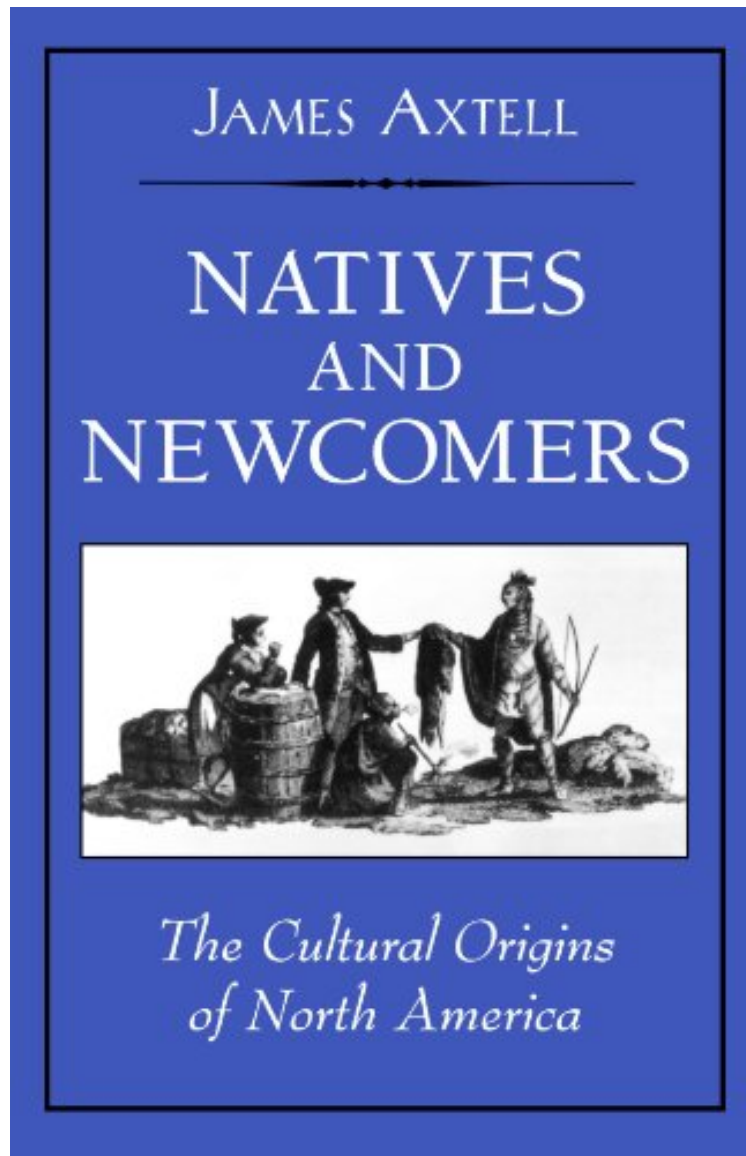


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Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America

James Axtell

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James Axtell : Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Natives and Newcomers: The Cultural Origins of North America:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Some Aboriginal perspective By Chris Kostov This book deals with northeast North America, east of the Appalachians, in the period 1492-1783, i.e. from the first Columbus' voyage to the end of the Independence War. The main argument of the book is that cultural frontiers in early North America

were "two-way"- interactive and dynamic. Thus, both sides influenced each other. The author attempted also to "write history from the other side of the frontier." (p.10) He is sympathetic to the Indian's point of view and tries to shed some light and understanding upon it. He rejects the perception about the European moral superiority over the Indians and argues that the French and the English governments periodically fostered scalping of European and Indian enemies by offering bounties or other economic incentives. (p.269) The only drawback of the book is the Axtell is repeating himself, because this book is a compilation of papers and chapters from previous books, so he doesn't have a lot of new information in this book.

In the past thirty years historians have come to realize that the shape and temper of early America was determined as much by its Indian natives as it was by its European colonizers. No one has done more to discover and recount this story than James Axtell, one of America's premier ethnohistorians. *Natives and Newcomers* is a collection of fifteen of his best and most influential essays, available for the first time in one volume. In accessible and often witty prose, Axtell describes the major encounters between Indians and Europeans--first contacts, communications, epidemics, trade and gift-giving, social and sexual mingling, work, cultural and religious conversions, military clashes--and probes their short- and long-term consequences for both cultures. The result is a book that shows how encounters between Indians and Europeans ultimately led to the birth of a distinctly American identity. *Natives and Newcomers* is an essential text for undergraduate and graduate courses in Colonial American history and Native American history.

"With admirable clarity, good humor, and methodological rigor, Axtell has succeeded in telling the story of those often hopeful, yet ill-fated, early encounters between vastly different groups of people."--*The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*"Gracefully written and persuasively argued, this collection of essays is Axtell at his best. The essays explore the various social, political, and economic consequences of interactions between Natives and Europeans in early North America with Axtell's usual insight, his keen eye for nuance, and a coherence that belies their origins as separate works. *Natives and Newcomers* is a wonderful model of the practice of ethnohistory and a superb introduction to the topic of inter-cultural exchange and to the cultural origins of North America. This book is ideal for classroom use in a variety of disciplines."-Jose Antonio Brandao, Western Michigan University"Vividly written, smartly argued, and wide-ranging, Axtell's interconnected essays explore both the conflicts and conjunctures that characterized early Indian-European relations in North America. I can't imagine a more engaging way to enter this lost world than through the crystalline prose of this master essayist, who turns his ethnohistorian's gaze on newcomers and natives alike."-David J. Weber, Southern Methodist University"A pioneer in ethnohistory, James Axtell brings wit, clarity, and erudition to the study of Early American encounters. What gives this collection of essays special power is Axtell's insistence that the history of cultural encounter is a profoundly human story, a continuing struggle under often horrendous circumstances to establish mutual understandings. In a fiercely contested field of scholarship, Axtell provides his readers with many original insights that should promote rich discussion."-T. H. Breen, Northwestern University
About the Author James Axtell is at College of William and Mary.