Blaine Killen

REL 101

**Short Essay 6**

It’s very interesting to me that Native Americans are so rare to find in America today. This in part has to do with the distancing that they have done from Americans because of the horrible history between the two. This is in part due to Christopher Columbus and his conquest into America.

What I find interesting is that the media portrays America as the perfect country, and that we got we got by justifiable means. The media doesn’t cover speculation that he killed approximately 125,000 Indians on his path to conquest America. He was also given the title of viceroy and governor of the Indies. From history, we know that absolute power corrupts absolutely, and this is exactly what happened to Columbus. With this new sought power, he pushed up to the Americas, and began pushing Native Americans out.

Christopher Columbus is seen as an iconic figure, so much that we have a day named after him. Yes, he is responsible for the colonization of this great country and we wouldn’t be here without him, but that doesn’t mean we should worship a mass murderer. I don’t see a Holocaust day to support Hitler. Its not surprising that Columbus Day is an American tradition though because of the advertisement profits generated from the parades. This day further masks the brutality and lack of morals that Columbus possessed when first coming to America, as it is associated with a fun, relaxing day off of work.

The gruesome measures that Columbus took made Native Americans very protective of their religion and who studies it with them. This makes me assume that he befriended them on a very personal level and then executed them. How else would he have killed so many? True Native Americans are dying out, and this is a problem in America because they will only let bloodline in to study with them. If this secrecy continues, then they will soon be extinct, and no one will be left to preserve the true tale of Columbus.

Native Americans are still confined and oppressed today by forcing them to live on reservations. This makes them more and more trapped away from society because of the actual distance from civilization. The only contact they have is if they start an Indian casino, which allows citizens to gamble at 18 besides of 21. This is sad, because a slimy thing like a casino is becoming the normal associations with Native Americans, further demeaning them. What’s worse is that people only go to these reservations to use them for the casino, and are so far caught up in capitalism that they can’t appreciate the religion.

Native Americans are fading in American society because of their fear of taking outsiders in their religion, the worshiping of Columbus Day, and reservations confining them to a place. Lets just hope the people in power can see this, and take a proactive approach to bringing this culture back to America.