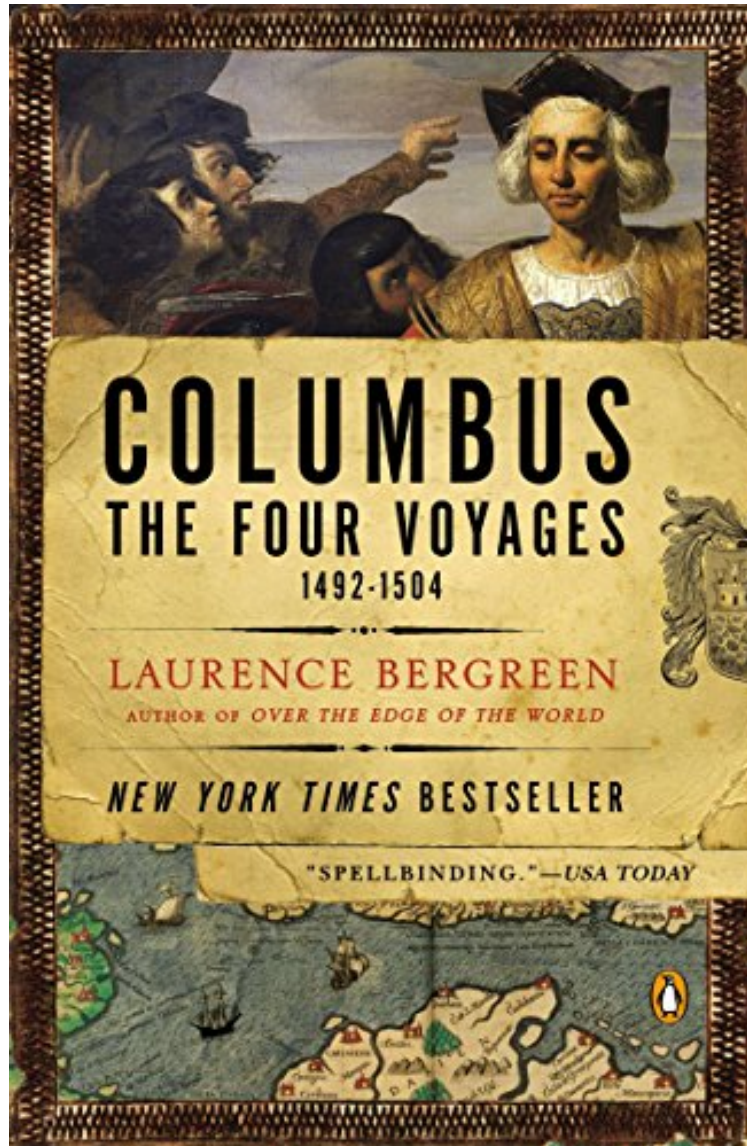


## Columbus: The Four Voyages, 1492-1504

*Laurence Bergreen*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#60818 in Books Laurence Bergreen 2012-09-25 2012-09-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.40 x 1.20 x 5.50l, 1.10 #File Name: 014312210X448 pages Columbus The Four Voyages 1492 1504 | File size: 29.Mb

**Laurence Bergreen : Columbus: The Four Voyages, 1492-1504** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Columbus: The Four Voyages, 1492-1504:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Textbook ScorpioBy Carol MillerA Textbook ScorpioChristopher Columbus, the sailor from Genoa and son of a weaver, delivered half the world into the rapacious hands of a fledgling Christian Spain without ever knowing where he had been or what he had found. He died still thinking Cuba was a peninsula jutting outward from the subcontinent of India. He was intuitive, perceptive and persistent, a master of

navigation, yet a failure at his task, a poor leader often victim of scheming and rivalry. He was cruel and magnanimous, monumental and pitiful, a collector of books whose damaged eyesight denied him the full appreciation of their pages, whose greatest reading was in fact the surface of the sea, despite acute arthritis, gout and chronic conjunctivitis. In *Columbus: the Four Voyages 1492-1504*, by Laurence Bergreen, we follow the world's greatest seaman into the morass of political connivance, while he, and those who followed, systematically destroyed the world they had found, corrupted or annihilated its populations and flustered after elusive or nonexistent riches to reward two bewildered monarchs who never fully came to terms with the notion of a New World in the other world of their resourceful but ineffectual and seriously ailing both mentally and physically emissary. Bergreen gives us the product of diligent research and exhaustive culling of available resources, in a prosaic but readable style, peppered by only a few missteps. An "Hidalgo" refers not to a "gentleman", as the author proclaims, but rather a son succeeding the first-born to whom his family's wealth and titles are destined in other words the landless, trying to make their fortune by any means. An "escudero" is equally low in the ranks of privilege and refers to a "squire", who for lack of greater opportunity accompanies a man of title and position, wherever destiny may take them. As for the constructions effected by Nicolas de Ovando in his capacity as governor of Hispaniola, they are not stone, as the author describes, but rather blocks of coral cut from the surrounding reefs, and so are solid but porous, pocked with residual shells and other marine life, and are uniquely handsome. The text is generally favorable to "the Admiral of the Ocean Sea", fully aware of his skills and strengths, equally candid and perceptive regarding his idiosyncrasies and limitations. The book nonetheless often borders on harangue. No colonizer was ever bountiful and Spain was no exception, and was further nonplussed by the ambiguity of Columbus' discoveries. He had no idea where he was, less of where he was going, following as he did a hapless chimera he interpreted to be Marco Polo, and the Venetians' journeys to the realm of a "great Khan", by then defunct. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book By Customer Best book I have read about Columbus. Detailed account of the 4 voyages to the new world. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Columbus By Marc K. Samet, Ph.D. An amazing account of the politics and "empire" of Spain and Portugal in search of gold and a path to China. Interestingly, Columbus died in chains as a prisoner of the Spanish Crown. His personality and the amazing FOUR voyages from Spain to the Caribbean are stories which we as "civilized" Americans will find hard to comprehend. The book does lack in its expansion of how badly the natives were exploited in search of troves of gold...and few (including me) will realize how politically charged by the Spanish Crown this whole "exploitation" not exploration of the "new world" really was....a great read and highly recommended despite its minor shortcomings on treatment of the natives....

