



The Race to the New World: Christopher Columbus, John Cabot, and a Lost History of Discovery

Douglas Hunter

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The final decade of the fifteenth century was a turning point in world history. The Genoese mariner Christopher Columbus sailed westward on the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, famously determined to discover for Spain a shorter and more direct route to the riches of the Indies. Meanwhile, a fellow Italian explorer for hire, John Cabot, set off on his own journey, under England's flag. Here, Douglas Hunter tells the fascinating tale of how, during this expedition, Columbus gained a rival. In the space of a few critical years, these two men engaged in a high-stakes race that threatened the precarious diplomatic balance of Europe-to exploit what they believed was a shortcut to staggering wealth. Instead, they found a New World that neither was looking for. Hunter provides a revelatory look at how the lives of Columbus and Cabot were interconnected, and how neither explorer can be understood properly without understanding both. Together, Cabot and Columbus provide a novel and important perspective on the first years of European experience of the New World.

The Race to the New World: Christopher Columbus, John Cabot, and a Lost History of Discovery Details

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Tim says

A well-researched recounting of the Atlantic explorations of the 1490s. The story contains new speculation on the connections between Columbus and Cabot and their backers, and their voyages. There is also much good information on the growing understanding of exactly what was discovered.

Doris Bright says

Had to read it twice. I loved it. An interesting view of history that I never knew about. Great book.

Rj says

I am currently reading Douglas Hunter's The Race to the New World: Christopher Columbus, John Cabot and a Lost History of Discovery (New York: Palgrave & MacMillan, 2011). Hunter is one of those prolific authors that seems to pop out a book every year. He is also currently enrolled in the PhD program in History at York University, my former alma mater. The book is a study of what Hunter terms cryptohistory looking at history as a process of historical discovery. Hunter deserves credit for navigating the confusing world of European politics and banking. He knows the hidden relationships through close readings of secondary texts. p

Ash says

Discusses Columbus' attempts to mount an expedition across the Atlantic to discover a western route to the Indies and his subsequent voyages. Introduces a similar scenario for John Cabot only with a different sovereign (the king of England). I really thought I would find these endeavours interesting. Too much detail for me (and most likely anyone not fervently interested in the very specific time period and spheres of influence covered). Take away: Columbus really was an asshole and they both were con artists.

Ronnie says

I found this book in Montreal after seeing it reviewed in a magazine Helene was reading. It is a riveting book simply because so many loose ends have constantly been hidden from view. The story of Christopher Columbus....John Cabot is NOT over....The Discovery of the New World and all its side effects is ongoing. Witness what happened in Minnesota where they changed the name from Columbus Day to First Peoples Day...The level of atrocity inflicted upon the locals by Columbus and his ilk is only matched by the

ferociousness of the tribes on the newly found lands.....Cabot of himself is a real treat to read. It is eye-opening....What the author doesn't write of the other explorers you can find in other books. Vasco Da Gama is an individual that needs investigating...He methods of conquering the Carribbean Arena is not for the faint of heart....Please people read this

Laura-Anne says

Good, interesting to read, and well researched! This book shed new light on Columbus, Cabot, and the people around them. The book encompassed everything from the famed explorer's pasts, their ventures, their voyages, and the world around them.
