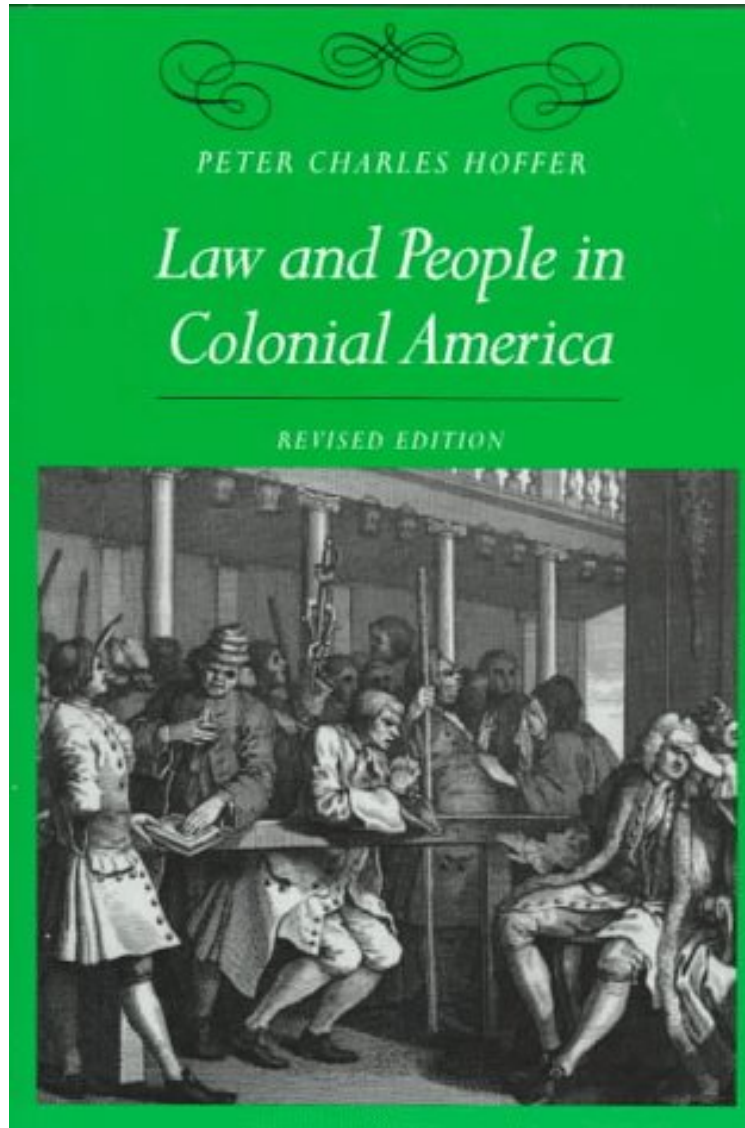


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Law and People in Colonial America

Peter Charles Hoffer

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Peter Charles Hoffer : Law and People in Colonial America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Law and People in Colonial America:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Harold Great price and service. Nice book like new condition. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Kris Good, dry writing style. More about law than people, but useful reference on colonial law.

This revised edition of Law and People in Colonial America will incorporate recent scholarship and encompass

American Indians, the French, and Spaniards as people who on the fringes of English settlement raised interesting questions. Among them: how in legal terms did the English deal with "marginal" societies; how does this posture help us to understand English law and the changes the New World forced upon it; and how did these people on the outside themselves view English law?

From Library Journal Hoffer attempts to add to our understanding of American legal history by examining how the American colonists transformed an existing body of British law into a truly unique American product. His themes are twofold: the reformist impulse coming to fruition in the revolutionary period of 1763-76; and the blurring of distinctions between public authority and justice that have remained controversial even to this date. So little readable American legal history is available. One exception is Lawrence Friedman's *History of American Law* (S. S., 1986. 2d rev. ed.). Now we have Hoffer's small work. Although focusing on colonial America, the book is highly recommended to the reader seeking an understanding of the development of American law. See Morton Horowitz, below, for a broader perspective.- Jerry E. Stephens, U.S. Court of Appeals Lib., Oklahoma City Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This book more than succeeds in achieving its goal of helping students understand and appreciate the cultural and intellectual environment of the Anglophone world." (Sheila Skemp *New England Quarterly*) "Outlines the main features of English law and legal institutions, describes their transmission to New England and Virginia, and argues for the emergence of 'an American way of law, a style of keeping order and resolving disputes' that was more open and less formalistic than that of England... Legal and Social Historians will applaud the appearance of this synthesis, and, in a decade's time, will demand a revised edition." (*Journal of American History*) "A synthetic essay of considerable grace and scope... An excellent overview of the field." (*Journal of Legal History*)