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ENGL 1311-1

Discussion 5

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**“How Columbus Sailed into U.S. History, Thanks To Italians”**

1. What did you learn that you didn’t know before?

The article illustrates the history of Columbus Day. In fact, the origin of Columbus was a strange information for me. Previously, I thought that he was either Spanish or Portuguese.

1. How and why was Columbus Day originally established?

In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison declared a national observance of Columbus Day, due to the 400th anniversary of the arrival.

1. Why is Columbus Day particularly important to the Italian-American community?

Italian-Americans hoped that the celebrating Columbus Day will melt the cold relationships between them and other Americans.

1. In what ways was Columbus Day viewed as a tribute to patriotism?

As described in the article, some Italians thought that Columbus was the only Italian whom Americans would not disrespect. Moreover, under his name, some Catholic organizations were found, such as “Knights of Columbus”.

1. What led to the 20th Century criticism of Columbus’ life and legacy?

There are several reasons. First, Columbus did not arrive to the America, he did only to the islands nearby. Second, his horrible attitude toward the native Americans. Third, he was not the first European sailor, who discovered the Americas, whilst Vikings or Arabs did discover Americas mush earlier than Columbus, whose primary purpose was not to discover India(as our textbooks used to tell) in order to trade spices.

1. What are the reasons for and against continuing to celebrate Columbus Day?

First, he is not that hero, we used to think of. The disgusting truth behind his life story will make everyone hate him. He was not the first to discover Americas. He even did not arrive to the mainland of America, only the surrounding islands.