

Blake Garland-Tirado

Selected Audio Transcript

Personally, I'm African American and of Puerto Rican descent. And so Christopher Columbus has had a direct effect on my family lineage. I mean, when he stepped on Puerto Rico, which at the time he had called San Juan Bautista, he had raped many women on Puerto Rico, he had exploited the labor of many men. And he outright killed many native Puerto Ricans. And Christopher Columbus's exploits in the New World also opened up passages for the Atlantic slave trade. And so my family history is very much directly related to the terrible things that Christopher Columbus has done, and the things that he has brought to the Americas. And many people in Syracuse can attest to similar stories. So I think that people who have a positive opinion on Christopher Columbus need to remember that he has done very terrible things to many people that still have effects today.

Biography

My name is Blake and I am a master's student at Syracuse University in Religious Studies. I started the petition to remove the Columbus statue in downtown Syracuse, which as of April 2021, sits at roughly 18,700 signatures.