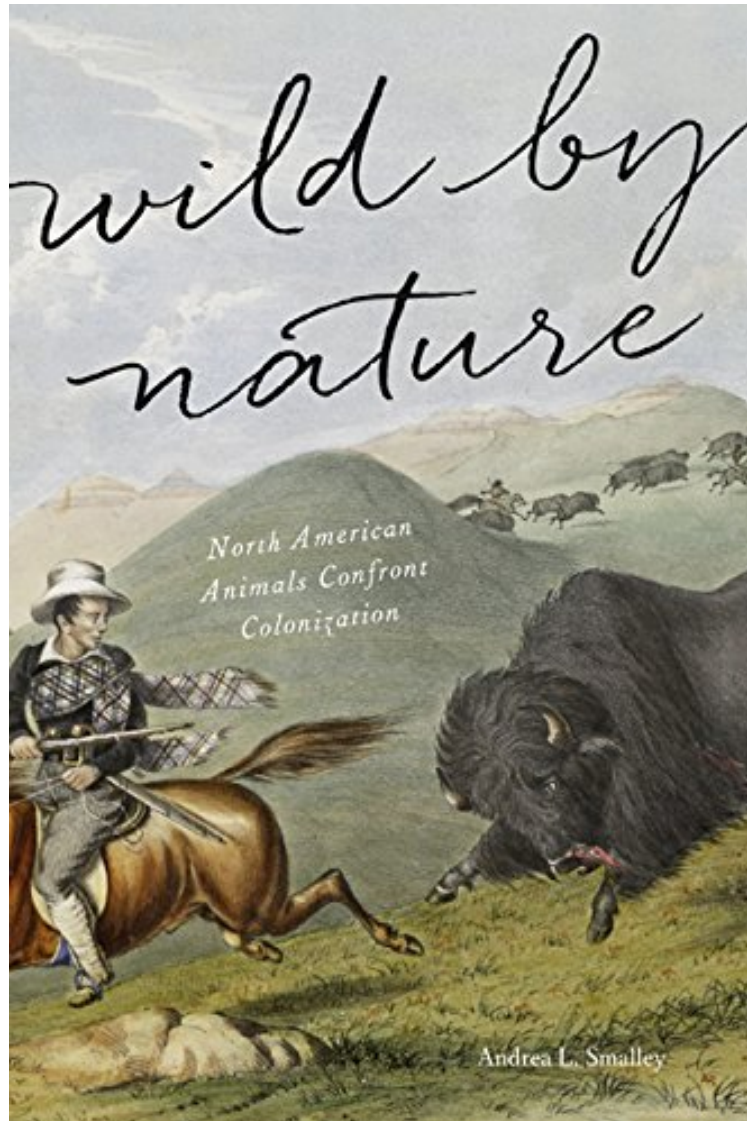


Wild by Nature: North American Animals Confront Colonization

Andrea L. Smalley

audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2703394 in Books Smalley Andrea L 2017-05-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.10 x 6.00l,
#File Name: 1421422352352 pagesWild by Nature North American Animals Confront Colonization | File
size: 33.Mb

Andrea L. Smalley : Wild by Nature: North American Animals Confront Colonization before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wild by Nature: North American Animals Confront Colonization:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Clearly shows the impotence and complexity of exploiting animal resources in our history. Beaver, deer, fish, bison, predators.By lyndonbrechtSmalley seeks to establish animals as

participants in American history, if I understand her approach. This is an interesting idea, but I don't think the book really supports that; what it does do is show that animals are an important factor in historical human interactions, such as mill owners wanting dams on streams and others wanting no impediment to migrating fish, or trading guns to Native peoples for beaver pelts and others wanting the Indians disarmed. Smalley concentrates on the mid-South, from the Chesapeake through the Southern plains buffalo herd, and from the start of British North America to the later 1800s when the bison herds were destroyed. The first chapter gives an overview of English practices regarding fish and wildlife, the commons and ownership limiting rights of access, and how North American wildlife and colonial conditions changed that. Chapter 2 looks at the Chesapeake beaver trade. Chapter 3 covers predators such as wolves but also how nearly-feral domesticated stock could be unpredictable--in England, stock was fenced in and in Virginia, crops had to be fenced to keep livestock out (the hogs in particular were let loose to feed themselves in the woods). Chapter 4 looks at migratory fish, which includes fishing rights versus property rights. Chapter 5 examines the trade in deer hides (largely Virginia to South Carolina, and quite large for its time). Chapter 6 discusses bison, from the eastern bison the huge herds on the Plains. Each chapter is a sort of case study in the complexity of the relationship between various groups and the animal resources. In the section on beavers for example, the book explores the traders, connected to government officials, and who traded guns to Indians, and how that caused problems with backcountry settlers who had no investment in the beaver trade and every investment in keeping Indians from being a danger--one result was Bacon's Rebellion. There was a collision of interest between hunters and trappers with high mobility and the assumption that animals were a commons, and private property especially in the form of large areas claimed by rich and often powerful entrepreneurs (who sought profit by selling homesteads to settlers, after buying lands from Indians for cheap). For me, the most interesting chapters were those on the trade in deerskins (early to mid 1700s), migratory fish, and the bison. I don't think Smalley is very convincing in giving animals what is often called "agency," but she does clearly show the complexity of exploiting resources in fish and animals, and on how that exploitation changed over time, particularly the legal framework. The book is solid in its environmental aspects and illustrates how important exploitation of wildlife was to American history. Another aspect is how attitudes, practices and laws changed from their English origin to reflect the much different conditions in America.

From the time Europeans first came to the New World until the closing of the frontier, the benefits of abundant wild animals from beavers and wolves to fish, deer, and bison appeared as a recurring theme in colonizing discourses. Explorers, travelers, surveyors, naturalists, and other promoters routinely advertised the richness of the American faunal environment and speculated about the ways in which animals could be made to serve their colonial projects. In practice, however, American animals proved far less malleable to colonizers' designs. Their behaviors constrained an English colonial vision of a reinvented and rationalized American landscape. In *Wild by Nature*, Andrea L. Smalley argues that Anglo-American authorities' unceasing efforts to convert indigenous beasts into colonized creatures frequently produced unsettling results that threatened colonizers' control over the land and the people. Not simply acted upon by being commodified, harvested, and exterminated, wild animals were active subjects in the colonial story, altering its outcome in unanticipated ways. These creatures became legal actor-subjects of statutes, issues in court cases, and parties to treaties in a centuries-long colonizing process that was reenacted on successive wild animal frontiers. Following a trail of human-animal encounters from the seventeenth-century Chesapeake to the Civil War-era southern plains, Smalley shows how wild beasts and their human pursuers repeatedly transgressed the lines lawmakers drew to demarcate colonial sovereignty and control, confounding attempts to enclose both people and animals inside a legal frame. She also explores how, to possess the land, colonizers had to find new ways to contain animals without destroying the wildness that made those creatures valuable to English settler societies in the first place. Offering fresh perspectives on colonial, legal, environmental, and Native American history, *Wild by Nature* reenvisioned the familiar stories of early America as animal tales.

"Smalley does a fine job of showing how the eradication of wolves, beaver, brown bear, wild boar, and lynx in England by the sixteenth century helped to shape the approach English colonists took to the animal populations they found in North America. Placing animals at the center of the story of colonization, *Wild by Nature* is a provocative and persuasive book." (Ted Steinberg, author of *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*)

About the Author: Andrea L. Smalley is an assistant professor of history at Northern Illinois University.