As we progressed through the year so far, the Spanish had been mentioned time and time again. When they came to the Americas they conquered and encountered several civilizations and did this through the sheer force of fighting and through the introduction of new illnesses to these societies. From the amount of text that discusses the Spanish I was under the impression that they were solely focused on their lands and expanding into the Americas. In the first chapter of the reading in Restall and Lane it is said that the Spanish were actually more focused on the Castilian conquest of Muslim Grenada. This was a shock, but I nonetheless found it interesting that the focus wasn’t primarily on Columbus.

Continuing on the topic of Columbus, I found his demeanor to be a bit strange. If I was to guess from his discoveries, the leadership skills we discussed in class, and the writings I read I have come to the conclusion that he would have been a terrible leader. He seems to act like everything is going according to *his* plans, even if they aren’t so he has no fault to admit, and overall seems to be a terrible leader. How exactly did he get into this position in the first place, and how did he stay in it after multiple disappointing trips. He was set to find the known world and got “lost” and found a new area. This may seem fantastic, but to be it strikes me as a failure in a sense.

I also found it perplexing in the one reading where the author stated that “…the best voyage will be one in which one learns next to nothing.” In other words, they regarded finding the known world as a great success, but instead when Columbus found the new world, he validated the claims of many that there is more land than previously thought. To be noted that they thought there were seven segments of land, only one of which was water. Lastly, I do find it amazing that Columbus and his crew were able to accomplish what they did. Though there were countless communication barriers between them and the civilizations they encountered, they somehow were still able to communicate in some way and conquer lands.