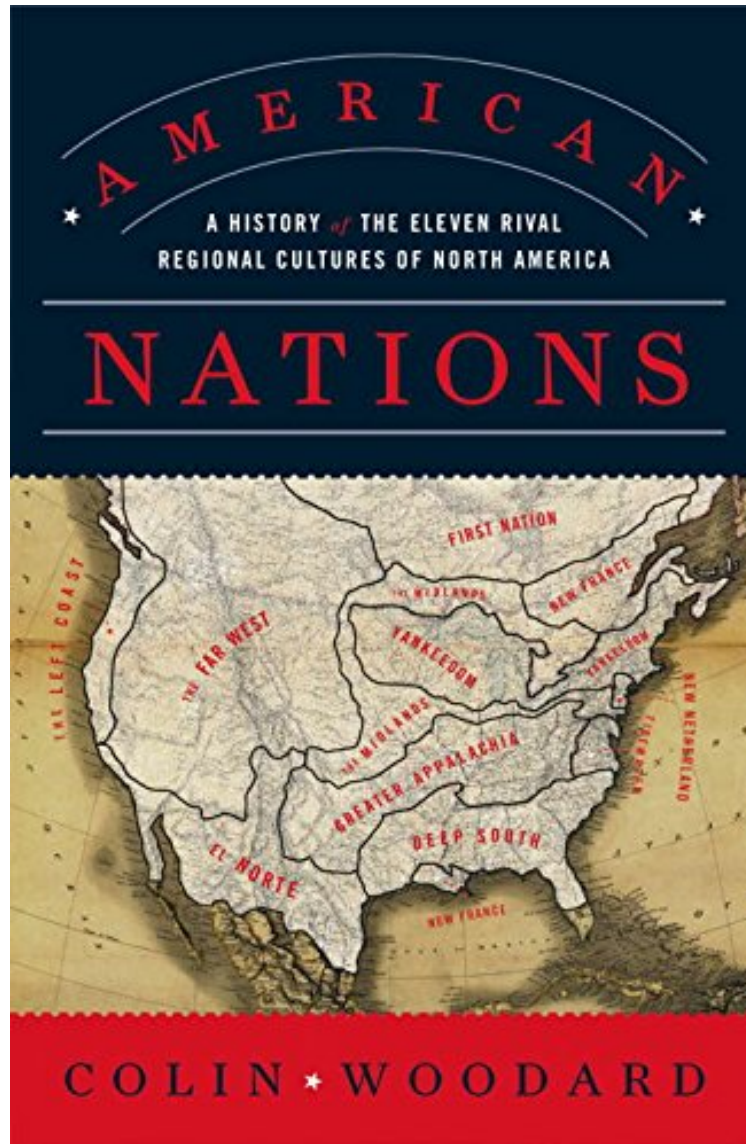


[Free pdf] American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America

# American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America

Colin Woodard

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#3748 in Books Colin Woodard 2012-09-25 2012-09-25 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.38 x .78 x 5.451, .70 #File Name: 0143122029384 pages American Nations A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America | File size: 67.Mb

Colin Woodard : American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America:

140 of 147 people found the following review helpful. First two-thirds are excellent and well-balanced, the last third sadly not so. By Luke T. Evans I highly recommend this book, but I'm submitting a three-star review based on the book's very weak and undisciplined finish. I thought the first two-thirds of the book provided a well-documented and well-thought-out presentation of America's regional differences and the history behind those differences. It was truly enlightening, even for an historian like myself. When writing the last third, however, the author clearly lost his objective discipline. Whereas the first two-thirds were well-reasoned and well-supported, the last third devolved into stereotypes and generalities, and contained more than a few downright errors, particularly concerning the modern Deep South and Greater Appalachia. I am an unapologetic Left Coaster with clear leanings toward activist Yankeeism, but even I was able to see Mr. Woodard's clear bias in the last third of the book. I found myself cringing more than a few times at the outright inaccuracies contained in his presentation of the modern South. I could list at least a half-dozen factual errors in his presentation concerning the practice and influence of Evangelical Christianity in the Bible Belt, for instance, but would rather not bog down this review with nit-picking. It would be great if Mr. Woodard could write a revised edition where he would exercise the same historical discipline in the last third of the book that he did for the first two-thirds. Such a presentation would truly be worthy of five stars. I still feel that this book is very much worth reading, but readers should approach the last third with a skeptical eye.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for all High School students. By David R. Grube I wish that this had been my American History text in high school. While I have learned bits and pieces of the founding of our nation, and then the subsequent development of federal policies and actions, and the battles between the nationalists and the state's rights citizens, this book gives a basis of understanding that is crucial to explain such things as the possibility of a New York businessman (sic) with little understanding of national or international cultures actually becoming our president. It is must reading. And I disagree with those who thought that the last sections of the book were weak. For me, they were the strongest.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful analytical tool. By Marcos Cattaneo To an outsider such as myself, generally accustomed to receive a one-sided, good/bad monolithic image of US, Colin Woodard delivers a radiography paying due attention to the complexity of the several parts comprising the US, as well as a superficial yet conclusive look on its garments: USA's hat (Canada) and boots (Mexico). Through a retelling of north american most important settling movements the author builds up sociopolitical analytical units portraying a distinctive culture or ethos of its own. The retelling of some US political and cultural milestones in light of these regional distinctions is alone entertaining. What is challenging, if yet more complex, is reviewing the historical interaction among these units, each with its own weight, evolution and rules of engagement, always upon changing conditions. Culturally speaking there is not one USA, nor 50. It's not even so simple as to lay 2 USA (as red vs blue, or North vs south). The cultural display of power is better pictured as additions or alliances of different, regional interest groups to preserve or advance in their agenda. Woodward's main focus is on two antagonistic regions: Deep south, which in essence, is the southern slavist confederacy minus previously founded Virginia and north carolina Tidewater-, sort of a rogue fundamentalistic apartheid state within USA. Together with Tidewater and Appalachia they formed an Axis of Evil during segregation era. Atop 9 other rival regional cultures stands Yankeedom, that is, New England plus upper midwest and most of the state of New York (but not New York city, here a sort free trade city of New Amsterdam). Heirs to the intolerant puritans, they are highly egalitarian, communalistic, messianic, literate, moralistic, self righteous, self confident, they are the vanguard of America, eager to preach and teach on everyone else how to run private and public affairs. These two cultures, Deep south and Yankeedom, are the ones that expanded the most, along two frequent minor allies occasionally playing the role of kingmakers, Appalachia and the Midlands. They are respectively the cultures of the mountains and the flats, deemed as poor/ignorant and middle class, not really designed to lead others, but rather let be unmolested. Left coast is the pluralistic and modern, capitalist-minded offshoot of New England. El norte and far west are the other frontier regions, sparsely populated wastelands and very much dependant and prone to exploitation. Despite promising starts, in Woodward's view both turned out to be failed experiments. However, they have ace in hand, accruing to considerable veto power in the shape of their natural resources through the corporate lobbies and federal interests vested in it (Far west), and the prospect of latino population growth (El norte). Whatever political positions may be grasped from the author's evaluation of each regional political culture, I would say he leans to label in a politically correct form most of progressive and civil issues, while he casts a dark shadow on the fiercest conservative stances, including US aggressive foreign policy in the hands of a Cowboy such as George W. Bush, corporate excess, racial and religious bigotry, etc. The author closes this account with a favourable statement on canadian non-anglo regions, as an example of multiculturalism, identity resistance and social liberalism. Sharing some of the traits of new england and pacific coast, Quebec (New France) fits as the most advanced nation, and in this case, possibly a future nation state as well. The most surprising assessment is that of the Inuit province (First Nation), a hallmark of environmentalism, gender egalitarianism and cultural preservation. As Woodward concludes, this first nation might well be also the last.

