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Instructor Name

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Critical response

1: On the arrival of Christopher Columbus on Bahamian island in 1492, he encountered Taino people. He described them “as naked as they were born”. They had complex social system.

In his letters, he described his meeting with people that he encountered. Furthermore, he wrote that these people never say “no” while giving away things.

2: In the second letter, the tone is cynical and negative. His second encounter is way different than the first one. He described that the lands are in a state of exhaustion and destruction. He wrote his second encounter in desperation and portrayed himself as a broken man. His few arguments in the second letter are sympathetic although he did not seem to be a sympathetic man. Also, he did not appear to be a religious man; it seemed that he only prayed to God when he was in trouble.

3: The tone of Columbus’s letters was very enthusiastic and positive when he described his discoveries. He wrote in his first letter that the recipient would be pleased upon reading about the success of the new findings. His tone showed that he was grateful for his ability of conquering and securing many small islands and their inhabitants.

4: He was considered a controversial historical figure because he was determined to find the direct route to Asia from Western Europe. Instead, he stumbled upon America. So, he did not discover America as he is known as the pioneer of America but he accidentally reached there. Millions of people were already living over there. Although his journey marked the era of exploration and colonization of North and South America.

5: Columbus let his readers know about the Island of Hispaniola on which he established settlements. On one hand, he settled Hispaniola because of its resources. On the other hand, he could have liked this Island most out of all the others. Either way, this Island seemed to be Columbus’s favorite Island based on his letter.