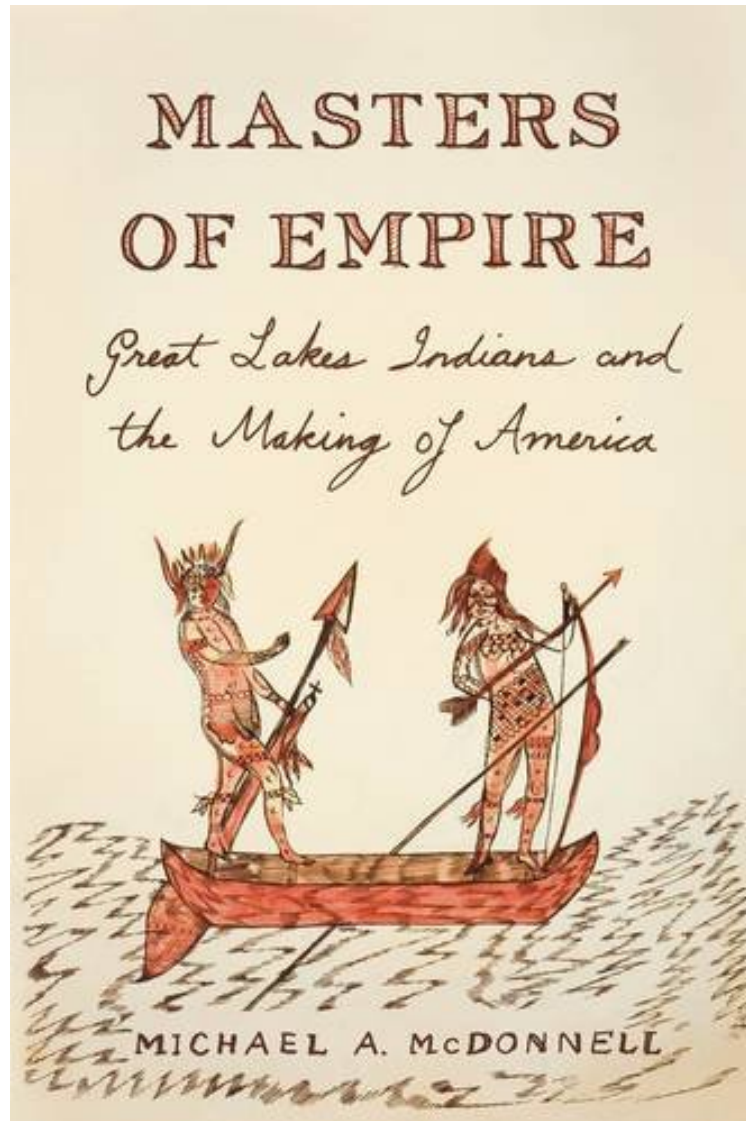


Masters of Empire: Great Lakes Indians and the Making of America

Michael McDonnell

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read countless books on colonial American history and this book provided a view of a Native American group I had learned only little about in previous books. It was interesting to see how a group of peoples influenced American history when the standard narrative is to dismiss them as pawns of the French or English. The book was a bit repetitive in some places but overall was an interesting read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well written and very informative. Taking a point of view not taken by most books about Amerindians. A must read for anyone interested in early American history. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By J Raymo Thanks

A radical reinterpretation of early American history from a native point of view In *Masters of Empire*, the historian Michael A. McDonnell reveals the vital role played by the native peoples of the Great Lakes in the history of North America. Though less well known than the Iroquois or Sioux, the Anishinaabeg, who lived across Lakes Michigan and Huron, were equally influential. *Masters of Empire* charts the story of one group, the Odawa, who settled at the straits between those two lakes, a hub for trade and diplomacy throughout the vast country west of Montreal known as the pays den haut. Highlighting the long-standing rivalries and relationships among the great Indian nations of North America, McDonnell shows how Europeans often played only a minor role in this history, and reminds us that it was native peoples who possessed intricate and far-reaching networks of commerce and kinship. As empire encroached upon their domain, the Anishinaabeg were often the ones doing the exploiting. By dictating terms at trading posts and frontier forts, they played a crucial part in the making of early America. Through vivid depictions--all from a native perspective--of early skirmishes, the French and Indian War, and the American Revolution, *Masters of Empire* overturns our assumptions about colonial America. By calling attention to the Great Lakes as a crucible of culture and conflict, McDonnell reimagines the landscape of American history.