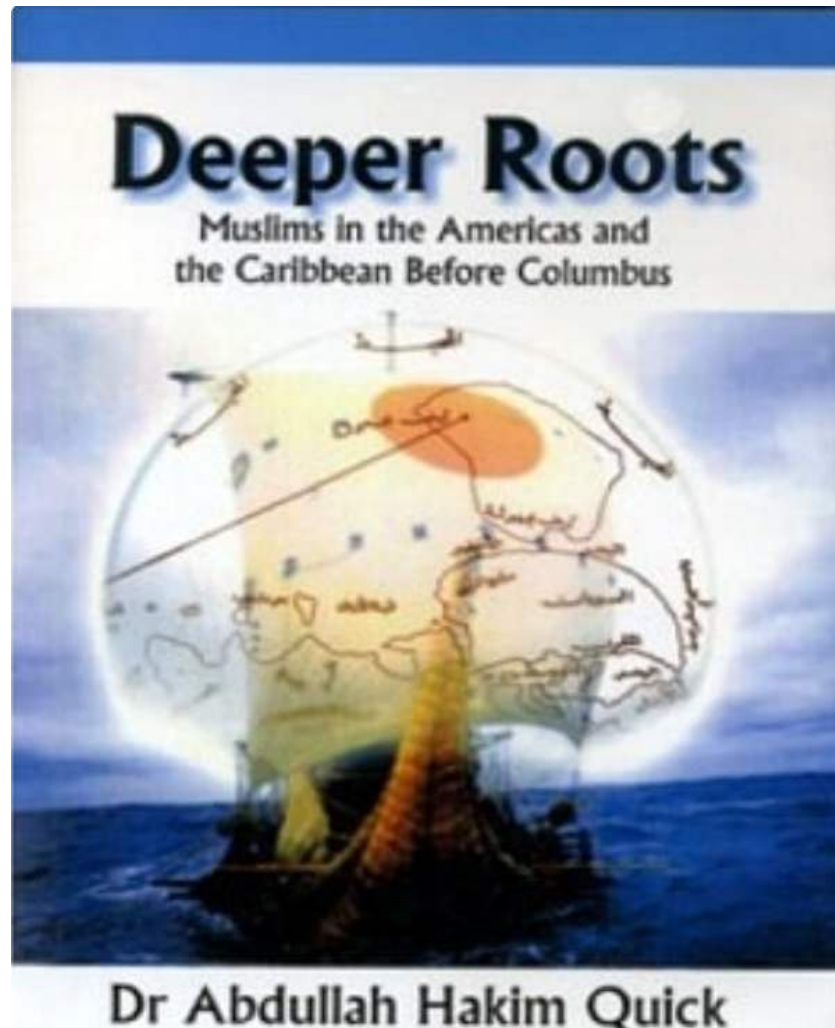
## Beyond the Horizon



This book "Marid Islámico: La historia recuperada" by the Spanish historian: Daniel Gil Benumeya gives idea to the capital foundation. Even the writer name hints to Arabic origin بني أمية though the book was published in Spanish 2015, translated 2023.

Furthermore, reclaiming Indigenous narratives is crucial for healing and reconciliation. Recognising the impacts of colonialism is the first step towards addressing historical injustices. This process involves not only re-evaluating historical figures like Columbus but also amplifying Indigenous stories and experiences. Such an approach encourages dialogue and understanding, paving the way for a future that acknowledges past wrongs and seeks to rectify them. Several other books told similar meaning as:

## Beyond the Horizon

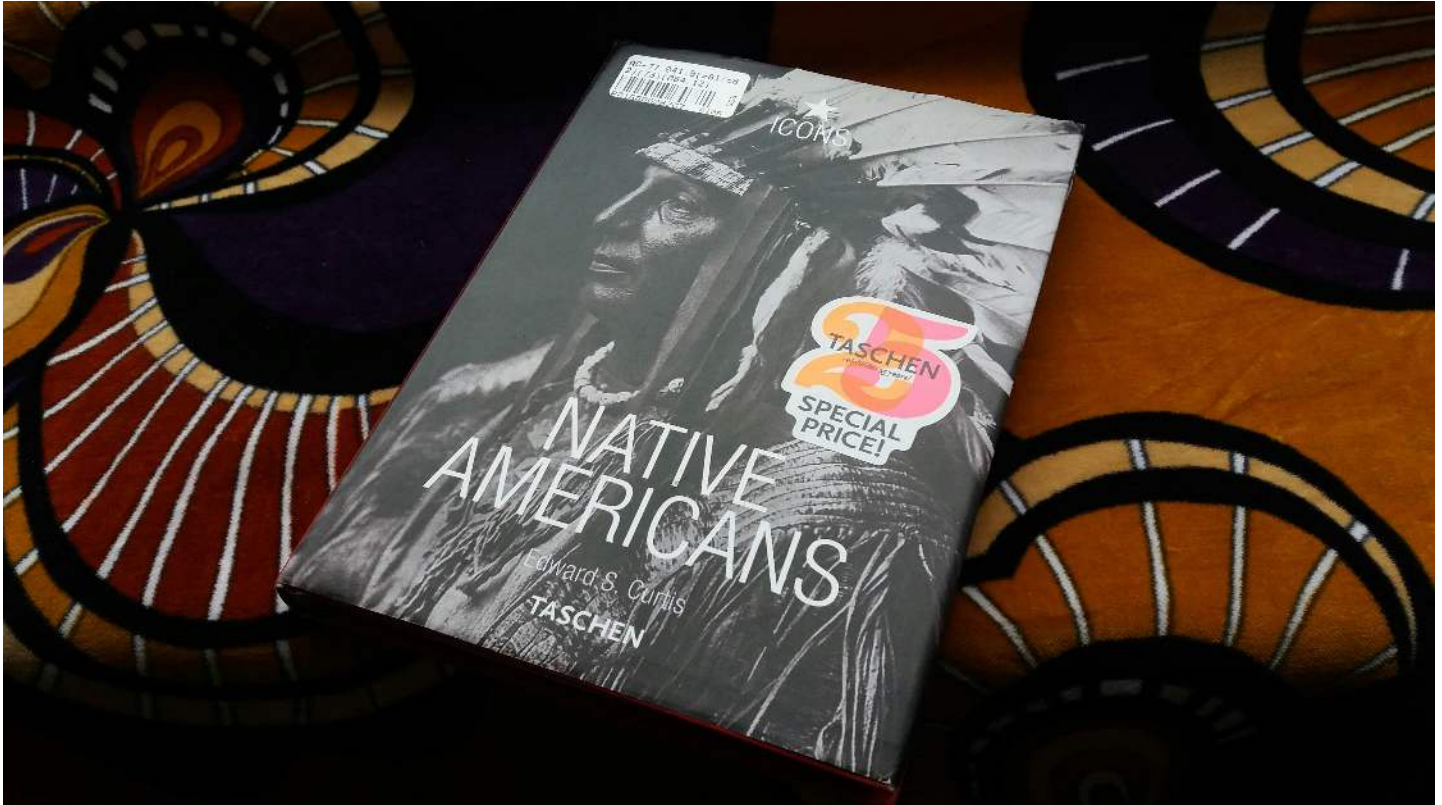


This book emphasizes how Muslims were present as indigenous Americans even before Columbus set foot in America.

