

“The Encounter”

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In 1492, a man named Christopher Columbus arrived at the Americas on a land called Hispaniola. There Columbus met the Taino Indians (indigenous people of the land). All the people who were involved in this big event called “The Encounter” are King Ferdinand, Queen Isabella, Christopher Columbus, Columbus’ men (or soldiers), Bartolome De Las Casas, the Tainos, and the System of Empire (who is not a person). It is important to know who are the people who are mostly responsible for the deaths of thousands perhaps millions of Tainos so that we do not blame the innocent people. I believe that King Ferdinand, Queen Isabella, and Bartolome De Las Casas are the ones who are guilty for the deaths of many, many, many Taino Indians.

The first people who are guilty in “The Encounter” are King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella who sent Columbus on his Journey to find new land. According to the article “The people vs. Columbus” by Bill Bilegow, It says that the King and Queen “hired him (Columbus) to discover and claim new land”. The quote is saying that the King and Queen allowed Columbus to go on a voyage and take over the land he found and they (the King and Queen) also allowed Columbus to colonize the land he found, make the lives of the indigenous people miserable, and use military force in order to be able to control the people (which in this case are the Tainos). In the debate of the class, the group who played this people’s roles defended themselves by saying that they were just following the laws (or system) that their ancestors (kings and queens from the past) wrote and also said that they “didn’t have the power” to change them (which isn’t true), but the quote that I chose as evidence supports my argument because it shows that they (the King and Queen) allowed Columbus to colonize, take over, and control the land of Tainos and whoever is in it.