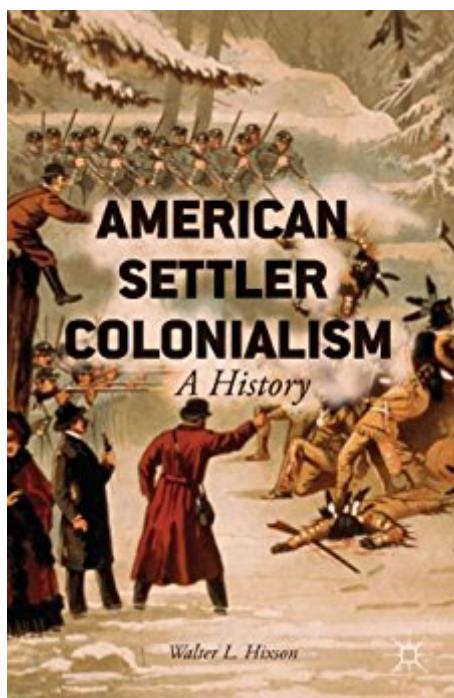


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American Settler Colonialism: A History



Synopsis

Over the course of three centuries, American settlers helped to create the richest, most powerful nation in human history, even as they killed and displaced millions. This groundbreaking work shows that American history is defined by settler colonialism, providing a compelling framework through which to understand its rise to global dominance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I tried to read all of this book, I really did. The topic is an important one. Hixson is a good writer and the book appears to be well-researched, but it is part and parcel of a contemporary academic debate. Some of the text is academic polemic which the general reader may find incomprehensible. I've read a number of such books and while I could wade my way through it, I no longer see that as worthwhile. This would be an appropriate source for a graduate school paper, perhaps even as a textbook in some classes. As polemic it is good, as history, I am not so sure. I'm not sure what his basic point is. He does write early in the book that there is a continuing connection between the settler colonialism tendency to self-righteous violence, and our current practices in war. He may have a point there, but that could lead to some unfortunate conclusions. If our dispossession and

murder of so many Indian peoples instilled in us a militantly self-righteous view about violence, terrorists against Americans seem something like freedom fighters taking revenge for past history. Readers can work it out for themselves. Perhaps if Hixson were less strident the reading would be easier--he may be late in the book, but wading through dense opinion (even if backed by facts) makes it unlikely many readers will make it that far. I think he also engages in some exaggeration. He states that American history "is the most sweeping, most violent and most significant example of settler colonialism in world history,," Clearly we Americans sinned on a quite large scale, in the sense of condemnatory history this book documents, but I suspect the conquest and settlement of Siberia was on a somewhat larger scale in terms of lives extinguished and altered.

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