

Taigueii : Good Day

My name is Chali'naru Dones I am liaison of the United Confederation Of Taino People and a member of the Bohio Atabei Grandmothers Council.

As a Taino woman, mother of 3 and grandmother of 1, I am constantly educating my children about the truths and destruction of my people The Taino. My people are the first to encounter Columbus. Torture, rape, sex trafficking to name a few of the atrocities committed by Columbus and his crew.

FACT: Columbus was not even Italian. No one really knows where he came from other then he was born in 1451 in Liguria's capital of Genoa. Italy as a unified country did not exist until March 17, 1861.

FACT: Because, Irizarry and a number of other historians argue, Columbus was actually Jewish. Linguistic traits in his writings led them to believe Columbus was raised learning Ladino, a hybrid form of Castilian Spanish, comparable to Yiddish, which was spoken by Spain's Sephardic Jewish community.

FACT: Columbus did not discover anything!!! How can you discover a land that ALREADY HAS inhabitants?! On his first trip in 1492, Columbus encountered the indigenous Lucayan Taíno/Arawak on Guanahani (today's San Salvador Island in the Bahamas).

FACT: Christopher Columbus wasn't even the first European explorer to arrive in the Americas! The Vikings, led by Leif Erikson, sailed to Newfoundland, Canada, in 1000 AD. There are also theories that the Irish arrived far before the Vikings, and that the Chinese and Polynisians may have also visited the Americas before Columbus.

FACT: Not only did Christopher Columbus not discover anything, but he had zero respect for those who already lived in the areas he visited. Upon landing on Guanahan on October 12, 1492; he claimed the land for Spain, despite it already being indigenous land.

Immediately upon arrival, Columbus noted that the natives he encountered were kind and giving ... and that he planned to use that kindness against them. What resulted was genocide, rape, mutilations and a variety of other horrible and more than inhumane atrocities.

Christopher Columbus's behavior (including cutting off natives' hands if they didn't gather enough gold) was so atrocious that he and his brothers were arrested (after complaints by Spanish settlers and friars), was sent back to Spain in chains in 1500.

He Was an Initiator of Indigenous Slave Trade

FACT: Christopher Columbus was a horrendous person who enslaved the indigenous peoples of the lands he traveled to. He was the first to send people (as slaves) across the Atlantic to Spain. In his own words he wrote how young Indigenous girls as young as 10 and 11 years old were to be made available to his men. Men who raped, pillaged and murdered at will. This was condoned by this awful man.

FACT: Celebrating Columbus is celebrating hate, racism, and a legacy that has brought nothing but pain and suffering to millions upon millions of Indigenous peoples.

We must not only stop celebrating this man but we must also teach our children the truth. We must also seek to erase this day from the federal calendar of national holidays.

Columbus: the man, the savage, and his legacy, deserves no respect whatsoever.

Thank you for the opportunity to make my voice heard.

Respectfully

Chali'naru Dones