In conclusion, the legacy of colonial narratives is multifaceted and deeply entrenched in societal perceptions of history. By engaging with Indigenous perspectives, we can challenge the dominant narratives that have shaped our understanding of Columbus and his voyages. This shift is essential not only for historical accuracy but also for fostering a respectful relationship with Indigenous communities.

Ultimately, it is through this reclamation of narratives that we can hope to build a more equitable and just society, not to discriminate more as some politicians are trying to do now!

## Beyond the Horizon



### Chapter 6: Voices from the Land

#### Indigenous Leaders and Activists

Indigenous leaders and activists have played a pivotal role in reshaping the narrative surrounding Columbus and his legacy. They have worked tirelessly to educate the public about the true history of their peoples, highlighting the adverse effects of colonisation and the ongoing struggles faced by Indigenous communities. These leaders often draw upon their rich cultural traditions and historical experiences to advocate for rights, recognition, and reparations, challenging the glorified portrayals of figures like Columbus.

## Beyond the Horizon

The character and actions of Christopher Columbus have sparked extensive debate among historians and the public alike. Initially celebrated as a brave explorer who discovered the New World, modern interpretations have complicated this narrative. Critics argue that his expeditions led to the exploitation and suffering of Indigenous populations, challenging the notion of Columbus as a heroic figure. This shift in perception has prompted a re-evaluation of his legacy, particularly in light of contemporary values regarding colonisation and human rights - was he following the Spanish crown rules, or he initiated further colonisation?!

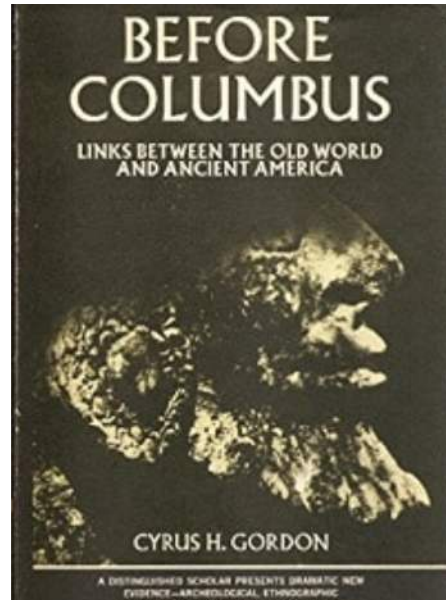
One significant figure in this movement is Winona LaDuke, an Anishinaabe activist who has been at the forefront of environmental and Indigenous rights issues. LaDuke's work emphasises the interconnectedness of land and culture, arguing that the impact of colonisation is still felt today. Through her advocacy, she seeks to empower Indigenous youth and inspire them to reclaim their heritage and voice in the face of historical injustices.

Another notable leader is Chief Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation, who focused on self-determination and community development. Mankiller's leadership exemplifies the strength of Indigenous women in the fight against colonial narratives. Her efforts not only uplifted her community but also served as a catalyst for other Indigenous leaders to rise and address the injustices faced by their peoples, reinforcing the importance of grassroots activism.

Activists such as the Zapatistas in Mexico have also drawn attention to the historical implications of colonisation. They have highlighted the ongoing struggles against oppression, using Columbus as a symbol of the systemic issues that continue to affect Indigenous populations. Their resistance is rooted in a broader context of social justice, calling for a reevaluation of history and the recognition of Indigenous rights in contemporary society.

## Beyond the Horizon

To be noted that no **Islamic leader** was to talk about this issue as they were actually extinct. Columbus was the first leader in this aspect, several other books mention the same as:



This book high-lights ancient America!

## Beyond the Horizon

The collective efforts of these Indigenous leaders and activists underscore the importance of reclaiming narratives that have been historically marginalised. By challenging the dominant discourse around Columbus and advocating for a more accurate representation of history, they not only honour their ancestors but also pave the way for future generations. Their work is a testament to resilience and the ongoing journey towards justice and recognition for Indigenous peoples worldwide.

Many historical narratives credit Christopher Columbus with the "discovery" of America in 1492.

However, a more nuanced examination reveals compelling evidence suggesting pre-Columbian voyages to the Americas by various groups. While definitive proof remains elusive in some cases, the accumulated evidence points towards the likelihood of earlier transatlantic contact. Norse seafarers, led by Leif Erikson, established a settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland around 1000 AD.

Archaeological evidence definitively confirms their presence, marking the earliest known European arrival in North America. Beyond the Norse, speculation exists regarding other potential pre-Columbian voyages. Some historians and researchers propose that Polynesians may have reached the Americas, citing genetic similarities between certain South American populations and Polynesian groups, as well as the presence of crops like sweet potatoes in both regions.

Similarly, theories persist about possible voyages from Africa or Asia, although concrete evidence remains scarce. In conclusion, while Columbus's voyages undeniably initiated a new era of sustained contact between Europe and the Americas, the notion that he was the first to arrive is inaccurate. The Norse settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows provides irrefutable evidence of a prior European presence, and suggestive clues hint at the possibility of even earlier voyages by other cultures. The question of "who went to America before Columbus?" remains an active area of historical inquiry, with ongoing discoveries potentially reshaping our understanding of pre-Columbian transatlantic interactions.

### Contemporary Indigenous Art and Literature

Contemporary Indigenous art and literature serve as powerful mediums for expressing the rich cultural heritage and contemporary experiences of Indigenous peoples. These forms of expression often challenge historical narratives, including those surrounding figures like Columbus, by presenting alternative perspectives that highlight resilience, identity, and the ongoing impact of colonisation. Artists and writers draw upon traditional stories, landscapes, and personal experiences to create works that resonate with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous audiences, fostering understanding and dialogue.

Many contemporary Indigenous artists utilise various mediums, from painting and sculpture to digital media, to convey their messages. These artworks often incorporate traditional motifs and techniques, merging the past with the present. For instance, Indigenous painters might use vibrant colours and symbols to represent their cultural stories, while sculptors may incorporate natural materials that reflect their ancestral connections to the land. This blending of old and new not only preserves cultural narratives but also reinvigorates them for future generations.

In literature, Indigenous writers are reclaiming their voices through storytelling, poetry, and essays that reflect their unique perspectives on historical and contemporary issues. They engage with themes of identity, belonging, and the effects of colonisation, often weaving personal narratives with broader socio-political commentary. By doing so, these authors challenge dominant narratives and offer readers a chance to view history through an Indigenous lens, which can be both enlightening and transformative.

## Beyond the Horizon

The impact of contemporary Indigenous art and literature extends beyond artistic expression; it plays a crucial role in the broader movement for Indigenous rights and recognition. By showcasing their work, Indigenous artists and writers contribute to the decolonisation of knowledge and raise awareness about the ongoing struggles faced by Indigenous communities. Their art and literature become tools of resistance, helping to educate others and fostering a sense of pride and solidarity within Indigenous populations.