He knew nothing of celestial navigation or of the existence of the Pacific Ocean. He was a self-promoting and ambitious entrepreneur. His maps were a hybrid of fantasy and delusion. When he did make land, he enslaved the populace he found, encouraged genocide, and polluted relations between peoples. He ended his career in near lunacy. But Columbus had one asset that made all the difference, an inborn sense of the sea, of wind and weather, and of selecting the optimal course to get from A to B. Laurence Bergreen's energetic and bracing book gives the whole Columbus and most importantly, the whole of his career, not just the highlight of 1492. Columbus undertook three more voyages between 1494 and 1504, each designed to demonstrate that he could sail to China within a matter of weeks and convert those he found there to Christianity. By their conclusion, Columbus was broken in body and spirit, a hero undone by the tragic flaw of pride. If the first voyage illustrates the rewards of exploration, this book shows how the subsequent voyages illustrate the costs - political, moral, and economic.

.com A Look Inside Columbus: The Four Voyages (Click on Images to Enlarge) Description: Engraving of Christopher Columbus offering his services to King John (Joo) II of Portugal before winning the backing of Spain. Description: World map, c1489, of Henricus Martellus. A similar map is believed to have influenced Columbus's ideas about his first voyage. Description: Woodcut from 1493 of Native Americans fleeing in fear of Columbus as he sets foot on the Bahama island Guanahani. Description: A 1493 woodcut accompanying Columbus's Letter on the First Voyage, illustrating his arrival in the Indies. Description: World map, 1500, of Juan de la Cosa, cartographer and navigator on Christopher Columbus's second voyage of 1493-94. Description: The first page of Columbus's 1492 manuscript *The Book of Privileges*. "Laurence Bergreen's Columbus was brilliant, audacious, volatile, paranoid and ruthless. What emerges in this biography, a worthy addition to the literature on Columbus is a surprising and revealing portrait of a man who might have been the title character in a Shakespearean tragedy." *The New York Times* "Laurence Bergreen's ambitious new biography, *Columbus: The Four Voyages* [is] a spellbinding epic that's simultaneously a profoundly private portrait of the most complex, compelling, controversial creature ever to board a boat. This scrupulously researched, unbiased account of four death-defying journeys to The New World reveals the Admiral's paradoxical personality." *USA Today* "A compelling new book [that] details the explorer's trips to the New World, including three you haven't heard about." *Salon* "Once you have read this superb account of Columbus' four voyages, you will never be content with the cliché about the Italian-born explorer's sailing the ocean blue in 1492. Author of many prize-winning popular history books on topics as diverse as Marco Polo and Al Capone. Laurence Bergreen is a

New York-based scholar whose portrayal of the life and times of Christopher Columbus is a tour de force." *Winnipeg Free Press*"Laurence Bergreen's new book, refreshingly, is fluid in style in its style and comprehensive in its research. Richly illustrated and enhanced with maps that are as legible as they are relevant. *Columbus: The Four Voyages* is complex in its themes, intriguing in its substance and sparkling with surprises." *The Washington Times*"In this scrupulously fair and often thrilling account of his four vorages to the "New World," Bergreen reveals Columbus as brilliant, brave, adventurous, and deeply flawed . . . A superb reexamination of the character and career of a still controversial historical agent." *Booklist*About the AuthorLaurence Bergreen is the author of several award-winning biographies, including those of Louis Armstrong, Al Capone, Irving Berlin, and James Agee. He has written for many national publications including *Esquire* and *Newsweek*, taught at the New School for Social Research, and served as Assistant to the President of the Museum of Television and Radio in New York. Bergreen has also served as a nonfiction judge for the National Book Awards and as a judge for the PEN/Albrand Nonfiction Award. Bergreen lives in New York City.