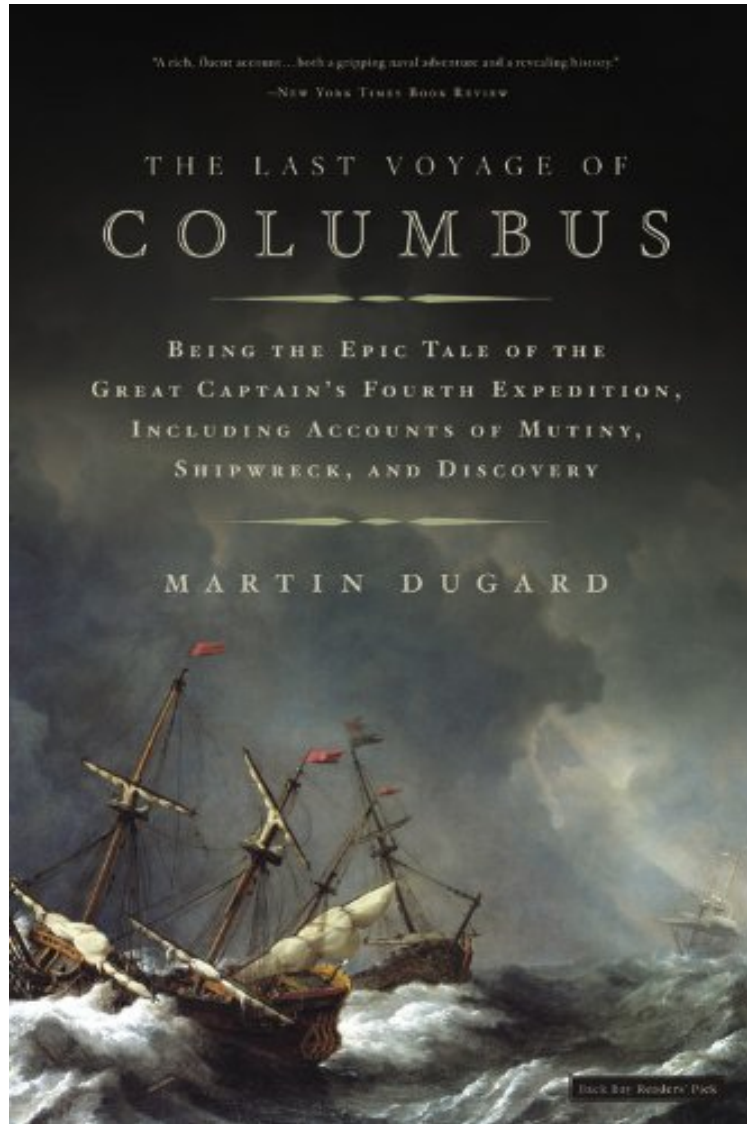


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Martin Dugard

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Martin Dugard : The Last Voyage of Columbus: Being the Epic Tale of the Great Captain's Fourth Expedition, Including Accounts of Mutiny, Shipwreck, and Discovery before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Voyage of Columbus: Being the Epic Tale of the Great Captain's

Fourth Expedition, Including Accounts of Mutiny, Shipwreck, and Discovery:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Engaging History By James Pilcher Christopher Columbus has always interested me. Martin Dugard's book is written with the flair of a novel, but provides tremendous insight into the flawed genius of Christopher Columbus. I had little idea the magnitude of what he accomplished beyond his first voyage. One of the more interesting revelations of the book is when Mr. Dugard writes that Columbus, in his westward search for the orient, knew of the narrow isthmus of Panama and the great ocean (Pacific) beyond; he just had no means of exploring it. I highly recommend this book and others written by Martin Dugard. He has become an author I seek out. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great explorer, navigator, seaman. Admiral of the Seas. Later wanted Governorship and riches in his old age and for his heirs By Thomas Erickson Martin Dugard has wrote a very good book in the last Voyage of Columbus. The 295 page book is an exciting page burner I read in 2 days. I knew Columbus sailed from Spain in 1492 and hit islands in the Caribbean. I wanted to learn more. Here is a book that shows the courage of Columbus, his great exploring from sea, navigation and superb seamanship. We also learn he was a sick man in his 50s with gout, severe arthritis and losing his sight from squinting looking for distant objects constantly at sea (no telescopes). He even predicted a hurricane and tried to warn people but was ignored. We see him racing for a safe harbor and anchoring, thus saving his ships, while others that ignored him and took their ships to sea were sunk. I learned Columbus was no saint and at times collected slaves and was willing to ruthlessly execute native Indians and mutineers that opposed him. He was loyal to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. His early voyages he did for the Glory of Spain and to find more land and riches for Spain. He was always under pressure to find gold for Spain. He does find some and lots of pearls, but not enough. Queen Isabella had strong feelings for Columbus but being in the Catholic faith would not commit adultery. King Ferdinand had no such morals and committed lots of adultery. King Ferdinand names Columbus Admiral of the Seas but later King Ferdinand reneged on Columbus and took back almost all the wealth, power and land Columbus was promised. Later we see Columbus wanted to find the passage to China and then into India for the spice riches. The closest he got was near Panama. He had the right idea but did not realise there was another huge ocean, the Pacific beyond North and South America. He thought Cuba was part of China. We see his last voyage, a failure ...he desperately wanted riches for himself, to be Governor of Hispaniola and to leave wealth to his heirs. We see his shipwrecks, battles with hostile native Indians, and cutthroat mutineers. Also his being booted out of Governorship of Hispaniola. I won't ruin the good ending and Epilogue for you. A very complex man. The reader will learn much history about his voyages. Much, much more than the little taught in high school. Martin Dugard tells the history in a nice exciting story telling way giving dates. We also learn about Columbus's brother and out of wedlock son. Also lots of other men that sailed on his various ships. There are also some charts. An excellent book, I enjoyed very much. 4 1/3 stars. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Martin Dugard did a masterful job of bringing to the reader the awesome story of these early seafaring explorers By Susan B It seems the stories of early exploration are at once both tragic and triumphant. Tragic in that they relate man's inhumanity to man. Triumphant in that they express the the ability of man to face and conquer the most adverse conditions of body and spirit. This book is a very impressive history of the four voyages of Columbus. Who knew such a story existed? Our school history books only drilled into us the 1492 story of the first voyage. One must read these exploration stories without judgement. For we cannot enter into the the historic psyche of the parties involved. We cannot judge the parties by our current sensibilities. In any case, Martin Dugard did a masterful job of bringing to the reader the awesome story of these early seafaring explorers, the sailing mastery of Columbus along with his human weaknesses, and a broad perspective of the world political scene that motivated the entire story. Excellent! Note: My Kindle version did not contain maps which would have been amazingly useful and added much to the story. I do not know if the print version has such maps.

