

SPAIN and the HOLY SEE

OVERVIEW

Those of us that trace ancestry as former enslaved Africans in the “New World” whether on the American mainland or islands of the Caribbean tend to hold Christopher Columbus, envoy of Spain’s Christian monarch, with great infamy. Columbus’ well recorded exploits of “discovery” under the authority of the rulers of Spain and the papacy has come to the light, and is juxtaposed to the popular revisionist New World historical narrative.

Moreover, the contemporary historical account of what in fact occurred on the ground with indigenous inhabitants of the New World, in the wake of Columbus’s discovery, is currently analyzed by authoritative sources as genocide. The subsequent history of the New World, relative to indigenous inhabitants of the “New World” and enslaved Africans and their descendants is a brutal, and colorful, but is obscured by the revisionist account of the popular post Columbian history of the Americas.

While Christopher Columbus continues to be a central character in the history of the period, the macro stakeholders and role players are Spain, the Vatican, followed by Protestant reformers. Therefore, the focus of the podcast episodes will examine the relevant history of Spain and the Holy See, on the macro dynamics of the period. In addition, follow-up podcasts will examine the dynamic of Protestant reformers on the colonial development and legacy of development in the New World. As a practical matter relative to current events, the content will be correlated in terms of linkages to Spain the Holy See, and Protestant Christian monarchs, in the context of history.

SPAIN

Columbus’s voyage of “discovery” was authorized, financed, and enabled by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand in 1492. Admiral Columbus is recorded to have discovered the New World under the sovereign authority of Spain’s Christian monarch. According to the Vatican’s “Laws of Nations” a European Christian monarch had a divine right to discover, conquer and settle new lands with the option of Christianizing or vanquishing indigenous peoples. Only European Christian monarchs could enjoy the right of discovery.

PAPACY

The Vatican is the author of the doctrine of discovery which provides by way of the Laws of Nations that a European Christian monarch has the divine right to discover, conquer, possess and settle new lands. In addition to the divine authority that the Vatican granted to European Christian monarchs, the “Treaty of Tordesillas” (1494), divided the world between Spain and Portugal. (Google Treaty of Tordesillas for details)

The favoritism that the Vatican accorded Spain and Portugal by divided the world between the two, in the framework of the doctrine of discovery, convinced the other European Christian

monarchs, such as England, France, the Dutch, Germans, Danes, etc. to attack Spanish and Portuguese vessels carrying bounty from the New World. The rift between the Vatican, Spain and Portugal on one side, and all other European Christian monarch' in opposition was on the opposing side, was a factor and impetus for the Protestant Reformation.

The popular historical narrative asserts that King Henry VIII of England, denounced the pope because he (the pope) would not grant the King a divorce, therefore the King established the Church of England. The objective historical facts leading to the Protestant reformation was directly related to the apparent favoritism on the part of the pope shown to Spain and Portugal, vis-à-vis, the Treaty of Tordesillas, has been obscured, if not buried...

Subsequently, England, France, the Dutch, Germans, Danes, etc. in the framework of Protestant reformers began financing pirates and marauders to intercept and confiscate the booty and cargo from Spanish and Portuguese ships. Ultimately, Roman Catholic Spain was left with the largest real estate holdings in the New World, while the Protestant Christian monarchs competed for and settled the smaller islands in the Caribbean... Hence, Spain was the first colonial master in the New World, followed by the Protestant reformers as the New World became the colonial possession of the various European powers.

From 1494 going forward, role of the Roman Catholic Church and Protestant Reformers cannot be overstated in the history a trajectory of the Virgin Islands, Caribbean and United States, to the current date. The discovery of the New World by Columbus in 1492, and the fabulous story relative to the discovery of America is the basis of the curriculum in primary school in the public education system.

Without question the date 1492 looms large in the recorded history of the western world, but interestingly enough Spain and the Holy See also has a brutal and colorful history during 1492 in the context of the eastern world...

Specifically, in 1492, Spain's monarch's Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, with the assistance of the Vatican regained control of the country after being ruled by Islam (the Moors), who had ruled Spain for 700 years. The Moors had in fact conquered the Middle East and Spain during the 8th century. When Spain returned to Roman Catholic rule in 1492, the Jewish population was required to leave the country, convert or to face in Inquisition. On the other hand, the Muslims were not given any options.

Many Jewish scholars refer to the 700 year period in Spain under the Moors and Islam, as the "golden age" of Jewry. Therefore, the history of 1492 in the western hemisphere is completed different from the historic account of 1492, in the eastern hemisphere. This dichotomy between eastern and western historical accounts is very interesting on one hand and it raising many questions relative to contemporary history and current events.