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Rewriting Others, Rewriting Ourselves.

By now we all know that Columbus didn't exactly "discover" America. But history was written that way for a long time as a celebration of this nation and as a means of forming our sense of nationhood. If we face the brutal facts about what happened when, "in 1492 Columbus sailed the open blue," then we have to reconsider what it means to be a proud American. But this tendency to rewrite the story is not isolated to the now somewhat damned Columbus; we are beginning to understand that the winners write history. And often the winners interpret the story according to some need of their own, and this tendency is what we will be exploring. From the desire to keep Shakespeare on an eternal pedestal to video games now portraying druids as morphing sorcerers, we will examine how and why we have distorted our many modern images of famous figures, events and cultures .