The Year is 1500. Christopher Columbus, stripped of his title Admiral of the Ocean Seas, waits in chains in a Caribbean prison built under his orders, looking out at the colony that he founded, nurtured, and ruled for eight years. Less than a decade after discovering the New World, he has fallen into disgrace, accused by the royal court of being a liar, a secret Jew, and a foreigner who sought to steal the riches of the New World for himself. The tall, freckled explorer with the aquiline nose, whose flaming red hair long ago turned gray, passes his days in prayer and rumination, trying to ignore the waterfront gallows that are all too visible from his cell. And he plots for one great escape, one last voyage to the ends of the earth, one final chance to prove himself. What follows is one of history's most epic-and forgotten-adventures. Columbus himself would later claim that his fourth voyage was his greatest. It was without doubt his most treacherous. Of the four ships he led into the unknown, none returned. Columbus would face the worst storms a European explorer had ever encountered. He would battle to survive amid mutiny, war, and a shipwreck that left him stranded on a desert isle for almost a year. On his tail were his enemies, sent from Europe to track him down. In front of him: the unknown. Martin Dugard's thrilling account of this final voyage brings Columbus to life as never before-adventurer, businessman, father, lover, tyrant, and hero.

From Publishers Weekly "For a guy who's been dead five centuries," says Dugard, "Columbus was very much a physical presence as I wrote this book." The author's Columbus who engages in swashbuckling deeds of derring-do as he explores the Caribbean and Central America in his fourth and final voyage (1502-1504) is a guy's guy. Spurning views of Columbus as a harbinger of genocide, Dugard (Into Africa, etc.) senses virile, visionary boldness, a man "fuelled by focus and challenge." Unsullied by too much modern scholarship, this book is at heart a recasting of Washington Irving and Samuel Eliot Morison updated to appeal to readers of GQ and Sports Illustrated (for which Dugard has written). His is a sexy tale: Columbus flirts with the (much romanticized) queen Isabella; nautical mapmaking is "one of the world's sexiest new occupations." In a text that idolizes navigation skills, there are some geographical slipups (Syria isn't near the site of the Suez Canal), and petty-minded linguists will wonder about Dugard's translations ("La Huerta," for instance, is not "special garden"). Historians might puzzle over the claim that Granada was the "only vestige" of the Moorish invasion (Islam continued to be practiced widely in Spain until the early 16th century). But for those who enjoy exciting descriptions of shipwrecks, bloodshed, shark-infested waters and storms from hell, this may be beside the point. 2 maps. Agent, Eric Simonoff. (June) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From School Library Journal Adult/High School Dugard's compelling account of European history in the concluding years of the 15th century is chock-full of the intrigue and manipulation that underscored various monarchies' race to control the world. Columbus is presented as a man of courage and perseverance who unwittingly became caught up in the various treacheries of the more political players around him. Along with Columbus and his family, Dugard introduces readers to such contemporaries as Vasco da Gama, Amerigo Vespucci, and Alonso de Ojeda. With its blend of adventure and intrigue, and its comprehensive character development, this book is highly readable, thoroughly enjoyable, and an excellent addition to any high-school biography collection. Kim Dare, Fairfax County Public Library System, VA Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Things fell apart for Christopher Columbus after 1492. At his nadir, he was manacled and returned to Spain for alleged misgovernment of Hispaniola, the colony he founded. This is the entry point for Dugard's chronicle of the explorer. Instead of the dungeon or worse, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella gave Columbus a new fleet and sanction to realize, once and for all, his ambition to blaze a westward route to China. Lasting from 1502 to 1504, this fourth and final voyage becomes, in Dugard's rendition, a vivid tally of adventure replete with maritime hazards, war with Indians, a shipwreck, a mutiny among the crew, and an astounding rescue mission. With apt details, Dugard re-creates the terrors and discomforts of the expedition, which coasted along Central America and ground to a halt in Jamaica. Instead of the ideological symbol he is viewed as today, Columbus emerges from Dugard's energetic narrative as totally human--imperfect and bent with arthritis yet still a charismatic mariner who will keep historians employed and readers reading. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved