

Columbus elaboration example

Columbus was concerned about the lives of Native Americans. He wanted to convert them to his own christian religion. That the conversion of the people he found was a central purpose, was made unmistakably clear by an entry in his log book written November 6, 1492, when he was exploring the coast of Cuba. It is addressed directly to Isabel and Fernando:

"I have to say, Most Serene Princes, that if devout religious persons know the Indian language well, all these people would soon become Christians. Thus I pray to Our Lord that Your Highnesses will appoint persons of great diligence in order to bring to the Church such great numbers of peoples, and that they will convert these peoples. . . . And after your days, for we are all mortal, you will leave your realms in a very tranquil state, free from heresy and wickedness, and you will be well received before the Eternal Creator."

It is clear that Columbus was concerned not only for the lives of Native Americans, but for their eternal life as well. When we consider the fact that Columbus was willing to ask the King and Queen of Spain to make converting Native Americans to Christianity their main goal, I think it says a lot for the man. It is very possible that Columbus was taking a risk by asking the King and Queen to concentrate on anything other than gold and wealth. As an explorer, paid by a European nation like Spain, it may seem odd that he would make a plea for the salvation of the Natives, but Columbus believed that his job did not end with finding gold and claiming land, but also included caring for the people he came in contact with. We may believe that some of his actions would be unacceptable in modern times, but we also have to remember that Columbus did what he thought was best when it came to the Natives. We celebrate Columbus not only the man that he was, but for the man that he wanted to be.

