

ABSTRACT:

TWO ENCOUNTERS OF THE NEW WORLD: CHRISTOBAL COLUMBUS AND BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS

At first, this work introduces us to the history of Europe in the 15th century. Historical circumstances are very important to understand the situation regarding the birth of sea-voyages.

In the second part Christobal Columbus is presented: his biography, character and the discovery of the New World. The most important part of this work is analysing the Diary of first journey when we meet the way of writing and his style of expression. We can observe now Christobal Columbus as an autor writing in spanish, his first testimony about the New World.

In the following century, 16th, we learn more of the situation in the New World thanks to the spanish Catholic priest Bartolomé de Las Casas. We look at this man through the eyes of his faith, convictions and from his writing. We confront Columbus's mere vision with Las Casas's hard reality caused by exploitation of the New World. One of the main subjects of Las Casas's literature is the defence of the rights of Indians. This new theme is analyzed philosophically, morally and theologically. Facts are based on primary literature and testimonies. Of course, we work with the knowledge of so-called Black legend and accompanying New laws.

The conclusion of this work shouldn't be comparison of Columbus's and Las Casas's persons nor even resources of their expression in the literature. Their two encounters with the New World should deepen our knowledges and interest in these questions, mainly in the area of literature.

The total character of this work is observing with direction all possible points of views. Results are ascertained after reviewing available material.