



America: Discovery and Exploration (AMERICA Great Crises In Our History Told by Its Makers Book 1)

*Ferdinand Columbus, Washington Irving, Pope Alexander VI, Sebastian Cabot, Martin Waltzee-Muller,
Christopher Columbus, George Bancroft, Charles Reese, John Fiske*

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It would be hard to find anything even in fiction more fascinating than eye-witness accounts of history. Who could describe his voyage of discovery as Columbus did himself in his letter to his friend Santangel? Who could record the voyages of the Cabots and Henry Hudson, or the early Spanish expeditions in present-day Florida, California and New Mexico, better or more vividly than those who actually took part?

The first volume in this 12-volume series covers the pre-Columbian period through Henry Hudson's third voyage in 1609. You'll read about American exploration right back to the days of Erik the Red, with full and fascinating accounts from actual participants in the events as well as selections from the writings of major historians of early America such as John Fiske, Washington Irving and Francis Parkman.

Introduction To The Series

"After you've heard two eyewitness accounts of an auto accident, you begin to worry about history." This observation, attributed to the comedian Henny Youngman, summarizes the dilemma you face when you want to find out what really happened in the past. When you read a history book, the "facts" are actually the author's own interpretation, often colored by a conscious or unconscious wish to have you share a particular point of view. You're one step (or many steps) removed from the original source material.

That's why the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States compiled this 12-volume collection of writings of people who actually witnessed the key events in American history - the actual actors in the events or contemporary observers of them. Past historians have spent decades locating, studying and consulting vast amounts of material such as this. This meticulously chosen selection brings you the essence of history as originally recorded by those who participated in it.

You'll be reading mostly eye-witness accounts, by people contemporary with the events they describe, including many significant historical figures themselves. So you can make your own assessments, draw your own conclusions and gain an understanding of past events undistorted by the prejudices, assumptions and selectivity of professional historians. In some instances where there aren't reliable or easily accessible eye-witness accounts, the compilers have chosen extracts from objective, authoritative historians of past generations such as

Francis Parkman whose judgements have stood the test of time.

The extracts chosen aren't dry as dust: they provide an exciting, highly readable narrative from the living past. They're part of the primary source material on which all historical research is based - and these e-books bring this original, classic reporting to you directly. Through these accounts, your knowledge of American history will be immeasurably greater, your understanding of the key events in the building of the nation immensely increased.

Founded in 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts, from the Spanish-American War to Iraq and Afghanistan, and to ensure that they receive due respect and entitlements for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of the nation. With this mission, the VFW has a natural desire to encourage a broad understanding and appreciation of American history, and this essential collection of historical documents makes a huge contribution to that aim.

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