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Literature

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Native American anonymous works

# Introduction

Many Europeans and Indian Americans have written from many long about the American culture, though the proper narrative writing began in 1492. It was right after the discovery of the new world. In the early literature about American history, the indigenous people were depicted as supporting actors. Since the arrival of Europeans, these Indians were depicted as treacherous villains and thirsty barbarians. European viewed Indian American as barbaric and ferocious, their image of Indian Americans was largely opposed to what the Indian Americans actually were (Deloria). Throughout the later literature developed by the Europeans, the Indian Americans were depicted as ferocious and cruel. The Europeans later on believed that Indian Americans have largely ruined the resource setting of the Americus which they often referred in their literature as well. The European bad manifestation of Indian American not ended here, rather, they believed them as conspirators and treacherous villains who challenged the foes before their demise. This essay, therefore, considers that *once the Indian American eventually exited, the history of literature served as the handmaiden of European conquest.*

# Discussion

The European voyagers and colonizers considered Indians out of the history in their narratives. They even denied the early Indians their inputs in the early literature. Historian Fredrick Tuner’s essay “significance of Frontier in the American history”, published in 1893 defined the end of Indian civilizations as the start of a new civilization. In his essay he referred to the demise of Indian civilization as ‘melting point of brutality and civilization (Turner)’. He also believed that European voyagers brought with them a ‘White American literature’ which reflects the values the Europeans or White Americans possessed. It was 400 years before that Indian Americans have landed to this land, from that time onwards their literature and narration has dominated the American literature. However, Europeans believed that American culture and literature started 400 years after the discovery of this land. For them the 400 years end was actually the collapse of Indian American history and their narrative (Baym and Levine).

Prior to this, the Indian American literature exhibited different narratives about the Indian culture. This literature was entirely different from what the Europeans wrote about the early Indian. For example, Blamire writes that it is much visible from the early Indian literature that the Indian cultures consisted of values and beliefs. For such reason, the narration in the literature included texts that often referred to some eternal being. Since the Indians at that time dominated the entire American region, therefore their exposure was constrained in many ways (Blamires). Each of such aspects, therefore, impacted their literature and narrative. For Blamire, since the Indians had explored just the area around their vicinity, therefore the authors of that time have explained nature and environment in a particular manner. Many of them believed that the area they inhabit is the total American region and that’s how their beliefs and narration depicted a certain pattern of life and nature.

Weaver who has worked on the European literature writes that ‘Indian history of narration and culture ended with a physical conquest (Weaver)’. This thought structure dominated the literature throughout the 17th, 18th and the 19th century. Some of the European narrators believed that since they have seen advancements compared to Indians therefore, naturally they have an edge over them. For such narrators, each aspect of Indian was lighter and much lesser in values when it comes to a comparative analysis with the Indians. For them, Indian literature was nothing just the folk tales and romantic accounts. However, some European authors have explored some other side of the Indian- American literature. For example, Weaver writes that Indian people were more devoted to their religious motives (Weaver). As he wrote that ‘they believed on things which had no material presence’. It shows that Indian literature comprised of a complete sense of life. They tried to bring about each little aspect of their life.

Another difference is revealed by Trautmann, who argues that the hollow Indian narratives are proof that Indians remained shy of voyages and experiments (Trautmann). He actually wants to convey that Indians have experienced little exploration which was the primary purpose of their less development. Europeans, however, were different from their predecessors, and this went on to their literature as well. They made new discoveries in culture and religion, they tried to explore the seas and look toward the sky as an area of opportunity. For this reason, they had many things to add to their literature. At times, the Indian culture started declining, their folk stories were also refabricated in the European manner, which was ruthless since they made their characters part of the unexplored times. At each small aspect, the Indian literature and the European contrasted each other, since authors of the European times presented fats in an extra elaborative manner, which largely went on in their indulgence.

Most accounts of European voyagers are different from the Indians for the fact that European misinterpreted some accounts of narration. Trautmann writes that European’s challenged many historical narratives (Trautmann). From the Indian culture values to their view of the world, each aspect was misinterpreted, just to present an image of a superior sense of the Europeans. However, it is not how this all went on. They were different in many kinds and they reflected all such aspects in their writings as well, but the Europeans changed that all too how they believe will fit into their narrative. By all means, the Europeans remained ruthless over the Indian, they challenged their existence, misinterpreted their beliefs, jostled their discoveries and finally vanished them in each respect from the face of earth. For such reason, Trautman opines that worst vengeance is to rid of once literature from books and from the ends of people (Trautmann).

# Conclusion

The above paragraphs are suggestive of many behaviors of Europeans with the Indian Americans. An unbiased consideration suggests that literature is something which went on to many generations to come. Similarly, it keeps on presenting in front of the world, what one civilization had to offer to the world. There come changes to the face of Earth and once civilization has to take over the previous, but all so in a ruthless manner is what appeared much devastating here. The European American history of conquest suggests that they achieved all this in a very overwhelming and demoralizing manner.

Since they first vanished the entire civilization, threatened their existence and disapproved what they brought in front of the world, therefore, one it is much to prove that Indian literature is the handmaiden of European conquest. It also suggests that the literature about European history or American history which exist till date is all supposed and lack credibility. It is also why continuous additions are made to preserve a flawed image of what the Europeans have never achieved in their times. Such demeanors also suggest that flawed sense of development is just to make every bit of the world dependent on your existence. This all might appear right in the sense of political takeovers, but from a literary aspect it is reprehensible. All such efforts at present face sere criticism since it vanishes the identity.

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