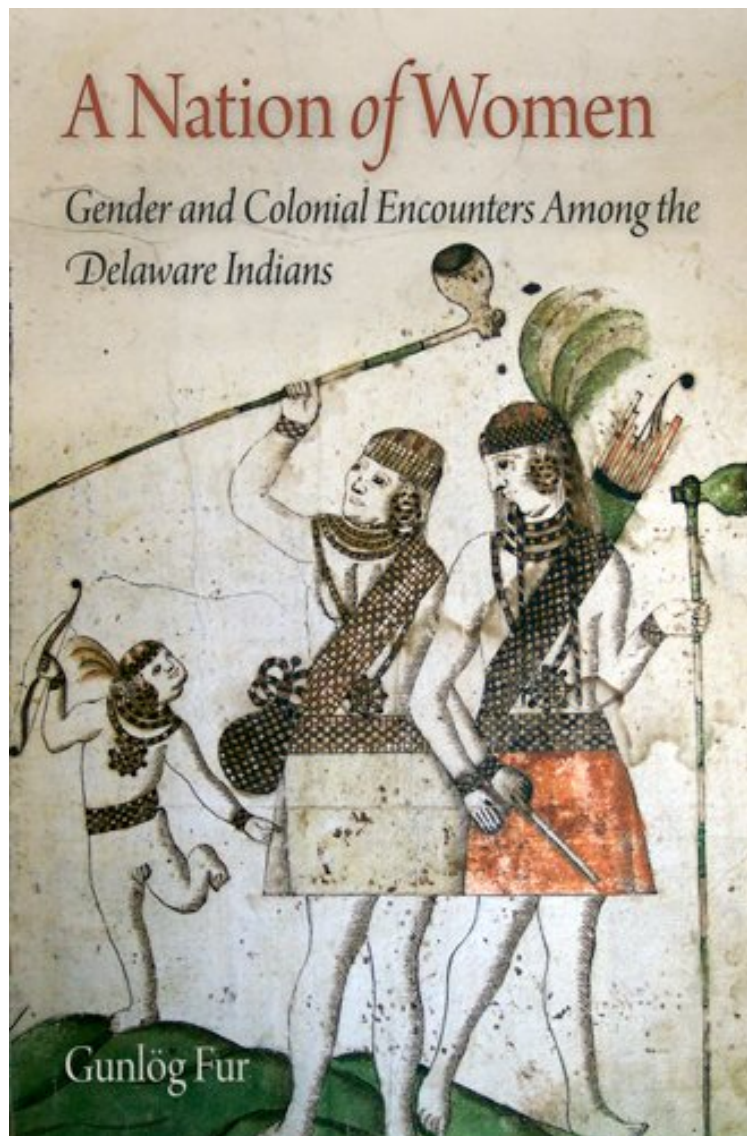


[Ebook free] A Nation of Women: Gender and Colonial Encounters Among the Delaware Indians (Early American Studies)

A Nation of Women: Gender and Colonial Encounters Among the Delaware Indians (Early American Studies)

Gunlg Fur

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Gunlg Fur : A Nation of Women: Gender and Colonial Encounters Among the Delaware Indians (Early American Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Nation of Women: Gender and Colonial Encounters Among the Delaware Indians (Early American Studies):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Dr. Fur is a leading scholar in the field ...By LaurieDr. Fur is a leading scholar in the field of Colonial Swedish and Lenape lifeways, focused in the 17th Century Delaware valley. Although I found passages in this book to be a bit more 'speculative' than in her other works, I admire her sometimes rather elegant reinterpretations of the sources. Dr. Fur shows readers alternate, convincing views of Lenape and European encounters, well worth reading.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Buy it.By Gary SchreckengostProfessor Fur did an outstanding job in recounting the difficult history and culture of the Lenape Nation 1600-1800, specifically focusing on the roles of women in the culture. Clearly the title infers that Professor Fur was going to explore the dynamics of when the Lenape became a "women nation" once they were driven from their lands by the sons of William Penn and their new Indian allies, the Go'ano Gan'och'sa'go'jat's Eroni(Big RoofPeople, or the Iroquois), around 1740 (first with the horrid 1732 Lebanon Valley Land Grab of the remaining Unami-Len'api lands and then the even more infamous 1737 Walking Purchase which dispossessed the Unalami-Len'api of their lands and was put into effect by the Philadelphia Indian Conference of 1742 with an Iroquois[or Mengwe] diktat) and were forced to live on Iroquois lands with other "women nations" like the the Shawnee, Conoy, Nanticoke, Minsi, Mohican, Tutelo, etc. The Lenape were considered a "woman nation," i.e., bereft of sovereign powers, from around 1740 until 1755, when they decided to take up the hatchet with the French and their native allies against the English in Pennsylvania (thus ignoring their Iroquois land lords and "uncles"). But Fur doesn't really discuss this. He does, however, demonstrate to the reader, time and time again, of the pivotal role that women played (and continue to play) in Lenape-centric households (like mine). Much of the book is in fact spent on the Minsi-Lenapi experience with the Moravian missionaries of modern northeastern Pennsylvania (little interest to me, but it was well-done). The real strength of his book is in bringing to America, really for the first time, primary source materials from Swedish colonists that are currently housed in Sweden. He translated these documents into English and blended them well into his narrative.

A Nation of Women chronicles changing ideas of gender and identity among the Delaware Indians from the mid-seventeenth through the eighteenth century, as they encountered various waves of migrating peoples in their homelands along the eastern coast of North America. In Delaware society at the beginning of this period, to be a woman meant to engage in the activities performed by women, including diplomacy, rather than to be defined by biological sex. Among the Delaware, being a "woman" was therefore a self-identification, employed by both women and men, that reflected the complementary roles of both sexes within Delaware society. For these reasons, the Delaware were known among Europeans and other Native American groups as "a nation of women." Decades of interaction with these other cultures gradually eroded the positive connotations of being a nation of women as well as the importance of actual women in Delaware society. In Anglo-Indian politics, being depicted as a woman suggested weakness and evil. Exposed to such thinking, Delaware men struggled successfully to assume the formal speaking roles and political authority that women once held. To salvage some sense of gender complementarity in Delaware society, men and women redrew the lines of their duties more rigidly. As the era came to a close, even as some Delaware engaged in a renewal of Delaware identity as a masculine nation, others rejected involvement in Christian networks that threatened to disturb the already precarious gender balance in their social relations. Drawing on all available European accounts, including those in Swedish, German, and English, Fur establishes the centrality of gender in Delaware life and, in doing so, argues for a new understanding of how different notions of gender influenced all interactions in colonial North America.

"Fur's use of Swedish records and her imaginative approach to the Moravian records make this book rich in new information on Delaware history and a major contribution to the literature in women's history." Nancy Shoemaker, University of Connecticut About the Author Gunlog Fur is Professor of History at Vaxjo University, Sweden.