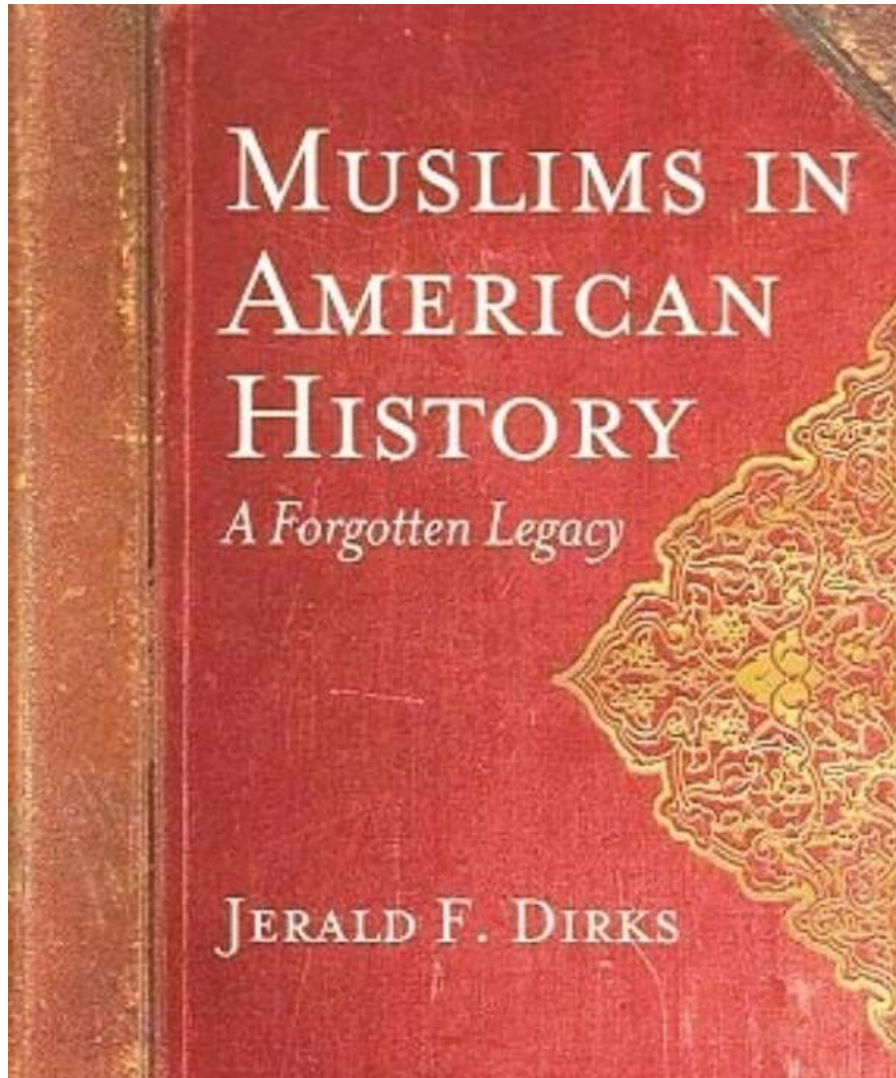
Ultimately, engaging with contemporary Indigenous art and literature invites ordinary people to reflect on their understanding of history, including the legacy of Columbus. It encourages a more nuanced appreciation of Indigenous cultures and their contributions to society. By embracing these narratives, we can begin to acknowledge the complexities of our shared past and work towards a more inclusive future that honours Indigenous voices and stories.

### The Role of Education in Reclamation

Education serves as a vital tool in the reclamation of Indigenous narratives, particularly in the context of Columbus' legacy. By integrating Indigenous perspectives into educational curricula, we enable a more comprehensive understanding of history that acknowledges the experiences and voices of Indigenous peoples. This approach not only corrects historical inaccuracies but also fosters respect and recognition for the cultures and traditions that have been marginalised for centuries.

One significant aspect of this educational reclamation is the inclusion of Indigenous storytelling and oral traditions. These narratives provide insights into the values and beliefs of Indigenous communities, which have often been overlooked in mainstream education. By highlighting these stories, we create a richer tapestry of history that reflects the diversity of human experience and acknowledges the resilience of Indigenous cultures in the face of colonialism. Contrary to what can be done in politics, books can somehow display what is real, some of these books:

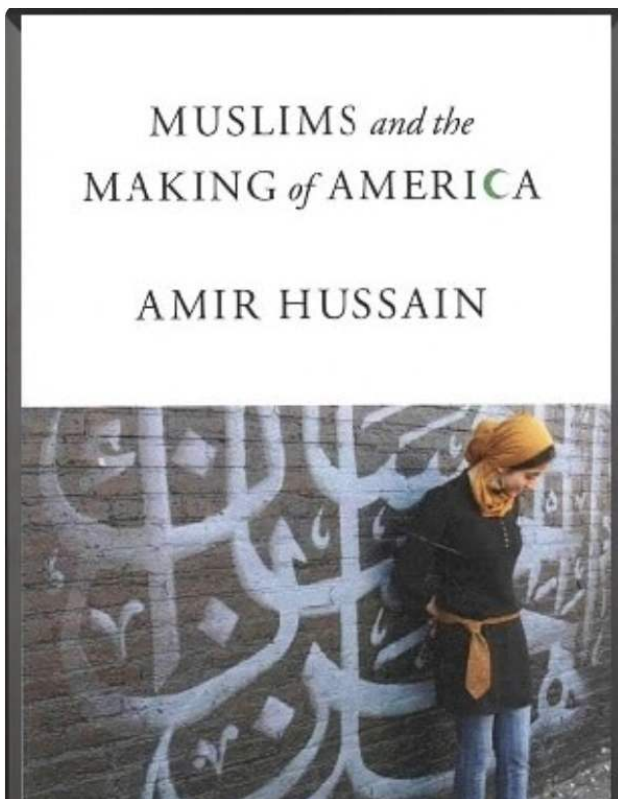
## Beyond the Horizon



This is a book that displays a forgotten legacy

## Beyond the Horizon

Moreover, education can empower Indigenous youth by instilling a sense of identity and pride in their heritage. When young people learn about their history, traditions, and languages, they are more likely to develop a strong connection to their cultural roots. This connection not only fosters individual self-esteem but also strengthens community bonds, as young Indigenous people become advocates for their own narratives and histories. So people like African American or Muslim can feel more free, as in this book:



The role of education in reclamation extends beyond formal settings; it encompasses community-led initiatives and informal learning environments. Workshops, cultural events, and collaborations with local Indigenous leaders can provide opportunities for broader society to engage with Indigenous knowledge systems. Such interactions promote understanding and dialogue, essential for healing historical wounds and moving towards a more inclusive society. Actually, this is starting to happen in politics as the elections of some Muslim mayors in some cities (e.g: Memdani in New York)

## Beyond the Horizon

Ultimately, the reclamation of narratives through education is a fundamental step towards reconciliation. By prioritising Indigenous perspectives and fostering a more accurate representation of history, we can create a future where all voices are heard and valued. This process not only enriches our collective understanding of the past but also paves the way for a more equitable and just society for generations to come.

