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Strangers Within The Realm: Cultural Margins Of The First British Empire (Published For The Omohundro Institute Of Early American History And Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia)



Synopsis

Shedding new light on British expansion in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, this collection of essays examines how the first British Empire was received and shaped by its subject peoples in Scotland, Ireland, North America, and the Caribbean. An introduction surveys British imperial historiography and provides a context for the volume as a whole. The essays focus on specific ethnic groups - Native Americans, African-Americans, Scotch-Irish, and Dutch and Germans - and their relations with the British, as well as on the effects of British expansion in particular regions - Ireland, Scotland, Canada, and the West Indies. A conclusion assesses the impact of the North American colonies on British society and politics. Taken together, these essays represent a new kind of imperial history - one that portrays imperial expansion as a dynamic process in which the outlying areas, not only the English center, played an important role in the development and character of the Empire. The collection interprets imperial history broadly, examining it from the perspective of common folk as well as elites and discussing the clash of cultures in addition to political disputes. Finally, by examining shifting and multiple frontiers and by drawing parallels between outlying provinces, these essays move us closer to a truly integrated story that links the diverse ethnic experiences of the first British Empire. The contributors are Bernard Bailyn, Philip D. Morgan, Nicholas Canny, Eric Richards, James H. Merrell, A. G. Roeber, Maldwyn A. Jones, Michael Craton, J. M. Bumsted, and Jacob M. Price.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The most valuable benefit of this book of several essays is its theme: those on the margins of the British Atlantic world. Covering such groups as the Irish, Scots, Canadians, Indians, slaves and planters of the West Indies, these authors explore peoples typically ignored by standard histories of the British American colonies. (Typically, most studies concentrate on the Puritans, Quakers and planters of the Low Country and the Chesapeake.)

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