**“*1492.0*”**

**by Jonnie Tate Walker,** Mniconjou Lakota and an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne River tribe in central South Dakota

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In fourteen hundred ninety-two

[An explorer sailed for Asia true](http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/exploration/resources/columbus-reports-his-first-voyage-1493)

But lost, got he, this Italian chap

[Unsure East from West](http://www.livescience.com/16468-christopher-columbus-myths-flat-earth-discovered-americas.html) – who needs a map?



So upon an island Columbus’ ships did land

Land filled with many a child, woman, and man

Despite [the Taino Arawak people](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/exploring-the-early-americas/columbus-and-the-taino.html), Columbus did proclaim

“’Tis the Indies! (Or whatever. I declare it for Spain.)”



The explorer could do no wrong

His wit was short as his sword was long

He demanded gold from the people there

[When he got some – then none](http://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/zinncol1.html) – he did despair



So he murdered and pillaged and raped with abandon

[All of which he journaled and recorded from his cabin](http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/10/14/8-myths-and-atrocities-about-christopher-columbus-and-columbus-day-151653)

And to the royals of Spain he did report

“To bodies, not gold, we shall resort.”

For Columbus had found – yes, discover he did

A new use for the savages, on whose mortal parts the wealthy bid

[Money for slaves – his voyages he could salvage](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3569)

And salvage his name (cuz [dehumanizing Natives grants modern passage](http://www.ncai.org/policy-issues/community-and-culture/anti-defamation-mascots))



Instead of “Lost Explorer” he could be credited

With discovering America (history edited)

Nevermind the people already here

[Most would be dead in a few hundred years](http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/3873%3Ahappy-genocide-day)



Now this lost explorer, this terrorist bloke

Makes our country look the biggest joke

As the masses cry “Hero!” and celebrate his deeds

Indigenous people continue to bleed



Assault, rape, human trafficking, and death

Columbus squeezed ‘til we breathed our last breath

And today – his legacy – our women still struggle for air

We go [missing and murdered](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/03/seeking-justice-canada-murdered-women-2014338655968569.html) and… nobody cares



And our kids – Oh, our kids! – have lies shoved down their throats

Their history books filled with mythic discovery boats

“Columbus Day” we recognize every October

Fabrications and falsehoods repeated over and over

And yet

And YET

The stage has been set

[By learneds and activists all covered in sweat](http://www.commondreams.org/news/2013/10/13/we-have-nothing-celebrate-columbus-day-protesters-fill-streets-santiago)



Fighting to educate our lawmakers and kids

“Better school curriculums!” we say, “Whitewashed histories we forbid!”

We march and we protest and [we write up proposals](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/25/could-minneapolis-rename-columbus-day/)

“Abolish Columbus Day – to the waste disposal!”



And while ridding the world of this monstrous wrongdoing

We find ourselves growing and evolving and pursuing

New heights to our knowledge, better ways to progress

[Inclusion is possible](http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2014/04/30/chief-red-wing-day-symbolically-replaces-columbus-day-minnesota-154668) with these grievances redressed

We ask all to consider – no – really, think bigger

So big a boom sounds in your brain’s pulled trigger

Let’s honor our nation’s first people, we say

Join us in celebrating[**Indigenous Peoples Day**](http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/seattle-city-council-wants-columbus-day-changed-indigenous-peoples-day)