# Chapter 8: The Journey Towards Reclamation

## Reviving Indigenous Languages

The revival of Indigenous languages is a crucial part of reclaiming cultural identity and heritage. Many Indigenous communities around the world face the threat of language extinction, a consequence of colonial policies and systemic marginalisation. By revitalising these languages, Indigenous peoples can reconnect with their histories, traditions, and worldviews, which are often deeply intertwined with their linguistic expressions. This process not only empowers individuals but also strengthens community bonds, fostering a sense of pride and belonging.

Language is more than just a means of communication; it carries the weight of culture, philosophy, and identity. For Indigenous peoples, their languages encapsulate unique ways of understanding the world, including concepts that may not exist in dominant languages. Efforts to revive these languages often involve intergenerational teaching, where elders pass down knowledge to younger members of the community. This transmission is vital for preserving Indigenous narratives and perspectives, particularly those related to historical figures such as Columbus.

## Beyond the Horizon

In recent years, various initiatives have emerged globally aimed at supporting language revitalisation. Community-driven programs, educational resources, and digital platforms play significant roles in this movement. Many Indigenous languages are now being taught in schools, and there is a growing emphasis on incorporating these languages into everyday life. Such initiatives not only enhance linguistic skills but also promote cultural awareness among non-Indigenous populations, fostering respect and understanding of diverse heritage.

This is more manifest in the United States, as recently Spanish language is gaining popularity and spread, Arabic links are more evident by the recent rise in Muslim population & reading the Qur'an more frequently.

Moreover, technology has become a powerful ally in the revitalisation efforts. Mobile applications, online courses, and social media campaigns are being utilised to engage younger generations in learning their ancestral languages. These modern tools help bridge the gap between traditional methods and contemporary lifestyles, making language learning more accessible and appealing. The integration of technology can also aid in documenting and preserving languages that are at risk of disappearing.

Ultimately, reviving Indigenous languages is a testament to resilience and cultural survival. It challenges the narratives shaped by colonialism and asserts the importance of Indigenous voices in the broader discourse. As communities work tirelessly to reclaim their languages, they simultaneously reclaim their histories and futures. This journey of revitalisation is not just about words; it is about honouring the legacies of ancestors and ensuring that Indigenous perspectives continue to thrive in the world today.

## Beyond the Horizon

Hundreds of **cities** in North America bear **Muslim names**:

Kalifa (California), Allah-Bumya (Alabama), Talla Hasse (Tallahassee), Islamorada, Mecca, Medina, Hazen, Mahoney.

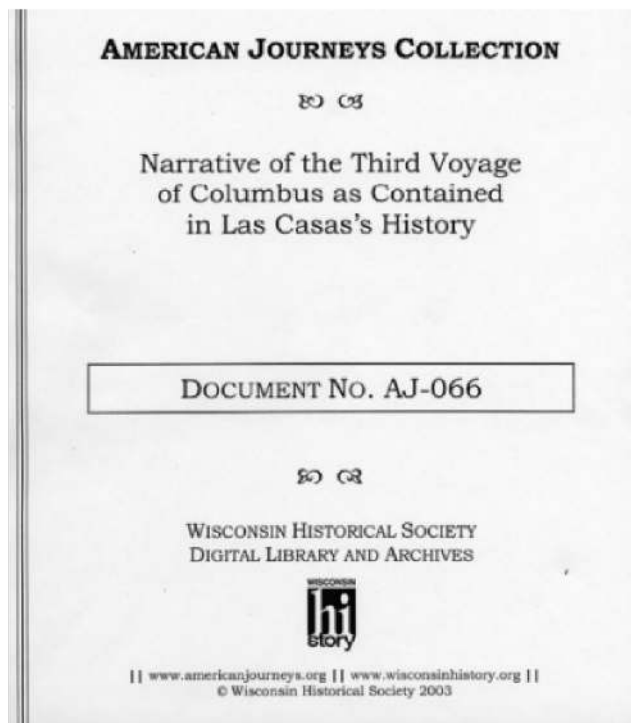
Also, many **words** come from Arabic, such as:

sheriff (sharif), mayor (amir) and many others. Despite all this evidence, Columbus is still credited with discovering America.

Christopher Columbus studied Muslim captains on his first voyage.

## Cultural Preservation Efforts

Cultural preservation efforts within Indigenous communities have become paramount in reclaiming narratives that have long been overshadowed by dominant historical accounts. As societies evolve, the importance of safeguarding traditional practices, languages, and stories is vital to maintain the identity and heritage of Indigenous peoples. These efforts not only serve to honour the past but also to empower future generations to embrace their cultural roots amidst the pressures of modernisation.

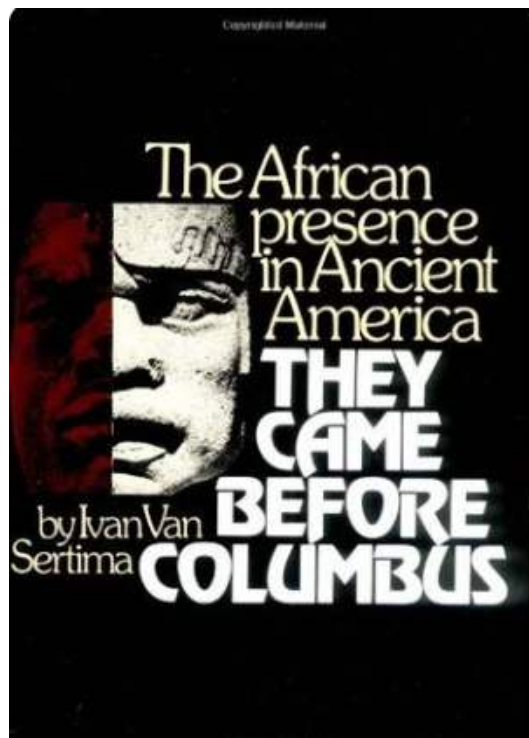


This is a good example of how can be done

## Beyond the Horizon

One of the most significant aspects of cultural preservation is the revitalisation of Indigenous languages. Language is a crucial vessel for cultural expression and identity; when a language fades, so too does the unique worldview it embodies. Initiatives aimed at teaching Indigenous languages in schools and community settings are gaining traction. These programmes not only foster fluency but also reconnect younger generations with their ancestors' narratives, creating a bridge between past and present.

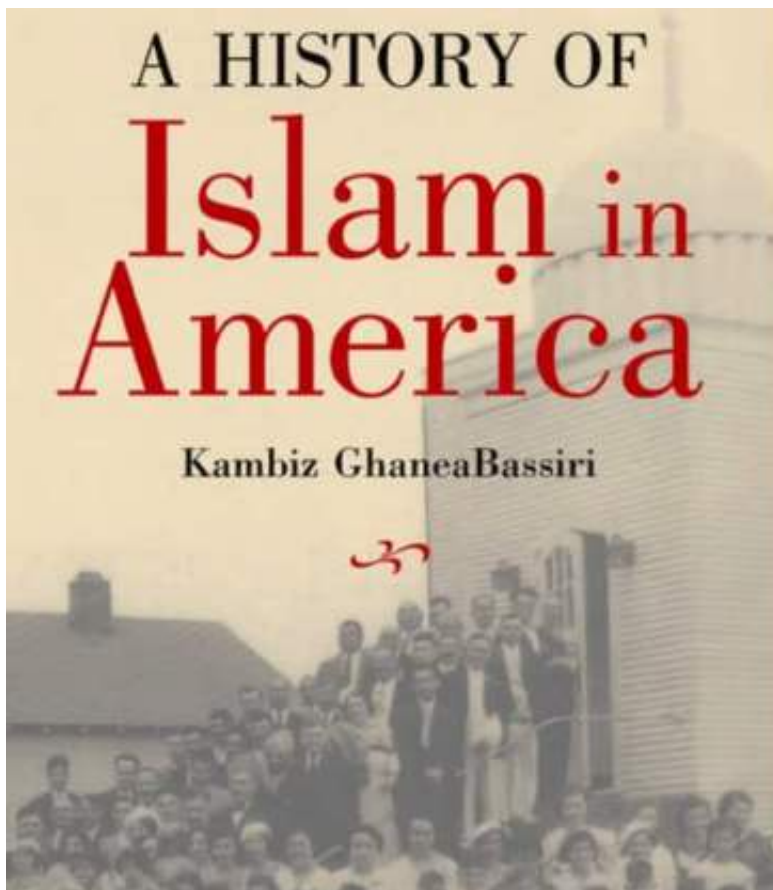
Traditional storytelling plays a pivotal role in cultural preservation. It serves as a means of passing down knowledge, values, and history from one generation to the next. Through storytelling, Indigenous communities can share their perspectives on historical figures like Columbus, offering a counter-narrative that challenges mainstream interpretations. Workshops and community gatherings focused on storytelling foster a sense of belonging and reinforce cultural traditions, making them relevant in today's society.



Another proof with many stories

## Beyond the Horizon

Art and cultural practices are also instrumental in preserving Indigenous heritage. Many artists are now using contemporary mediums to express traditional themes, blending the old with the new. This fusion not only attracts wider audiences but also invites dialogue about Indigenous issues and histories. Festivals and exhibitions showcasing Indigenous art provide platforms for these voices, allowing for cultural expression that is both authentic and innovative.



This book tells about different cultures shaping America

Lastly, the involvement of younger generations in cultural preservation efforts is essential. Engaging youth in traditional practices, be it through dance, music, or crafts, ensures that these customs are not lost. By actively participating, young people become custodians of their culture, instilling pride and a sense of responsibility. As these initiatives continue to grow, the resilience and vibrancy of Indigenous cultures will undoubtedly shine through, reclaiming their rightful place in history.

### Community Engagement and Activism

Community engagement and activism play a crucial role in reshaping the narrative around Columbus and his legacy. Indigenous communities have long been at the forefront of challenging the glorified portrayal of Columbus, advocating for a more accurate representation of history that acknowledges the violence and suffering inflicted upon their ancestors. Through various forms of activism, such as protests, educational initiatives, and public campaigns, these communities strive to reclaim their narratives and assert their rights in the face of colonial myths.

One of the most powerful tools for community engagement is storytelling. Indigenous people share their histories, traditions, and perspectives to educate others about the impact of colonisation. By amplifying their voices, they not only preserve their culture but also invite the broader public to understand the complexities of history from their viewpoint. This process of storytelling fosters empathy and encourages a more nuanced understanding of the past, allowing for healing and reconciliation.

Activism can also be seen in the re-evaluation of public monuments and commemorations. Many Indigenous activists advocate for the removal or contextualisation of statues and namesakes that celebrate Columbus. These efforts are not merely about erasing history but rather about creating space for Indigenous narratives that have been historically silenced. By redefining public spaces to reflect a more accurate and inclusive history, communities can honour their ancestors and educate future generations.

## Beyond the Horizon



This carving was found in "four corners cave" near by Mississippi river, evidence that Muslim sailors from west Africa "The Mandinka" came to this area

Moreover, Indigenous-led initiatives often involve collaboration with non-Indigenous allies who seek to support these movements. This partnership can take many forms, including participation in rallies, educational workshops, and advocacy for policy changes. Such alliances are vital for amplifying Indigenous voices and ensuring that their struggles for justice and recognition gain the attention they deserve in wider society.

Ultimately, community engagement and activism are essential for reclaiming Indigenous narratives and reshaping the legacy of Columbus. By actively participating in these movements, ordinary people can contribute to a more equitable society. It is a call to action for everyone to listen, learn, and support efforts that honour Indigenous histories and cultures, paving the way for a future grounded in respect and understanding.

# Chapter 9: Looking to the Future

## Bridging Cultures and Histories

In an increasingly interconnected world, the narratives surrounding historical figures like Christopher Columbus require a nuanced understanding that bridges diverse cultures and histories. For many Indigenous communities, Columbus represents not a hero, but a harbinger of colonisation and cultural erasure. This perspective invites us to reconsider traditional narratives that have shaped our collective memory and to acknowledge the rich histories of Indigenous peoples that predate European contact.

Exploring the impact of Columbus's voyages necessitates a dialogue between different cultural perspectives. Indigenous voices offer vital insights into the consequences of colonisation, including the loss of land, language, and cultural identity. By engaging with these narratives, we create a space for healing and reconciliation, recognising that history is not a singular story but a tapestry woven from multiple experiences and viewpoints.

Bridging these cultures requires an openness to learn from one another. It is essential to listen to the stories passed down through generations, understanding the profound connections Indigenous peoples have with their land and traditions. This approach not only honours their histories but also enriches our understanding of the past, fostering a sense of shared humanity.

Moreover, acknowledging Indigenous perspectives on Columbus's legacy can challenge prevailing myths that have been perpetuated over centuries. By critically examining the glorification of explorers, we can dismantle the narratives that have contributed to systemic injustices faced by Indigenous communities. This process of unlearning and relearning can pave the way for a more inclusive historical discourse that respects and values the contributions of all cultures.

## Beyond the Horizon

Ultimately, bridging cultures and histories is about more than just acknowledging past wrongs; it is about envisioning a future where Indigenous narratives are woven into the broader fabric of society. As we reflect on Columbus's legacy, let us commit to fostering understanding, empathy, and respect for the diverse histories that shape our world today. This commitment can help us move towards a more equitable future, where all voices are heard and valued.

### The Importance of Inclusion in Historical Narratives

Inclusion in historical narratives is paramount for understanding the full scope of events that shape our world. When we consider figures like Columbus, it is essential to recognise that his voyages did not occur in a vacuum. The experiences and perspectives of Indigenous peoples provide crucial context that challenges traditional Eurocentric accounts. By incorporating these voices, we can present a more balanced and truthful representation of history.

The narratives of Indigenous communities offer insights into the consequences of colonisation that are often overlooked. These stories reveal the resilience of cultures and the impact of European arrival on their ways of life. By acknowledging this, we not only honour the memories of those affected but also educate ourselves and future generations about the complexities of our shared past. Understanding these narratives helps to dismantle stereotypes and promotes empathy among diverse groups of people.

