

Christopher Columbus is known to be a great explorer, colonizer and navigator, living in a period of the great Spanish Inquisition. Most people are familiar with his numerous voyages directed to colonization of American continents. When speaking to Fernando and Isabel, Columbus mentioned that “in a short time you will end up having converted to our Holy Faith a multitude of peoples and acquired large dominions and great riches.” It does not tend to be difficult to notice that his brief statement expresses the European goals for Exploration. That is why, in this essay we are targeted to clarify the accuracy of Christopher Columbus’s opinion.

The abovementioned statement implies the direct connection to three major goals of European exploration. First, *all Europeans were aimed to spread Christianity through missionaries in the Americas*. Spain, Portugal and France brought Catholicism to their vast possessions. After the first voyage of Columbus in 1492 Spanish people almost completely occupied West Indies. The establishment of colonies greatly aided Spain and Portugal to occupy the vast colonies in South America. The Central America was occupied by Spanish. This way, Catholic priests were used to convert native Americans. Secondly, *all of them wanted to extend their empires by means of colonization*. The conquistadors were sent to America from Spain with the purpose to claim American land for Spain and bring wealth back to Spain. *Third, they wanted to become wealthy and, respectively, European nation could increase in power and security*. From the European perspective, Spain and Portugal were politically targeted to become kingdoms. The creation of empires overseas could be the reasonable and sensible step on their way to establish new empire. Additionally, such attempts could increase their influence not only overseas, but on the native land. Mixing the native Americans with their European colonists could create the new opportunities and could aid to become more powerful in terms of war and trade. This is implied by Christopher’s intentions to acquire large dominions.

Under “great riches” he could probably imply potential wealth. That time, wealth was observed in terms of new ways to find gold and silver in Americas. Respectively, various mines were discovered in the New Land. Due to the fact that those mines were not exhausted,

Columbus succeeded in finding gold and silver there. On the other hand, there was one more benefit for European families. Numerous sugar plantations were found in Americas and that was mostly slave labor, which worked on those plantations. This has led to wealth among European families. The eating habits were essentially changed after some food was found in Americas. The Europeans found tomatoes, potatoes, bananas, corn in America and soon spread these products in Europe. This fostered the European trade internationally. Regarding that Spanish and Portuguese had the full access to those rare commodities, they were engaged in the trade as the central players. And here is the logical answer to the question “Why Europeans?”. It is easy to answer, because all other ones (Arabs and Chinese) did not have the dire need in change. They had better technology, were much wealthier and were much more politically unified than Europeans. Additionally, Europeans were intended to search for the basic resources and lands suitable for cultivation of crops.

Europeans had a huge number of reasons to be engaged in exploration of America. But all of such reasons were united within the policy of mercantilism. Basically, mercantilism stands for the economic doctrine, which is characterized by the total control over the foreign trade as the key factor for prosperity and security of the state. That way, Europeans made numerous efforts. They searched for the natural resources, rumors of untold riches. That is why, they were targeted to colonize the foreign American land in order to find and produce resources, which could be later sent to their homeland. Later, such resources were extremely useful for leading and controlling international trade. There were also a lot of economic motives for European exploration. Europeans were intended to find supply of precious materials. Geographically, occupying Americas could give them water advantage and they would have fewer chances to be robbed by pirates and swim in dangerous waters. Christianity was thought to be the highest level of control rather than a spiritual form of morality. Europeans needed Christianity to rapidly build their society overseas. Finally, apart from the goal to gain control over lands in Americas, some researchers were intended to pursue new knowledge linked to the discovery of new routes.

## Works cited

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<http://www.luc.edu/faculty/ldossey/explorationnov18.htm>