

Christopher Columbus Day represents a National Day of recognition for the man credited with discovering the Americas. Some people ask why honor this ordinary man? After all, his men killed several indigenous natives, took prisoners, used slaves to pan for gold in the new world, and kept a slave to take to Spain to show Europe what he found.

Many people today still do not recount history completely, but a day in his honor is truly deserved. First, he was known as a great navigator. He began sailing at a young age, sailing to the British Isles, and along the Coast of Africa. To his good fortune, his second wife was related to Portuguese nobility. So when the Muslim Ottoman Turks captured the Christian city of Constantinople in 1453, cutting off land trade route to India and China, the stage was set for his rise and opportunity to change history by having a way for Columbus and European traders searching for a sea route. This also gave Columbus, an Italian, a political connection to the Spanish Court.

Thirty nine years later after the Christian Capital, Constantinople fell, Queen Isabella of Spain in 1492 expelled the Muslims from her country along with many Jews. She sealed the fate of her country and the continuing centuries old conflict between Christians and Muslims. The Queen now needed a way to get to Asia and the Holy Land without going through Turkey.

That is only ½ of the Story. Columbus, being a warrior for Christianity and dis-liking what the Muslims were doing to Europe, approached the Queen through his wife's connection, begging for a chance to explore a new way to the East Indies. He had the experience and the strong will to do this for all Western Civilization and he was the perfect tool for the Queen.

To understand why Cristoforo Colombo (his Italian name) is properly identified as a "Great navigator", I discovered something that does not seem to be mentioned in history books. When I was flying cargo planes in Vietnam, I noticed that there is no magnetic variation there. It was easy to navigate a map using a mag compass. North was where the compass pointed.

The sailing Europeans of the 1400's also did not know about magnetic variation because in Europe, Africa, and Asia, there is essentially none. The accepted belief was that their mag compasses actually pointed to the North Star, not the North Pole, let alone the Magnetic North of the planet.

Colombo was perceptive as he sailed west; noting his compass (about the only navigational instrument of the time other than an astrolabe which could determine latitude on calm seas) began to drift away from the North Star. He charted this variation and applied it to his return trip missing his return destination by 13 miles.

But Columbus is not remembered for this. He is remembered for the things he discovered and brought to Europe, and the things that the Spanish brought to the new world. A book and TV series by Burt Wolf called "The Food We Eat", noted that there were only 5 animals that existed in the Americas that had been domesticated: a dog a duck, a turkey, a llama, and the rain deer.

The foods that were brought back to Europe were, potatoes, chocolate, corn, tomatoes, peppers, and many spices. The foods introduced to America included, wheat, coffee, peanuts, bananas, sugar cane, watermelon, rice, yams, and okra to name just a few. With all these products being exchanged, Columbus should properly be given the title of "Father of International Commerce" according to the Agriculture giant, Con Agra. Just think about coffee, the second most traded commodity on the commodity exchange. Coffee's origin was from Ethiopia. Starbucks can thank Colomo for that along with all of Western Civilization.

But today, political correctness still refuses to acknowledge why Columbus deserves such high honor and praise despite his faults. He exported Christianity to the Americas, therefore gaining a win for Christianity over the Muslims. All the conflicts between Christians and Muslims such as the Crusades, and the fall of Constantinople, were negated by his adventures, and creating a new wealth that the world had never seen before.

The conflict between Christians and non-Christians is highlighted by what Columbus did for Western Civilization. He gained a major win for Christianity over the non-Christian (Muslim) world. He made all of North, Central, and South America (1/2 of the planet) a big part of Christiannity. He advanced the standard of living for all people, and is a symbol of the Christian struggle. For this, the entire world should never forget Columbus and the day to honor him. If we forget to honor him, we are caving to the evil part of civilization.