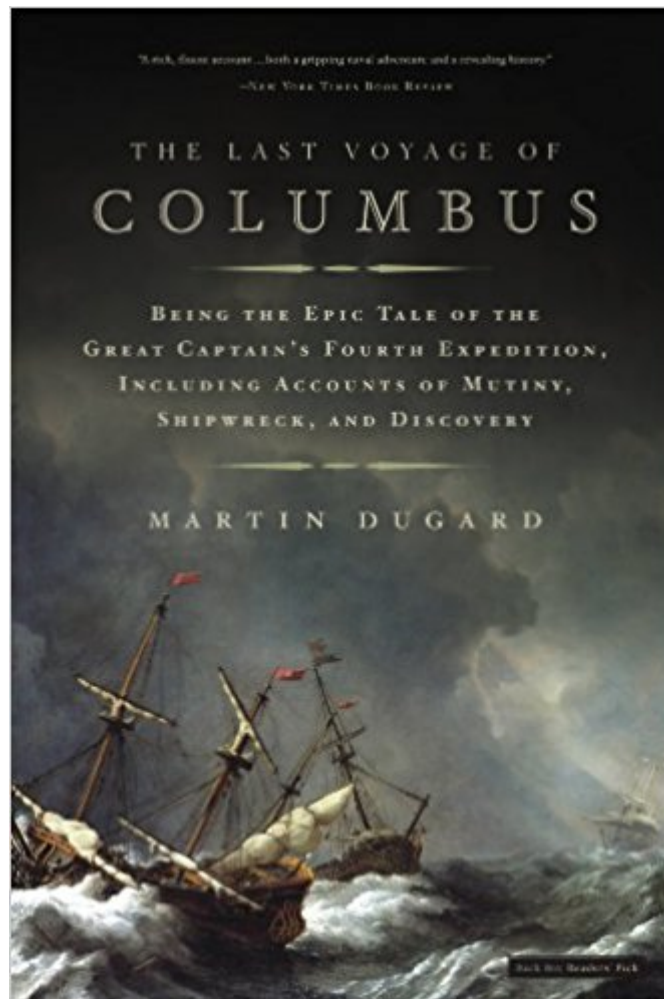


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The Last Voyage Of Columbus: Being The Epic Tale Of The Great Captain's Fourth Expedition, Including Accounts Of Swordfight, Mutiny, Shipwreck, Gold, War, Hurricane, And Discovery





Synopsis

The Year is 1500. Christopher Columbus, stripped of his title Admiral of the Ocean Seas, waits in chains in a Caribbean prison built under his orders, looking out at the colony that he founded, nurtured, and ruled for eight years. Less than a decade after discovering the New World, he has fallen into disgrace, accused by the royal court of being a liar, a secret Jew, and a foreigner who sought to steal the riches of the New World for himself. The tall, freckled explorer with the aquiline nose, whose flaming red hair long ago turned gray, passes his days in prayer and rumination, trying to ignore the waterfront gallows that are all too visible from his cell. And he plots for one great escape, one last voyage to the ends of the earth, one final chance to prove himself. What follows is one of history's most epic-and forgotten-adventures. Columbus himself would later claim that his fourth voyage was his greatest. It was without doubt his most treacherous. Of the four ships he led into the unknown, none returned. Columbus would face the worst storms a European explorer had ever encountered. He would battle to survive amid mutiny, war, and a shipwreck that left him stranded on a desert isle for almost a year. On his tail were his enemies, sent from Europe to track him down. In front of him: the unknown. Martin Dugard's thrilling account of this final voyage brings Columbus to life as never before-adventurer, businessman, father, lover, tyrant, and hero.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Columbus has always interested me. Martin Dugard's book is written with the flair of a novel, but provides tremendous insight into the flawed genius of Christopher Columbus. I had little idea the magnitude of what he accomplished beyond his first voyage. One of the more interesting revelations of the book is when Mr. Dugard writes that Columbus, in his westward search for the orient, knew of the narrow isthmus of Panama and the great ocean (Pacific) beyond; he just had no means of exploring it. I highly recommend this book and others written by Martin Dugard. He has become an author I seek out.

