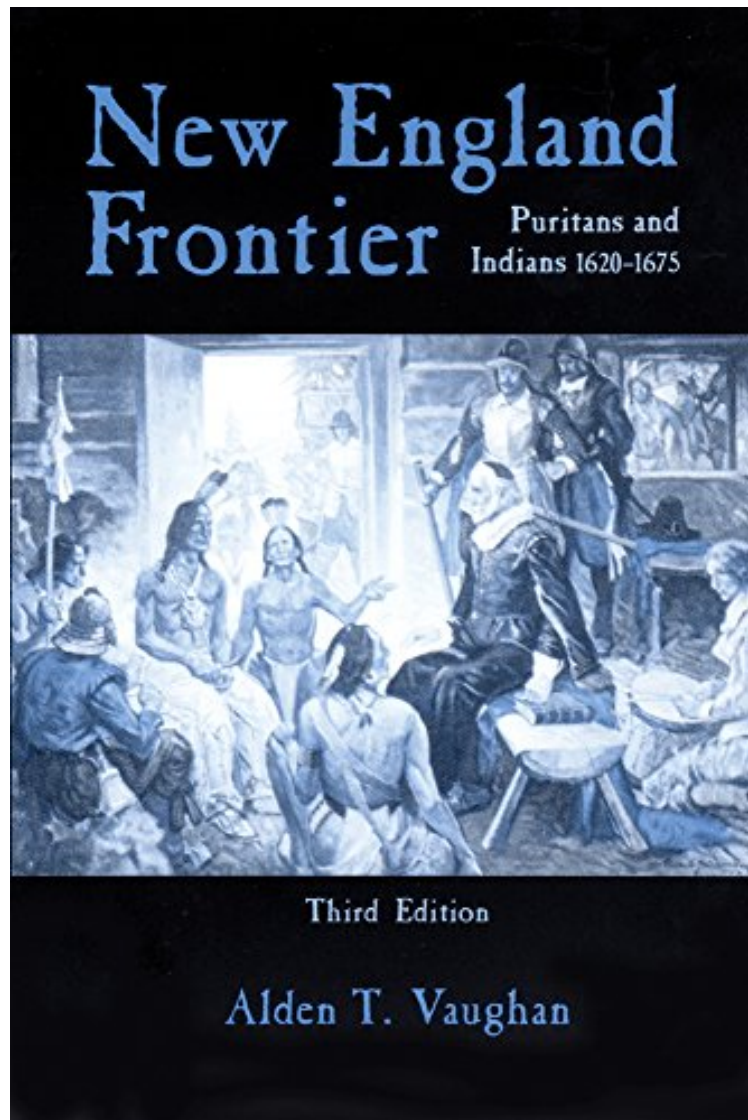


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## New England Frontier: Puritans and Indians, 1620-1675, 3rd edition

*Alden T. Vaughan*

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**Alden T. Vaughan : New England Frontier: Puritans and Indians, 1620-1675, 3rd edition** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised New England Frontier: Puritans and Indians, 1620-1675, 3rd edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. New England's Uneasy Peace By Carl Robinson This book describes the uneasy peace between the Indians and whites in New England in the years between the arrival of the Mayflower and King Philip's War. Far from being the rapacious Indian-killers, land stealers, and small-pox bringers, that later

historians have alleged, the Puritans actively sought to create a just, multicultural society. This book brings out the details of that attempt—often using first hand sources. In particular, the Puritans attempted intense religious missionary work including translating the Bible into local languages, setting up scholarships for talented Indians to attend Harvard, special laws for Indians, and emplacing Indians on juries when an Indian was on trial. Indeed, Puritan social policy was far more like multicultural policies of modern times. It all fell apart of course, and the current multicultural experiment will also likely fall apart. This book is a fascinating study of early colonial history, especially its experimental Indian Policy.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. most fair look at early New England

By guardian to the gate of forever New England Frontier tells the story of the Puritan and Indian relations in the first years of 1620-1675. Contrary to modern anti-Puritan view points, this books explains the relationship between the English and the Indians before King Philips war by looking at the primary sources. This book shows that the New England frontier wasn't as simple as modern textbooks claim it was. Most textbooks say that the Puritans were hungry for land and ready to take it from the Indians who they deemed as ungodly, however, there were many different factions (Native American tribes, different English colonies and European colonies) which all played important roles in the early history of New England. Vaughan shows several events where the Puritans kept peace and how a vast majority of the Indians backed the colonists in the war against the Pequots. He is not an apologist though and recognizes when the Puritan's massacre of the innocent Indian's in Mystic, along with the change in attitudes among the Puritans in the 1670s which led to king Philips war. I would like to give it 4 and a half stars because there is in some parts a lack of Indian voices, the introduction in the later editions helps show where he went too far in the earlier editions. History is not one sided, and this book makes a good argument using contemporary sources to show that the Puritans treated English and Indians the same (or at least made an attempt to) before 1675. Historians need to examine the post-1675 stereotypes and not link all anti-Native European sentiments into one, because the Puritans saw the Indians in a much better light than most (if not all) Europeans. I would very much like to see a King Philips war book written in this same manor and an assessment of post-1675 Indian policies.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Politically incorrect, factually correct.

By J.R. Towers This is a fantastic book. It covers the people, particular situations and adventures, if you will, that the puritans of New England went through. You will get an insight of the diplomacy they practice, and the dealing with the natives. It destroys the prejudiced view that most historians have on the puritans. They where not religious, superstitious zealots, but people that depended on discipline, and tight nit group dynamics. It is evident that they were well educated, both in diplomacy, commerce and war tactics and strategy. Their dominance over the continent was a consequence of the dynamics, and diplomacy with the Indians. Great read, fast paced and informative.

In contrast to most accounts of Puritan-Indian relations, *New England Frontier* argues that the first two generations of Puritan settlers were neither generally hostile toward their Indian neighbors nor indifferent to their territorial rights. Rather, American Puritans—especially their political and religious leaders—sought peaceful and equitable relations as the first step in molding the Indians into neo-Englishmen. When accumulated Indian resentments culminated in the war of 1675, however, the relatively benign intercultural contact of the preceding fifty-five-year period rapidly declined. With a new introduction updating developments in Puritan-Indian studies in the last fifteen years, this third edition affords the reader a clear, balanced overview of a complex and sensitive area of American history.

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About the Author Alden T. Vaughan, Professor Emeritus of History at Columbia University is the author or editor of numerous books, including *The Puritan Tradition in America, 1620-1730*, *New England's Prospect*, and *Puritans among the Indians*.