

The mysterious origin of Columbus

Analysis of the hypotheses about the discoverer's nationality in popular history magazines from different countries

Spanish textbooks perspective related to the origin of Columbus

Columbus figure appears in the Spanish textbooks in a topic entitled "The Modern State". "The Origin of Modern State" and the like.

In this context it is included information about the discoveries of the time and their economic political and social causes, the technological and navigation advances, the Portuguese and Castilian expansions and the following conquest and colonization processes with their corresponding consequences.

Therefore, it is understandable that textbooks do not devote much space to the sailor. It is usually highlighted the fact that he managed to persuade the Catholic Kings to finance his business, the composition of the expedition and the vessels which set out on the voyage as well as the wrong certainty that the reached lands were those of Asia and not a new continent. However, it is worth noticing that in most textbooks the nationality of the discoverer is not mentioned at all, while the origin of many of the following conquerors is clearly indicated.

The discovery of America appears, then, in the context of the explorations of the time and linked to the notion of "geographical discoveries", along with Bartolome Dias, Vasco da Gama, Ferdinand Magellan or Juan Sabastian Elcano.

Later (in some textbooks it appears in the same unit, while other unit is devoted to it in others) the process of conquest and the peak of the Spanish Empire is thoughtfully analyzed, The conquest of America appears along with the state organization and the conflicts with other European powers and the riots in Flanders.

In the analysis of the process of colonization of America, the abuses committed and the exploitation the indigenous people were subjected to are not hidden.

Other countries' textbooks perspective related to this topic

EHISTO project has produced five modules on Christopher Columbus taking as a reference the national *curricula* of the participating countries.

In every module a comparative analysis among national and international popular history

magazine articles on the same topic is made. This way, the teacher may know and present different national perspectives on the same question to the students, getting, at the same time, an *enriched* analysis of an article of popular history magazines of his/her own country which has been seen from the point of view of historians from other participating countries.

It is possible to access the corresponding modules on the same topic clicking on the country or flag below:

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Author: Antonio Seoane