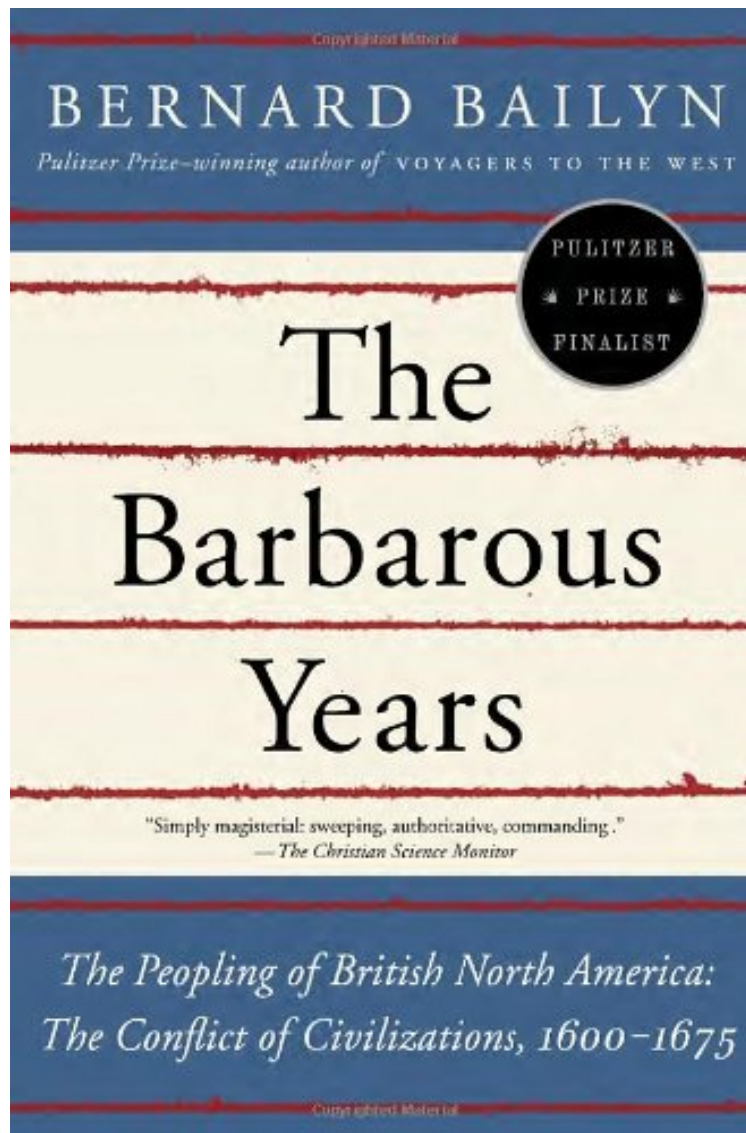


(Library ebook) The Barbarous Years: The Peopling of British North America--The Conflict of Civilizations, 1600-1675

The Barbarous Years: The Peopling of British North America--The Conflict of Civilizations, 1600-1675

Bernard Bailyn

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Bernard Bailyn : The Barbarous Years: The Peopling of British North America--The Conflict of Civilizations, 1600-1675 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Barbarous Years: The Peopling of British North America--The Conflict of Civilizations, 1600-1675:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good information
By J. Harshbarger I'd give this a five star rating, except that I can't honestly say I loved the book. But I sure learned a lot from reading it, and learning is one of the joys of my life now. I have ancestors from this time period in most of the original 13 colonies, but I've not read a book that pulled the time period together so well before. Now I understand more about why the Indian uprisings in one colony did or did not spread to others. I think I have a better grasp of how my ancestors probably lived, and I have great admiration for them. This is probably a book anyone with an interest in the first 50-60 years of the British colonies in North America should read. It won't be painful, I promise!
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The Barbarous Years
By Kim Burdick. "The Barbarous Years" is a book any serious historian probably should have on his or her shelf. However, I am wondering if Bernard Bailyn actually wrote this book or if he merely approved the work of a graduate assistant, allowing his own name be put on the cover. There are some astounding errors in this book. For example, on page 308 Bailyn talks about Jacob Alrichs, who "settled in Fort Christina, now renamed Altona..." This is wrong information. Fort Christina/Altona was the Swedish colony taken over by the Dutch West India Company. Alrichs was never its director. The text should read, "Jacob Alrichs settled in Fort Casimir, now renamed New Amstel." New Amstel was the City of Amsterdam's Colony and Jacob Alrich was its head. Sentences that sound like transcriptions of taped lectures don't help: "In addition he had fined one Anders the Finn a parcel of rye and other essential goods, the lack of which would probably result in the man's death from starvation and that of his wife and children." Although I am not in love with this book, it offers some interesting insights into seventeenth century North American history. Definitely not Bailyn's best book.
Kim Burdick Stanton, Delaware
105 of 107 people found the following review helpful. absolutely fascinating
By Stanley Crowe To a reader like myself who's fairly familiar with aspects of British and Irish history but hardly at all with American history, especially early stuff, this is fascinating. I didn't know that the earliest efforts to colonize Virginia were such a disaster -- people were dying like flies over there, even as entrepreneurs sought recruits to sail to new lives in what was presented as a terrestrial paradise. The lure of land, the development of the tobacco trade, and later the fur trade, the relations with the indigenous peoples, the blending of religious and commercial motives, the context for the behavior of the natives -- Bailyn lays it all out very deftly, blending a chronological organization with a geographical one. The cases of Maryland and New England are very different from Virginia's (and each other) despite the overlap in time. The idea of colliding cultures (English and native American) that one finds in the blurb oversimplifies things. There is no single English or European culture, and the native tribes have likewise their own pressures and agendas. So it's a complicated story to tell, and at times the reader might be overwhelmed with colonists' names and Indian place names -- and more maps would help, I think -- but the main lines of the various stories (for there isn't just one) are clear. Bailyn seems to be aiming at the general reader, but some work is required. Some Tudor and Stuart background helps, and it helps to know, for example, what a joint-stock company is and what English policy towards Ireland was in the early 17th century. Readers who aren't up on such things need to do a little work, but it's worth it. A couple of impressions to indicate what I find fascinating: first, the juxtaposition of the almost Darwinian struggle against nature, disease, and indigenous natives that is being waged in Virginia c. 1623 by people struggling also to just stay alive, while back in London very sophisticated financial transactions (and political transactions) are being undertaken to get people to a place where most of them would die in fairly short order. Second, I didn't know that Maryland was founded by Catholics who sought to establish a colony of tolerance but who found, when the Jesuits insisted on proselytizing both the natives and the Protestant colonists, that they (the Catholic governors) had to appeal to the Pope to get the Jesuits to back off. They were afraid that the English government -- trending increasingly Protestant prior to the English Civil War -- wouldn't support, maintain, or fund an aggressively Catholic colony. So . . . if this kind of stuff is news to you, get this book.

Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize
A compelling, fresh account of the first great transit of people from Britain, Europe, and Africa to British North America, their involvements with each other, and their struggles with the indigenous peoples of the eastern seaboard. The immigrants were a mixed multitude. They came from England, the Netherlands, the German and Italian states, France, Africa, Sweden, and Finland, and they moved to the western hemisphere for different reasons, from different social backgrounds and cultures. They represented a spectrum of religious attachments. In the early years, their stories are not mainly of triumph but of confusion, failure, violence, and the loss of civility as they sought to normalize situations and recapture lost worlds. It was a thoroughly brutal encounter not only between the Europeans and native peoples and between Europeans and Africans, but among Europeans themselves, as they sought to control and prosper in the new configurations of life that were emerging around them.

From Booklist
Surveying the founding British settlements of eastern North America, Bailyn, whose laurels include the Pulitzer and Bancroft prizes, embeds the stories of Virginia, Maryland, New York, and Massachusetts in details of the transatlantic demographic movements in play. Uprooting oneself required powerful motivations that Bailyn extracts from the emigrants social origins in their home countries of England, the Netherlands, and Sweden. Bailyn shows news of the vanguards fortunes being sent back to Europe to their sponsors, whose particular responses of raising funds, recruiting reinforcements, and propagating the attractions of America as commercial opportunity, escape from

social stratification, or religious refuge generate Bailyns narrative momentum through the first several generations of colonization. With such conceptual themes presiding over his presentation, Bailyn graphically emphasizes the settlement process as one of savage brutality, featuring common contempt for human life aggravated, to be sure, by primitive conditions and appalling death rates but epitomized in continual warfare with Indians, remorselessly tending toward their elimination. In Bailyns perceptive and erudite hands, the original British, Dutch, and Swedish ventures assume as wild and variegated guises as did the forceful individuals who embarked on them. --Gilbert Taylor Bailyn spares no gory detail, but he treats his subjects with sympathy. The New YorkerThe Barbarous Years, the long-awaited companion to *Voyagers to the West*, is an even greater achievement. . . . Both in the span of time he examines (the years 1600 to 1675) and in his effort to capture the full range of the conflict of civilizations in the early European colonization of North America, *The Barbarous Years* is Bailyns most ambitious book. The Daily BeastBailyns extensive skills at demography, material history, and ideological history are on full display. The Wilson QuarterlyBarbarous Years [is] a cornucopia of human folly, mischief and intrigue. The Washington Independent of BooksBailyn has given readers a bracing, unvarnished account of a century that determined what would follow. Richmond Times-DispatchThroughout the book, Mr. Bailyn patiently explains the origins of the people who migrated to America. Readers learn which regions of England, the Netherlands and Scandinavia produced the most migrants, which social classes were best represented, and the extent to which young males predominated within various migrant flows. The Wall Street JournalMagisterial. . . . Popular histories often gentrify these early events, but Bailyns gripping, detailed, often squirm-inducing account makes it abundantly clear how ungentle they actually were. Kirkus sDrawing on decades of sound, dynamic research, the author has provided scholars and general readers alike with an insightful and engaging account of Colonial America that signals a reset on Colonial studies, the culmination of his work. An important book. . . . Superbly told. Library Journal (starred review)In Bailyns perceptive and erudite hands, the original British, Dutch, and Swedish ventures assume as wild and variegated guises as did the forceful individuals who embarked on them. BooklistAbout the AuthorBernard Bailyn did his undergraduate work at Williams College and his graduate work at Harvard, where he is currently Adams University Professor and James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History Emeritus. His previous books include *The New England Merchants in the Seventeenth Century*; *Education in the Forming of American Society*; *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*, which received the Pulitzer and Bancroft prizes; *The Ordeal of Thomas Hutchinson*, which won the National Book Award for History; *Voyagers to the West*, which won the Pulitzer Prize; *Faces of Revolution: Personalities and Themes in the Struggle for American Independence*; *To Begin the World Anew: The Genius and Ambiguities of the American Founders*; and *Atlantic History: Concept and Contours*. In 2011 he received the National Humanities Medal.