

## THE COLUMBIAN THEORY



### CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (1451 – 1506) ITALIAN NAVIGATOR AND EXPLORER

IN 1453 COLUMBUS AND HIS SAILORS RETURNED TO EUROPE FROM THE NEW WORLD. IN 1495 CHARLES VIII OF FRANCE LAID SIEGE TO NAPLES. THE FRENCH AND NEAPOLITAN ARMIES WERE DRAWN FROM THE WHOLE OF EUROPE AND INCLUDED LARGE NUMBERS OF SPANISH MERCENARIES. MANY OF THE SOLDIERS WERE STRUCK DOWN WITH A NEW DISEASE WHICH WAS VARIOUSLY CALLED *THE NEAPOLITAN SICKNESS*, *THE FRENCH DISEASE* AND OTHER XENOPHOBIC NAMES. THE NEW SICKNESS RAPIDLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT EUROPE.



DA GAMA SAILED FROM PORTUGAL IN 1497 AND ARRIVED IN CALCUTTA, INDIA IN 1498. IT IS BELIEVED THIS JOURNEY CARRIED THE SICKNESS TO INDIA WHERE IT BECAME KNOWN AS *PHIRANGA* – DISEASE OF THE FRANKS

### VASCO DA GAMA (1460 – 1524) PORTUGUESE NAVIGATOR

HUMBOLDT CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF THE DISEASE IN S.AMERICA WHILST COLLECTING PLANTS AND SCIENTIFIC DATA THIS STRENGTHENED THE COLUMBIAN THEORY



### ALEXANDER von HUMBOLDT (1769 – 1859) GERMAN BOTANIST