

# 1992 celebrations of Columbus: forward to Mars, or back to eco-idiocy?

by Richard Sanders

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## **The Conquest of Paradise**

by Kirkpatrick Sale

Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1990  
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Three hundred thousand people gathered on the first day of the Chicago "World's Columbian Exposition" of 1892-93 to hear President Grover Cleveland's speech which opened the Exposition; at exactly noon, the orchestra played Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the great event. In total, the Exposition attracted nearly "24 million visitors, in a nation of 63 million people, the largest crowds for any single event in the history of the world to that point." And a true celebration it was. The American exhibits included "Manufactures and Liberal Arts, Machinery, Agriculture, Transportation, Mines and Mining, Electricity, Horticulture, Forestry, and Fisheries. It was, in sum, an assemblage of modernity designed to convince the visitor, as one promotional pamphlet had it, 'that all the marvels of the world, and the products of all the master geniuses in art and invention, are gathered there to delight and instruct—a very panorama of the possibilities of human ingenuity and persistent effort.' "

Can we, and will we match or surpass this in 1992? Shall we be able to use the 500th anniversary for educating millions if not billions of adults and children in navigational astronomy, economic geography, and true, growth economics? What better juncture for proving to large numbers of people that we *must* forge ahead to Mars, as the shortest path to achieving a Christian standard of living for the entire world?

All this, Kirkpatrick Sale, the author of *The Conquest of Paradise*, would prevent. If this book achieves its purpose, we might expect not the "Hallelujah" chorus, but some brainless rock-heads rasping out the virtues of the head-hunters' "harmony with nature."

The Black Legend, as *EIR* has previously presented the

case, was concocted by the genocidal British and Dutch East India Companies run by so-called Christian Protestants, who were trying to convince the world of the mote in the Catholic Church's eye, as a cover for their own drug-running and slave-trading activities. Kirkpatrick Sale goes one further, attacking both Protestant and Catholic—not for their sins of omission or commission, but for the *good that they did* in spite of the liars and scoundrels who survive in the interstices of Christian society, at times like Hitler, Stalin, or Bush, coming to power. Sale is a harbinger of the New Age: With the murder of John F. Kennedy and the launching of the CIA's "MK-ULTRA," which began the sex-drugs-rock cultural paradigm shift in the West, the Anglo-American elites decided the time had come to destroy Christianity forever.

## **'How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags'**

With the failure of communism and fascism to destroy Christianity and Judaism (the Nazis, like Nietzsche, hated Judaism especially because the latter "gave the Christians their God"), the Anglo-Americans have deployed the Cathar-Green cult as the new "Final Solution," more easily identified as the earth-goddess Isis and her castrated priests. Sale, for example, argues that probably "70% of the North American tribes were pacifist . . . [because of the] tradition of gynocentric tribes, characterized by high status for women and central female deities, which are said to have played down conflict and male heroics." Women, Sale says, were better off in pre-Columbian America than in "patriarchal" Europe. (He has not heard, perhaps, that it was Queen Isabella who sent Columbus, and that shortly thereupon, a good deal of world politics would be dominated by another woman, Elizabeth I.)

Sale goes on: "But these men never really did understand the cultures they were intruding on." Horrors! They're not only Europeans, but also men, whose "attitudes towards sex and women were every bit as exploitative and instrumental as those towards nature: Mother Earth and earth mother were all one, and all to be used." Witches, he says, are victims of "a troubled society acting out both a recrudescing miso-

gynism, inflamed now by the pressures of its early modern transformation, and an ancient phobia against the forces of nature and the earth goddess.”

The enemy, according to Sale, is not Columbus or even the Spaniards, but “civilization and above all its Christian form.” To give Sale credit as a well-indoctrinated Isis priest, he does get to the heart of the matter, attacking “Governor Winthrop . . . [who] captured it exactly: ‘The whole earth is the Lords garden, and he hath given it to the sonnes of men, and with a general Commission: Genesis: 1:28: increase and multiplie, and replenish the earth and subdue it.’”

### How the Council of Florence led to 1492

The real hero, as we will make clear in the celebratory events leading into 1992, of 1492 is the Renaissance Church, and within it Cardinal Nicolaus of Cusa, Fernando Martins, and Paolo dal Pozzo Toscanelli, who developed the Grand Design carried out by Columbus, and put the map in his hands (see Ricardo Olvera, “The discovery of the Americas and the Renaissance scientific project,” *EIR*, Oct. 19, 1990, p. 42). Christopher Columbus was chosen as the adequate instrument of this design, not its author.

