

Origin stories → mythology

First reading quiz will be posted next week!

- The stories about wilderness are part of the definition of being American.
- stories of history: we see them as fact, but they shape our beliefs.
- origin stories form the core of a people's identity + values
- "Paradise emerges from chaos" - Columbus produces the idea of a non-troublesome blank paradise.
- Columbus was not really engaged in settler colonialism
  - but his story fits in the concept of such a narrative
  - empties paradise of culture & people
  - situates Europeans to be the holy inheritor of land

Classical vs. Settler colonialism:

Classical: colonists travel from Metropole to colonize another place, circular movement (intend to go back)  
extract resources, use local labor, spreading civiliz.

Settler: families intend to settle + not come back  
assume rightness + superiority  
pushes Indigenous people off of land

stories told by European travelers produces the rest of the world for European readers.

- Who is a European?
- justifies colonial exploits as innocent ventures

- Describes nature
- empties it of conflict (it's just nature!)
- naming + knowing is how colonizing happens
- contact zones:
  - indigenous people also shaped the encounter
  - although there isn't an equal amt of power
  - it's messy improv.
    - ex. Felipe's letter that rewrote history + Christenclom
    - pushed aside
- Linnæus's binomial naming system
  - this shapes travel writing
  - "naming and claiming"
  - specimens went from being in the appendix → the narrative
  - naming (objective) is a way for colonizers to claim innocence