Martin Dugard has wrote a very good book in the last Voyage of Columbus. The 295 page book is an exciting page burner I read in 2 days. I knew Columbus sailed from Spain in 1492 and hit islands in the Caribbean. I wanted to learn more. Here is a book that shows the courage of Columbus, his great exploring from sea, navigation and superb seamanship. We also learn he was a sick man in his 50s with gout, severe arthritis and losing his sight from squinting looking for distant objects constantly at sea (no telescopes). He even predicted a hurricane and tried to warn people but was ignored. We see him racing for a safe harbor and anchoring, thus saving his ships, while others that ignored him and took their ships to sea were sank. I learned Columbus was no saint and at times collected slaves and was willing to ruthlessly execute native Indians and mutineers that opposed him. He was loyal to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. His early voyages he did for the Glory of Spain and to find more land and riches for Spain. He was always under pressure to find gold for Spain. He does find some and lots of pearls, but not enough. Queen Isabella had strong feelings for Columbus but being in the Catholic faith would not commit adultery. King Ferdinand had no such morals and committed lots of adultery. King Ferdinand names Columbus Admiral of the Seas but later King Ferdinand reneged on Columbus and took back almost all the wealth, power and land Columbus was promised. Later we see Columbus wanted to find the passage to China and then into India for the spice riches. The closest he got was near Panama. He had the right idea but did not realise there was another huge ocean, the Pacific beyond North and South America. He thought Cuba was part of China. We see his last voyage, a failure ...he desperately wanted riches for himself, to be Governor of Hispaniola and to leave wealth to his heirs. We see his shipwrecks, battles with hostile native Indians, and cutthroat mutineers. Also his being booted out of Governorship of Hispaniola. I won't ruin the good ending and Epilogue for you. A very complex man.

The reader will learn much history about his voyages. Much, much more than the little taught in high school. Martin Dugard tells the history in a nice exciting story telling way giving dates. We also learn about Columbus's brother and out of wedlock son. Also lots of other men that sailed on his various ships. There are also some charts. An excellent book, I enjoyed very much. 4 1/3 stars.

It seems the stories of early exploration are at once both tragic and triumphant. Tragic in that they relate man's inhumanity to man. Triumphant in that they express the the ability of man to face and conquer the most adverse conditions of body and spirit. This book is a very impressive history of the four voyages of Columbus. Who knew such a story existed? Our school history books only drilled into us the 1492 story of the first voyage. One must read these exploration stories without judgement. For we cannot enter into the the historic psyche of the parties involved. We cannot judge the parties by our current sensibilities. In any case, Martin Dugard did a masterful job of bringing to the reader the awesome story of these early seafaring explorers, the sailing mastery of Columbus along with his human weaknesses, and a broad perspective of the world political scene that motivated the entire story. Excellent!Note: My Kindle version did not contain maps which would have been amazingly useful and added much to the story. I do not know if the print version has such maps.

I gained an appreciation for Columbus that I did not have before reading this book. His name usually evoked contempt and anger over the treatment of the natives of the lands Columbus visited or attempted to settle. I had no idea he was treated so badly by many of the Spaniards. This historical account of his fourth voyage was plagued with just about every misfortune imaginable, from a Sailor's perspective. It was a year-long nightmare of tragic events.I highly recommend the book. It's told using first-hand accounts using journal entries and other factual records.

What I like about Martin Dugard' s writing, is that he fills every page with interesting and well-researched information. I always come out with tons of new facts when I read his books. The other great thing is that his books move quickly with no dead spaces you have to wade through. This book is a prime example.I loved this book, and I learned amazing things about a complex man and his time in history. This is a book that everyone should read, and should be part of any history curriculum. Don't hesitate. Add it to your library.

This narrative reads so well one would think it was a work of fiction. The author has travelled to the

places he has written about, and it SHOWS. Rich, lavish descriptions abound detailing not only the primary voyage (and the 3 others as well), but Spanish politics, ship exploration, native peoples, colonization, shipboard life (and death...) as well. The central spotlight never strays from Columbus though--and rightfully so. The nuances of this man are incredible--his life, the age, and what he strove for are brilliantly reproduced. If you read ONE book about "The Admiral of the Ocean Sea"...make it THIS one.

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