Alexander von Humboldt, the celebrated German scientist, naturalist, and educator of the early 19th century, spent a good deal of effort “rehabilitating” Columbus, pointing out, among other things, Columbus’s discovery of the variation of the magnetic compass with longitude, and Columbus’s use of the most advanced navigational astronomy for determining longitude.

The Council of Florence (1438-39) laid the basis for making the entire world into a garden. The Renaissance geniuses, by choosing the *Filioque* as the central doctrinal issue around which to reunite the Eastern and Western Churches, unequivocally established the bond between God the Creator and creative man—namely, that what raises man above the other creatures is his capacity for creative thought, manifested by the advances in science and technology which increase, as a species, his population density, *and* his rate of increase of population density, *and* the rate of this rate. Thus it follows that we must nurture the “divine spark” of creative potential in each child that we joyfully bring into the world. This is the alpha and the omega of the Renaissance; this is the diametric opposite of the usurious and genocidal “New World Order” of the mentally unbalanced George Bush.

The leading thinkers of the Renaissance who gathered in Ferrara and then in Florence for the Council—Cardinal Giuliano Cesarini, Nicolaus of Cusa, Paolo dal Pozzo Toscanelli, George Gemisthos Plethon—recognized that for Christianity to survive and expand, it was necessary to outflank the alliance of Venice, the Ottoman Turks, and the slave-trading Arabs who controlled all trade with the East. Since the world’s leading geographers (e.g., Plethon) were also present, it was a simple matter to conclude that the Americas,

the western part of ancient Atlantis, had to be rediscovered and Christianized, in order to move the center of gravity of world population, economy, and power as far west of Venice as possible.

The New World should become the world’s beacon of hope and temple of liberty—or an arsenal for both. If this Grand Design had succeeded in full measure, we might already today have had a thousand Leonardos and a thousand Florences—a few perhaps on Mars.

Thus, the real “hero” of 1492 was the Renaissance Church whose beautiful task was only imperfectly completed, thanks to the crippling effects of the Reformation-Counterreformation. In the 15th century, the pre-Reformation Church generated the artists Angelico, L.B. Alberti, Raphael, and Leonardo; the scholars and builders Nicolaus of Cusa, Erasmus, Pope Nicholas V, and Pope Pius II; the composer Josquin des Prez, etc.—the greatest genius-density per capita ever achieved before or after. Yet Sale scribbles that the Church was by 1492 “in the dregs of a century-long decadence.”

### Eco-fascists

Kirkpatrick Sale is a fitting author of this attack on the Columbian evangelization of the Americas. In addition to being a 15-year board member of the PEN American Center (it is well documented that PEN receives CIA monies), Sale is co-director of the E.F. Schumacher Society and a founder of the New York Green Party. Of course, for the eco-oligarchs and the eco-reactionaries who pay him, Christianity’s assertion of man’s dominion of the earth is unpardonable “eco-hubris, the assertion of human superiority over the natural realm.” We must believe the “eco-historian” who says the Indians lived with “reverence for the earth, kinship with all forms of life, and harmony with nature.” Sale concludes: “There is only one way to live in America . . . as . . . the original Americans,” for whom there was “an interpenetration into earth and its life forms that superseded an indentification with self or species.”

Sale, with typical eco-academic sophistry, shores up his various assertions by citing sundry obscure eco-authorities; but *only* on the topic of those Indians, north of the Rio Grande, who left so little behind that, as he admits, the eco-conclusions are highly speculative. That Mr. Sale is guilty of consumer fraud, and eco-cide of the trees that were murdered to produce his books, is proven by his careful avoidance of citations from real scientists, such as Alexander von Humboldt, and his failure to even mention those Indians, such as the Aztecs, who left us hard evidence of their less-than-idyllic culture, such as the fact that they are documented to have murdered 20,000 people in four days to appease the god Huitzilopochtli. That stubborn fact Mr. Sale’s sophistry must ignore, since he cannot deny it. What does that make of his “prelapsarian Eden of astonishing plenitude”? It sounds more like Jonestown, Guyana.