More Time, Less Difference (Writing Assignment 1)

Since the beginning of time people have always wondered what there is to be discovered. This was no different when the Europeans decided to begin their journey to the undiscovered Americas. Once people started to explore these new lands, they also started to discover new kinds of people. These new people were not the same as people they knew before. Over the course of the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, people began to gradually see less difference.

During the fifteenth century people saw more differences in people. Even in their own countries they saw many different kinds of people. The Europeans saw their own people differently based on different factors. Some people within Europe were categorized as infidels. An infidel is a Christian, Jewish, or Muslim people within Europe.\footnote{Lecture Notes 8/30/2016} Also some people within Europe were known as the “Wild Man”. People that were on the edge of Europe were categorized as the “Wild Man”. The “Wild Man” was seen as more like a creature rather than a human being.\footnote{Lecture Notes 8/30/2016} They also classified their selves through paintings. Some paintings showed all Europeans that were not Christian to be ugly while in the middle of the painting Jesus Christ is pictured to be beautiful as he holds a cross.\footnote{Lecture Notes 8/30/2016} During the fifteenth century, people also began to see a vast amount of difference in the world. As new maps were created, with time, they started...
to portray many different ways to view the world. Then at the end of the fifteenth century Christopher Columbus began his voyage to the New World. Once Columbus arrived in the New World he began to see new kinds of people. Columbus then went on to describe these people saying, “In all these island there is no difference in the appearance of the people, nor in the manners and language, but all understand each other mutually; a fact that is very important for the end which I suppose to be earnestly desired by our most illustrious king, that is, their conversion to the holy religion of Christ, to which in truth, as far as I can perceive, they are very ready and favorably inclined”. This quote from Columbus explains how he noticed a difference in the new kind of citizens that he had met when he arrived in the New World. Columbus described these people as all being the same and all speaking the same language that only they understand. This all proves how people saw much difference in people during the fifteenth century.

During the sixteenth century, people began to see less difference. Once the Europeans began to explore America even more, they began to meet more people of that appeared to be the same. Even though these people seemed to be the same, the Europeans claimed to have seen non-human like people. They classified these new people they “encountered” in many different ways. One way they categorized these new people was through pictures. The paintings that the Europeans created displayed the new people as much different than the average human being. Some painting showed people having more than one head or other body parts. Other painting showed people with their faces on their torso rather than their head. These people may not have truly existed, but the Europeans claimed to have seen these new types of people in the New World. The Europeans back in Europe were only use to associating with other Europeans and

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4 Columbus, *De Insulis nuper in mari Indico repertis* (1493)
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have not been to the New World. So when these Europeans were informed about these new “people”, they believed everything about them. Las Casas stated that, “And of all the infinite universe of humanity, these people are the most guileless, the most devoid of wickedness and duplicity, the most obedient and faithful to their native masters and to the Spanish Christians whom they serve. They are by nature the most humble, patient, and peaceable, holding no grudges, free from embroilments, neither excitable nor quarrelsome”\(^6\). This quote from Las Casas explains how the new people are different but too different from the Spaniards. Also during the sixteenth century, Indians living in America were made to look more like Europeans. An old watercolor painting, that was painted during the sixteenth century, of Indians sitting down eating food was later recreated five years later. The remake of this painting featured a much more European view of these Indians eating. The artist made their physical features more European, also the artist included more food and a familiar background to the remake of the painting.\(^7\) Also during the sixteenth century, the perception of the world became less different. The maps of the New World contained many European aspects to them rather than the real aspects that should have been in the maps. The new maps contained European churches, ships, and buildings in them.\(^8\) This shows how less difference is being expressed during the sixteenth century.

During the seventeenth century, people began to see even less difference than they did in the sixteenth century. By this point in time, the Europeans have begun to colonize the recently discovered America. The Europeans then begun to bring servants to America to do labor. Servants were usually young men without families. These servants also suffered a high mortality

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\(^6\) Las Casas, 1552  
\(^7\) Lecture Notes 8/30/2016  
\(^8\) Lecture Notes 8/30-9/1 2016
rate. Servants were then replaced by slaves. Slaves were just classified as black people. Before the seventeenth century, not all blacks were classified as slaves. Some blacks even owned black servants. This is one example as to how people saw less difference during the seventeenth century. Also during the seventeenth century, some Indians were taken in by Europeans. As the document by Mather states, “In the latter end of the year 1674. An Indian called John Sausaman, who had submitted himself unto, and was taken under the protection of the English perceiving that the profane Indians were hatching mischief against the English, he faithfully acquainted the Governour of Plimouth…”. This quote shows how the Europeans tried to change Indians. This would just mean overall less difference in society at the time. Also another example of less difference would be in the classes that people were put into. During the seventeenth century, binary opposites came into play. Binary opposites were introduced to bring order to society. Binary opposites separated people into board categories. Some examples of this are man versus women, adult versus child etc. This is how people in the seventeenth century saw less difference.

People over the course of the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth century gradually saw less difference in society. At the beginning of the fifteenth century, people saw a lot of difference in others and the world. Europeans saw a vast amount of difference in their own society. Then in the sixteenth century less difference was beginning to be seen. Images began to be stretched to show how the New World was much like Europe when in reality it was not. Then in the seventeenth century, even less difference was seen in people and the world. People were placed

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9 Lecture Notes 9/6/2016  
10 Lecture Notes 9/8/2016  
11 Increase Mather 1676  
12 Lecture Notes 9/15/2016
into very broad categories called binary opposites. These points of evidence prove how less
difference was seen over the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.