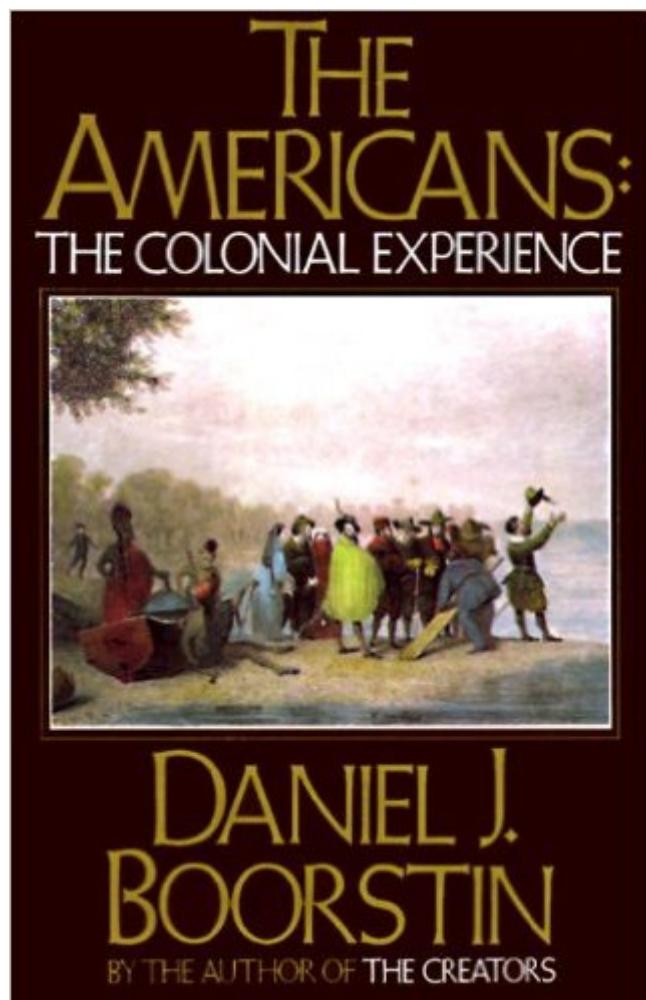


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The Americans: The Colonial Experience



Synopsis

Winner of the Bancroft Prize. "A superb panorama of life in America from the first settlements on through the white hot days of the Revolution." - Bruce Lancaster, Saturday Review

Book Information

Paperback: 434 pages

Publisher: Vintage; 1st Vintage ed edition (March 12, 1964)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394705130

ISBN-13: 978-0394705132

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (32 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #113,972 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #168 inÂ Books > History > Americas > United States > Colonial Period #33642 inÂ Books > Reference

Customer Reviews

I love to read American history and Daniel Boorstin is one of the best. After reading this book, I had a much better understanding of the American colonial experience. I also understood to a greater degree the affects that Christianity has had on our culture. In this book, Boorstin compares three colonies. It is interesting to read the cultural differences. I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in the origins of our nation.

This is an excellent work. That said, you should know what you're looking for when you pick it up. If you are trying to find a history textbook to give you a factual synopsis of the major events in American history, this is not it. This book reads like a collection of essays on different political, cultural, and intellectual trends in Colonial America. Like any other collection of opinions, there is plenty of room for disagreeing with some of Boorstin's analysis and conclusions. Still, he supports his positions well, and the book is packed with insights that will expand your understanding of colonial America. This work is well written, and readable, but you will probably get a little more out of it if you already have a solid background in American history. In any case, it would be highly worth your while to pick up.

This is a young work of Boorstin and even years later it still lives up to its greatness. The first book

of a trilogy, it sets the tone for the two to follow. We are not given a dry reading of dates and places and wars and settlements. Instead it is a readable story of movements, nations but most the individuals - both known and unknown - whose influence continues with us to this day. This mix of biographies and historical happenings makes for an enjoyable, entertaining and enlightening work.

This portrait of different aspects of colonial American social and governmental tendencies is a very interesting read. Mr. Boorstin's theses are well supported with historical information. His arguments made me reexamine some of my preconceptions about the colonial period and consider in a new light the impact of early American history on the present. That said, the author is not the most scintilating writer among historians. Also, the book ends abruptly without a summary chapter, which would have been useful. It appears Boorstin performed surgery on a larger *The Americans* work, slicing it in thirds, without gathering up the entrails and applying a suture.

Boorstin, one of the leading American historians, has written a riveting series on this country's early development. Told in such an engaging manner that you will find it hard to put down, he gives you the real story, warts and all, of how we came to be a nation. Not the rah rah breastbeating of your typical junior and senior high textbooks and avoiding any incursions of political correctness, this series should be read by all Americans.

As I suggest in my title, this 50-plus year history by Boorstin is one of the best I have encountered. Very readable prose, his thesis on how the Colonial experience, specifically the practical nature of life as a colonist, created unique traditions across the span of society. This experience informs the nature of Americans and our institutions. Very recommended.

Boorstin outlines the fundamentals and development of American consumerism and capitalism of the 19th Century. A great read for understanding why America was the great attraction of emigration. A good emphasis is put forth on how much American ingenuity happened by accident. This book is excellent for describing who we are, how we dressed, how we ate, and how we profited from it. Like the rest of Boorstin's works, this is a must for any student of history!

WELL HERE IS THE START OF A LONG STORY, FITS AND STARTS, MEN OF COURAGE, GREAT ANALYSIS OF THE BARE BONES OF HISTORY. YOU STILL WONDER 'HOW WAS IT DONE" FROM 13 SMALL COLONIES TO THE MOST SUCCESSFUL NATION IN THE HISTORY

OF THE WORLD, IN FREEDOM AND ECONOMICS

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