Moreover, inclusion in historical narratives fosters a sense of belonging and identity among Indigenous peoples. When their stories are told, it validates their experiences and contributions to history. This recognition is vital for healing the wounds of colonisation and for building a more inclusive society. It empowers Indigenous individuals to reclaim their heritage and assert their place in history, which has often been marginalised or misrepresented.

## Beyond the Horizon

The importance of inclusion extends beyond the realm of history; it influences contemporary societal attitudes and policies. By embracing diverse narratives, we create space for dialogue and understanding in a world that often grapples with division. This shift encourages collaboration and respect among different cultures, paving the way for a more harmonious coexistence. It is through these inclusive practices that we can truly appreciate the richness of human experience.

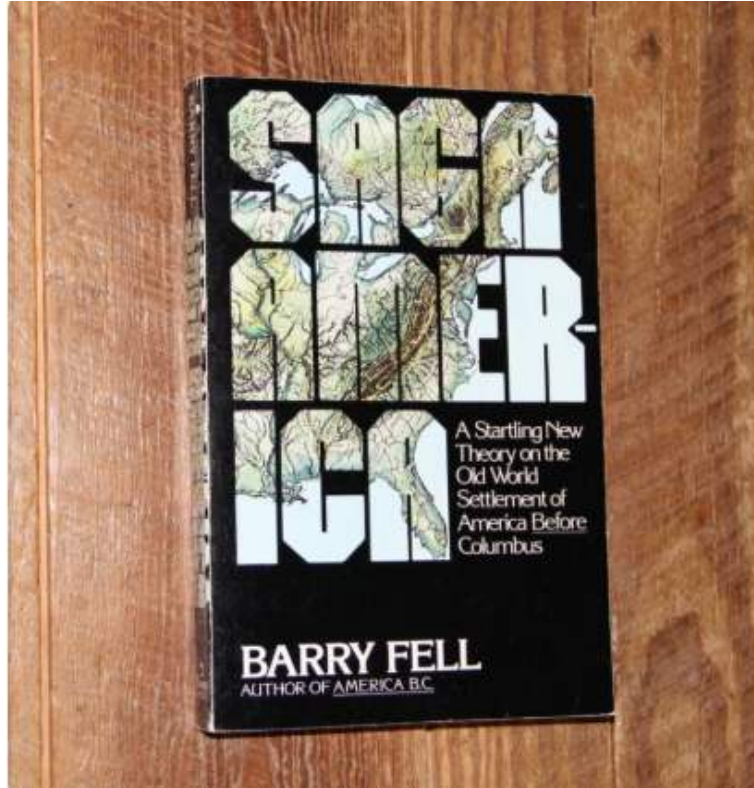
In conclusion, the importance of inclusion in historical narratives cannot be overstated. As we look to the past, we must strive to incorporate a multitude of voices, particularly those of Indigenous peoples, to ensure that history is represented in its entirety. By doing so, we not only enrich our understanding of events like Columbus' legacy but also contribute to a more equitable and just society for all. The stories we choose to tell shape our identities and our future, making inclusivity a vital aspect of historical discourse.

### Building Alliances for Change

Building alliances is a crucial step in addressing the complex legacy of figures like Columbus. By fostering connections among diverse communities, we can create a powerful coalition that advocates for change and acknowledges the historical injustices faced by Indigenous peoples. These alliances are not just beneficial; they are essential in amplifying Indigenous voices and perspectives that have often been silenced or overlooked.

Engaging with allies from various backgrounds allows for a richer dialogue about the implications of Columbus' actions. It is vital to include those who may not share an Indigenous heritage but recognise the importance of truth and reconciliation. Together, we can educate each other and work towards a more equitable society that honours the narratives and histories of all its members.

## Beyond the Horizon



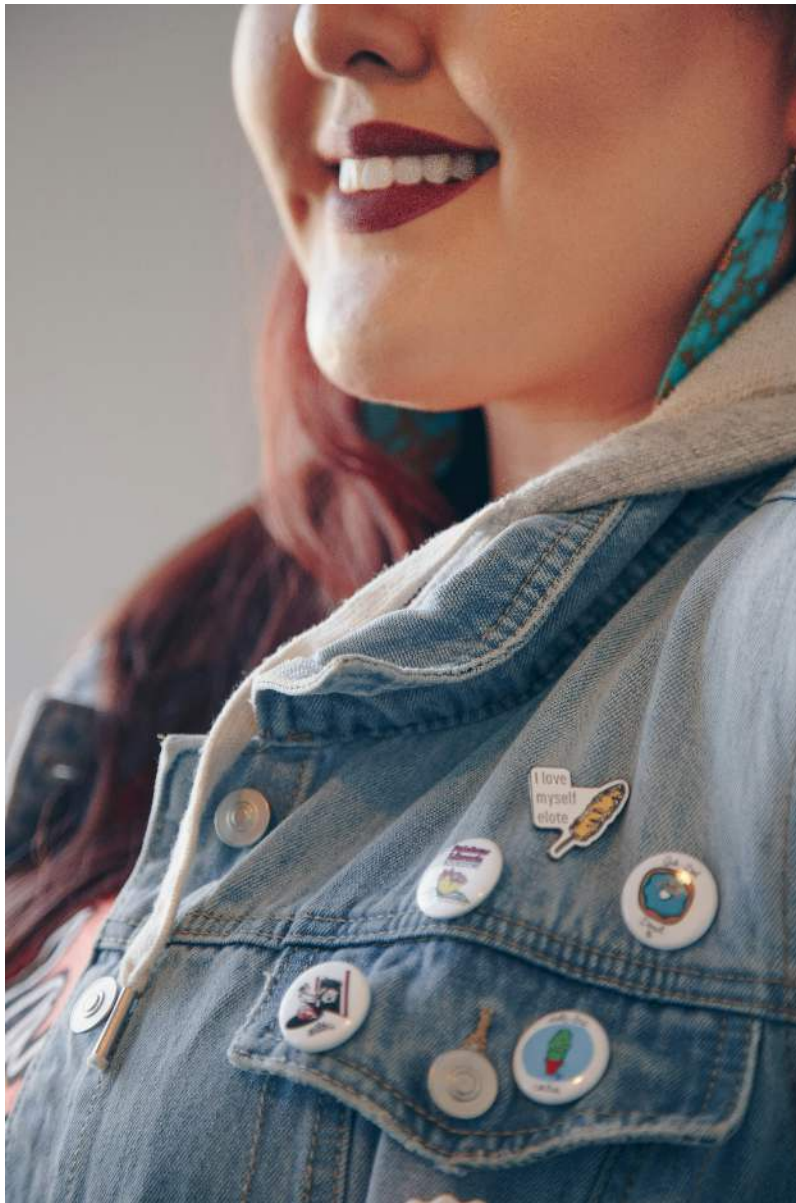
Here are many scrolls that can get people closer

The process of building alliances requires genuine commitment and understanding. It involves listening to the experiences and stories of Indigenous peoples, acknowledging their pain, and advocating for their rights. This is a transformative journey that not only benefits Indigenous communities but also enriches the ally's understanding of history and their role in creating a just future.

