

[REDACTED]
Kerrville, TX 78028-9035
January 2, 1994

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Booknotes

Dear Mr. Lamb:

My wife and I always watch and appreciate "Booknotes". I write to suggest that you review David E. Stannard, American Holocaust: Columbus and the Conquest of the New World (Oxford University Press, 1992).

Stannard is Professor of History, University of Hawaii. The book is an academic history of the consequences for native peoples of the invasion and colonization of North, Central, and South America by Europeans.

Professor Stannard's carefully documented analysis is astounding. (Although I had an academic career in political science before my retirement, almost all of Stannard's findings were entirely new to me.) Stannard says (p. 5): "The destruction of the Indians of the Americas was, far and away, the most massive act of genocide in the history of the world."

He concludes that ninety-five percent of the indigenous population died from extermination, slavery, disease, and every kind of mistreatment brought by Europeans - Spanish, Portuguese, English, and Americans. Moreover, he finds that recent historical and demographic studies show that there were from 75,000,000 to 100,000,000 people in the western hemisphere when the Europeans arrived (one highly regarded specialist estimates 145,000,000). Stannard describes in detail the policies, practices, and processes that resulted in the destruction of 70 to 95 millions of people.

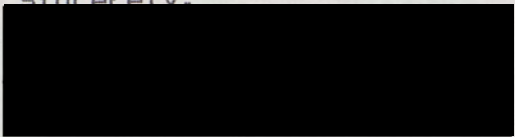
Drawing on the research of many scholars of different disciplines, Professor Stannard carefully and fully describes the belief systems (particularly, Christianity) which allowed the Europeans to perform in ways as despicable as any in history.

This book is relevant to discussions of Eurocentrism, multiculturalism, "the holocaust" and all the other holocausts of history, the "Judeo-Christian tradition" and the purported

"Western" values at the basis of American civilization. It will be timely for a long time, not only in the 500th year after Columbus arrived.

Thank you for your consideration of this suggestion. And thank you for "Booknotes"!

Sincerely,



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