

"The Brown faculty who supported this change to the calendar continue to admire Columbus as a great explorer and navigator. They still consider him an individual of extraordinary vision and will whose relentless questioning of the scientific conventions of his time irrevocably brought together the peoples of Europe and the Americas. We also recognize that Columbus and his saga embody some of the values that have made our nation great. So, Brown will continue to observe a holiday on the second Monday of October in recognition that some in our community wish to continue to celebrate Columbus's achievements. But these achievements do not tell the whole story about Columbus.

Early documents, including Columbus's writings, attest that he was in many ways a man of his time, that he established slavery, as well as forced tribute and peonage in the Caribbean, and that many humanitarian abuses were committed under his watch that merit our taking greater stock of his legacy. In the past several decades, particularly since the last quincentenary celebration of 1492, numerous voices across this nation and the Brown campus, not least of all those of native Americans, have been raised to enhance our understanding of this momentous event and its consequences for humanity.

In 1992, Brown took a leadership role in contesting traditional views about the encounter between Europe and the Americas, and as an educational institution committed to fostering diversity and the productive exchange of all ideas, Brown continues to embrace the complexity of Columbus's legacy. The Faculty's motion to rename Columbus Day as Fall Weekend holiday is meant to recognize that the consequential events commemorated every 12 October belong not just to Columbus, but to all of us in multiple ways."