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AMERICAN

History

TO

1865

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE

LECTURE 1

MOTIVES OF DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION I

1. Why are the motives of discovery and exploration important?
2. Ideas rule and govern long after those who presented them are gone. What underlies all ideas and subsequent actions?
2. What is the significance of the dream of the Roman poet Horace in the development of the new world?
4. What is the presupposition that leads to the myth of the Noble Savage?
5. How is motivation different for the Christian?

6. What was the motivation of Columbus?

7. What about the other explorers?

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Our own motives are seldom pure and are often confused and mixed. Should we be surprised if historians find grounds to emphasize different motives for the same actions? To what extent is their history written according to THEIR motives/religious presuppositions? By being more purely God-centered in their (our) motivation, how would the history of these Christian explorers (or us) have been differently written? How does one practice purifying his motives?