Moreover, through collaborative efforts, we can challenge the dominant narratives surrounding Columbus and similar historical figures. By working together, we can shift the focus from glorifying colonialism to recognising the resilience and strength of Indigenous cultures. This shift is crucial in educating the broader population and fostering a sense of shared responsibility for past injustices.

## Beyond the Horizon

Ultimately, building alliances for change is about more than just addressing historical grievances; it is about creating a future where all communities can thrive. It requires ongoing dialogue, mutual respect, and a shared vision for a more inclusive society. As we reclaim Indigenous narratives, we also pave the way for a collective journey towards healing and understanding, demonstrating that when we stand together, we have the power to effect meaningful change.



# Chapter 10: Conclusion: A New Horizon

## Reflections on Indigenous Narratives

The narratives surrounding Christopher Columbus have long been dominated by Eurocentric perspectives, often overshadowing the rich and diverse stories of Indigenous peoples.

These narratives, deeply rooted in oral traditions and cultural histories, provide a counter-narrative that challenges the glorified accounts of exploration.

By embracing Indigenous perspectives, we not only honour these voices but also gain a deeper understanding of the impact that Columbus' arrival had on native communities across the Americas.

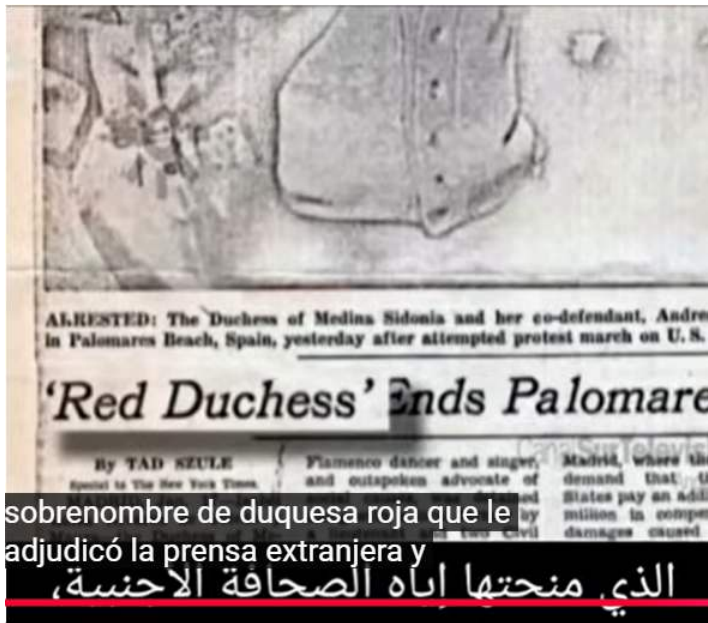
This reflection serves as a poignant reminder of the need to reclaim these narratives and acknowledge the truths that have been silenced for centuries.

This scope of work can be better verified by documents that can tell what happened for this region at that time including Portugal, Spain, Morrocco and of course continental America.

Luckily [this link was found](#) and accidentally discovered through a well-hidden large library of documents found in Spain with documents telling stories of a Spanish family for multiple generations along 1 millennium.

## Beyond the Horizon

In one of the hidden documentaries that document what happened in the fourteenth century, particularly around the year 1320, what the Spanish countess found in her inherited palace, Luisa Isabel Alvarez de Toledo, known by the press as the Red Dutchess, when she opposed general Franco, later as the countess of Medina Sidonia.



She inherited a wide land on the southern Spanish coast with a big palace, what is interesting that she found in a hidden room in this palace a door to secret library leading to old documents, about 6 million, that document what her ancestors were hiding.

## Beyond the Horizon



pensaba siempre en pantallas de  
corrección política alguna

دون أي تمهيدات سياسية

Luisa Isabel Alvarez de Toledo, in her inherited treasure library

Surprisingly, she found that her ancestors were Muslims hiding their Islam with all the documents that prove that they (her ancestors) discovered this new land around the year 1300 AD!

Some of her family members stayed in this new land, while others returned to their home documenting what happened there.

This can be recent evidence that can tell us what happened then.

## Beyond the Horizon



This is screen shot to the vast inherited hidden library

Indigenous narratives offer a unique lens through which to examine the consequences of Columbus' voyages. These accounts highlight not only the initial encounters between Indigenous peoples and Europeans but also the long-lasting effects of colonisation on their societies. The stories of resilience, struggle, and survival embedded in these narratives are vital to understanding the historical context of Indigenous experiences.

Nevertheless, story like that of Luisa Isabel Alvarez de Toledo, tells us the real story for the previous discovery of this new land, how many voyages were there to develop a community in this new land and also to return by useful trade, but mostly evident to escape persecution.

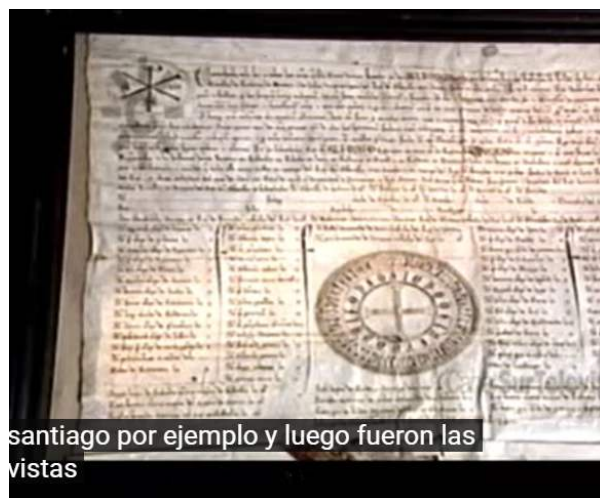
In reality this can **reverse what was falsely said about Columbus!**

## Beyond the Horizon

As we delve into these Indigenous perspectives, it becomes evident that the impact of Columbus was not merely a historical event but a profound shift that altered the course of countless lives. The narratives illuminate the struggles faced by Indigenous communities in the wake of invasion, including loss of land, culture, and autonomy. They serve as powerful testimonies to the ongoing repercussions of colonisation, reminding us that the effects of these historical events are not confined to the past but continue to resonate in contemporary society.



