



19th Century American Fiction

A Brief History of the Colonization of the American Continent




Cristoforo Colombo
Christopher Columbus (1450-1506)



October 12, 1492


Ships: Santa Maria, Pinta and Niña





“They brought as parrots and balls of cotton and spears
[...] They willingly traded everything they owned [...] They
were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features.
They do not bear arms, and they do not know them, for I
showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut
themselves out of ignorance [...] They could make fine
servants [...] With fifty men we could subjugate them all
and do whatever we want”

-Christopher Columbus-



In Hispaniola, from 1492 to 1508,
the number of natives reduced
from 1-3 millions to less than
60.000




North America

- Plenty of unsuccessful attempts
- First established British Colony: Jamestown in 1607
- ...legal vacuum...



English, French, and Spanish Settlements to 1776



Tactics to exterminate the local population

- Break the truce
- Kill civilians
- Use tribes against each other

- The estimated native population of America was 75 millions (25 of them in the north).