

Christopher Columbus *(Columbus and the “Discovery” of the New World)*

Transnational Comparison

Even the most well-known historical events can be presented quite differently in various sources or described in a completely different way by various authors. Books, articles and films produced in different countries, although they relate to the same facts or historical events, can present completely different points of view. They can emphasize distinct aspects of the same issue. Therefore, efficiently using materials of different origin, noticing the differences and similarities in approaches of different authors to the same subject, drawing independent conclusions and making own judgments are very important skills. The following exercises focus on developing these skills.

1. Based on the sources of information about Christopher Columbus (textbook, the Internet, [German](#), [Spanish](#), [British](#), [Swedish](#) articles) that are known to you, answer the following question: What aspects of the explorer’s life story are most often analyzed in this type of sources: his biography or his discoveries? What can be a possible cause of such a perception of this historical figure?
2. Christopher Columbus in different publications and materials published over the centuries that separate us from his journey, has been shown in a variety of ways: as a visionary and explorer; a criminal responsible for the deaths of thousands of people and the "inventor of slavery"; as a preacher of the Christian faith and a candidate for canonization. Using the Swedish, Spanish and British articles as well as your own knowledge, provide the arguments that can support every of these images.
 - a. Which of the Columbus’ images is the closest to you? Justify your answer during the discussion in front of the group/class.
3. Compare the [Polish](#) and [Spanish](#) articles on a Christopher Columbus. How do the two authors of the texts explain the difficulties in recreating the biography of Columbus?
4. Compare the [Polish](#) and [Spanish](#) articles. What theories about the origin of Columbus appear most often in both of the texts?
 - a. Which of these places is closest to the Spanish author and which to the Polish one? And which of the locations does the Portuguese author M. Rosa (referred in the Polish article) try to prove? What arguments do the mentioned authors use?

- b. What elements could affect the opinions on the origin of Columbus reported by different authors?
- c. Which of the theories is the most convincing to you? Present your position and arguments during the discussion in the group/class.