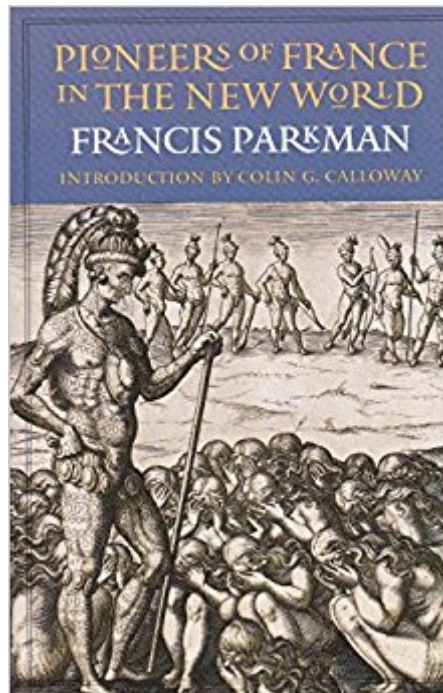


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Pioneers Of France In The New World



Synopsis

In the sixteenth century, Spain claimed the fabled New World, and a rash of explorers sailed there seeking riches and, most famously, a fountain of youth. Although France made inroads into Florida, ultimately the French, like the Spanish, failed to establish dominion over North America. Francis Parkman tells why. The first part of *Pioneers of France in the New World* deals with the attempts of the Spanish and the French Huguenots to occupy Florida; the second, with the expeditions of Jacques Cartier and Samuel de Champlain and French colonial endeavors in Canada and Acadia. *Pioneers* is a stirring story, capturing the era of the earliest explorations in North America.

Book Information

Paperback: 473 pages

Publisher: Bison Books; 1st, 1st Printing edition (August 28, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803287445

ISBN-13: 978-0803287440

Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 5.3 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (10 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I read Francis Parkman's book about the Oregon Trail and really enjoyed it, so I picked up this book. I hoped to find the same engaging style, and sometimes it shines through. Once he gets into a story he tells it well and transports his reader to Florida's jungles or Nova Scotia's rocky shores where you can practically smell death or feel the bracing sea spray. He waxes eloquent in his introductions and bridges between stories, however, and I found them to be so flowery and stuffed with grandiose verbiage that some were almost incomprehensible. They certainly lost the immediacy and gripping nature of his narratives. An example from Kindle location 917-918: "Day was breaking on the world. Light, hope, and freedom pierced with vitalizing ray the clouds and the miasma that hung so thick over the prostrate Middle Age, once noble and mighty, now a foul image of decay and death." Or, from location 2099: "...withered Feudalism, with her antique forms and tinselled follies, was again to seek a new home among the rocks and pine-trees of Nova Scotia." This particular book follows a

number of exploratory ventures, all of which require an introduction or a bridge, so it often felt like slogging through the mud. Parkman researched his subjects carefully and thoroughly, so his books provide great historical references, but this one failed to provide me the same reading pleasure as his book on the Oregon Trail.

This is classic history, written in the 19th century - and wants it rated as if it were a modern novel. Oh well - if you know who Parkman is, you know what you're getting. Not a perfect account, but much closer to the original story than more recent historians.

Great history of France in North America and written in a very readable style. I've read other Parkman works; this one is in the same ilk.

good early description of the western expansion

Well researched and written.....Dave

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