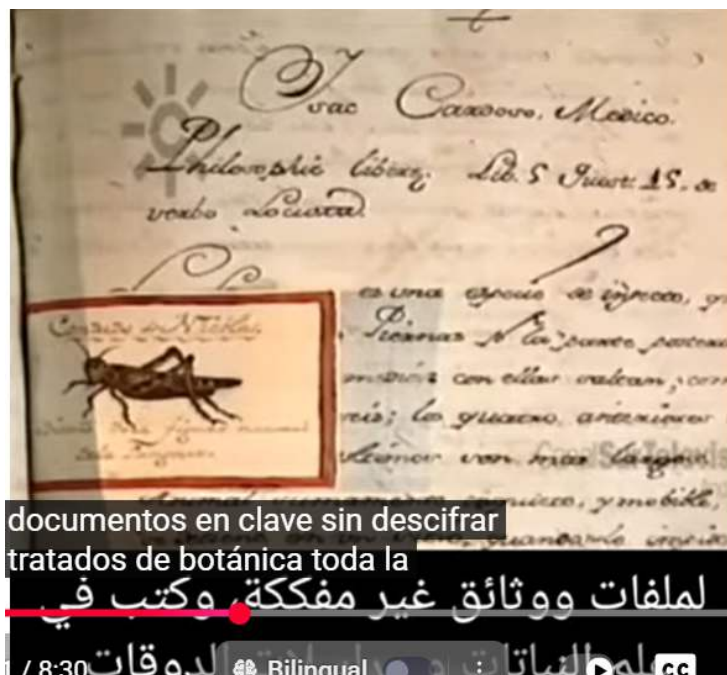
One of the hidden documents of 13th century in this library in Spain



This is another document for the voyage path

## Beyond the Horizon

Moreover, reflecting on Indigenous narratives encourages a broader conversation about identity and belonging. For many Indigenous peoples, their stories are intertwined with the land, infusing their identities with a deep sense of connection to their ancestral territories. By acknowledging and valuing these narratives, we not only support Indigenous peoples in their quest for justice but also enrich our collective understanding of history and culture. In doing so, we can begin to dismantle the colonial narratives that have long dominated our historical discourse.



This to show the environmental difference

Ultimately, the reflections on Indigenous narratives challenge us to rethink our understanding of Columbus and his legacy. They invite us to listen and learn from those whose histories have been marginalised. In embracing these diverse perspectives, we can foster a more inclusive dialogue that respects the dignity and humanity of Indigenous people. This shift in narrative not only honours the past but also paves the way for a future that acknowledges and celebrates the richness of Indigenous cultures and histories.

## Beyond the Horizon

Video link for this documentary is added to show the difficulties among generations to elicit the truth.

<https://youtu.be/YoRcT88CZww?si=5kO7Yxc-jxzYgCTq>

<https://youtu.be/YoRcT88CZww?si=5kO7Yxc-jxzYgCTq>

## The Path Forward

The journey towards reclaiming Indigenous narratives surrounding Columbus is not merely an academic exercise; it is a vital step towards healing and understanding. As ordinary people, we must recognise the importance of listening to the voices of Indigenous communities, who have lived with the repercussions of colonialism for centuries. Their stories and perspectives offer a richer, more nuanced understanding of history that goes beyond the glorified accounts of explorers and conquerors. Embracing these narratives allows us to confront uncomfortable truths and work towards a more inclusive history.

In moving forward, education plays a crucial role in reshaping our understanding of Columbus' legacy. By incorporating Indigenous perspectives into school curricula and public discussions, we can create a more balanced view of history that acknowledges the impacts of colonisation. This educational shift not only empowers Indigenous voices but also fosters a sense of empathy and responsibility among future generations. It is essential that we challenge the dominant narratives and encourage critical thinking about the past to build a better future.

Community engagement is another vital aspect of this path forward. Ordinary people can support Indigenous initiatives that aim to preserve cultural heritage and promote awareness of their histories. This could involve attending cultural events, supporting Indigenous-led organisations, or advocating for policy changes that protect Indigenous rights. By actively participating in these efforts, we can help to amplify Indigenous voices and contribute to the reclamation of their narratives.

## Beyond the Horizon

Moreover, fostering dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities can lead to mutual understanding and respect. Initiatives such as truth and reconciliation processes offer platforms for sharing stories and acknowledging past injustices. By engaging in these conversations, we can create spaces where healing can occur, and relationships can be rebuilt. This dialogue is essential for dismantling stereotypes and misconceptions that have persisted for far too long.

Ultimately, the path forward requires commitment and action from all of us. It is not enough to simply acknowledge the past; we must also take steps to rectify the ongoing impacts of colonialism. By supporting Indigenous perspectives, advocating for their rights, and engaging in meaningful dialogue, we can contribute to a future where all voices are heard and valued. Together, we can reclaim the narratives that have been silenced and work towards a more equitable and just society.

### Embracing Diverse Histories

Embracing diverse histories is essential for understanding the complex legacy of figures like Columbus. For many Indigenous communities, Columbus represents not a discoverer, but a harbinger of colonisation and cultural erasure.

This perspective challenges the traditional narratives that have long dominated educational systems and public discussions. By acknowledging these varied histories, we can begin to appreciate the depth of the experiences and struggles faced by Indigenous peoples throughout history.

## Beyond the Horizon

Indigenous perspectives highlight the importance of honouring the stories that have often been overlooked. These narratives provide insight into the rich cultures that existed long before Columbus arrived on the shores of the Americas. They remind us that history is not a singular story, but a tapestry woven from many voices and experiences. Recognising this diversity helps to dismantle the monolithic views of history and encourages a more inclusive approach to learning and discussion.

A good example of this is the Zumbi story to combat colonisation in Latin America afterwards. He was a Muslim leader struggling against slavery, the real irony is that recently the name Zombie is much more common & badly used!!



Zumbi of Palmares

## Beyond the Horizon

The impact of Columbus on Indigenous populations cannot be understated. His voyages initiated a series of events that led to the displacement, violence, and systematic oppression of countless communities. Understanding this legacy requires us to listen to Indigenous voices and reflect on how these historical events continue to affect present-day realities. It is a call to action for all of us to engage with these histories and advocate for recognition and reparative justice.

Embracing diverse histories also fosters a greater sense of empathy and understanding among different cultural groups. When we take the time to learn about the experiences of others, we cultivate a shared humanity that transcends historical grievances. This approach not only enriches our understanding of the past but also informs our actions in the present and future. It is an opportunity to bridge divides and work towards reconciliation in a meaningful way.

In conclusion, embracing diverse histories is vital for a comprehensive understanding of Columbus' legacy and its impact on Indigenous communities. By elevating Indigenous narratives, we challenge dominant historical accounts and foster a more inclusive dialogue. This process not only honours those who have been silenced but also empowers future generations to engage with history in a way that respects and values all voices. The journey towards reclaiming these narratives is ongoing and requires commitment from everyone to ensure that all histories are acknowledged and celebrated.

# Beyond the horizon

This book discusses the narratives surrounding Christopher Columbus which have long been dominated by Eurocentric perspectives.

The Reconquista in Spain shaped Columbus's life which was driven by religious, political and social factors; the impact of all of them affected his voyages to approach the new world.

The term discovery of the New World is problematic when applied to Columbus with his colonial mindset that justified the exploitation and erasure of indigenous cultures. By framing Columbus's journey as a discovery, we risk reinforcing harmful stereotypes and narratives that continue to affect Indigenous communities today.

Here we can discuss the impact of the geopolitical atmosphere of the world around the fifteenth century in response to Columbus's voyages, particularly after the discovery of a long-hidden treasure (library) in Spain that reveals what happened in 1 millennium that can alter the Columbus narrative.

[info@draladdinbadawi.com](mailto:info@draladdinbadawi.com)