A New Republic Best Book of the Year The Globalist Top Books of the Year Winner of the Maine Literary Award for Non-fiction Particularly relevant in understanding who voted for who in this presidential election year, this is an

endlessly fascinating look at American regionalism and the eleven nations that continue to shape North America. According to award-winning journalist and historian Colin Woodard, North America is made up of eleven distinct nations, each with its own unique historical roots. In *American Nations* he takes readers on a journey through the history of our fractured continent, offering a revolutionary and revelatory take on American identity, and how the conflicts between them have shaped our past and continue to mold our future. From the Deep South to the Far West, to Yankeedom to El Norte, Woodard (author of *American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good*) reveals how each region continues to uphold its distinguishing ideals and identities today, with results that can be seen in the composition of the U.S. Congress or on the county-by-county election maps of this year's Trump versus Clinton presidential election.

Fascinating . . . Engrossing . . . a smart read that feels particularly timely now, when so many would claim a mythically unified founding Fathers as their political ancestors. The Boston Globe [I]n offering us a way to better understand the forces at play in the rumpus room of current American politics, Colin Woodard has scored a true triumph. The Daily Beast [C]ompelling and informative. The Washington Post Mr. Woodard's approach is breezier than [David Hackett] Fischers and more historical than [Joel] Garreaus, but he has earned a place on the shelf between them." The Wall Street Journal [American Nations] sets itself apart by delving deep into history to trace our current divides to ethno-cultural differences that emerged during the countrys earliest settlement. The New Republic, Editors Picks: Best Books of 2011 Provocative reading. News and Observer In *American Nations*, [Colin Woodard] persuasively reshapes our understanding of how the American political entity came to be. . . . [A] fascinating new take on history. The Christian Science Monitor *American Nations* by journalist-historian Colin Woodard is a superb book. Woodard makes a compelling argument that the United States was founded by contradictory regional convictions that continue to influence current attitudes and policy on a national level. . . . *American Nations* smashes the idea of political borders. . . . There is much to grapple with in this well-written book. The Portland Press Herald [F]or people interested in American history and sociology, *American Nations* demands reading. . . . *American Nations* is important reading. St. Louis Dispatch [I]f you want to better understand U.S. politics, history, and culture *American Nations* is to be required reading. . . . By revealing this continent of rivals, *American Nations* will revolutionize the way Americans think about their past, their country, and themselves and is sure to spark controversy. The Herald Gazette Woodard persuasively argues that since the founding of the United States, eleven distinct geographical nations have formed within the Union, each with its own identity and set of values. *Military History Quarterly* Colin Woodard offers up an illuminating history of North America that explodes the red state-blue state myth. . . . Woodard's *American Nations* is a revolutionary and revelatory take on Americas myriad identities, and how the conflicts between them have shaped our countrys past and mold its future. *MaineBusiness.com* One of the most original books I read in the last year. . . . During my five years as an Ambassador in the United States, I spent a lot of time studying the voting patterns of different states and reading American history, and I have to say I find Woodard's thesis to be fully borne out by my own observations. John Bruton, former Prime Minister of Ireland Woodard offers a fascinating way to parse American (writ large) politics and history in this excellent book. Kirkus (starred review) Provocative. Publishers Weekly [W]ell-researched analysis with appeal to both casual and scholarly readers. *Library Journal* About the Author Colin Woodard is a Maine native and the author of *Oceans End: Travels Through Endangered Seas*. He is a regular contributor to the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.