

RAYMOND M. HYSER J. CHRIS ARNDT

VOICES OF THE AMERICAN PAST DOCUMENTS IN U.S. HISTORY

VOLUME ONE TO 1877

RAYMOND M. HYSER J. CHRIS ARNDT

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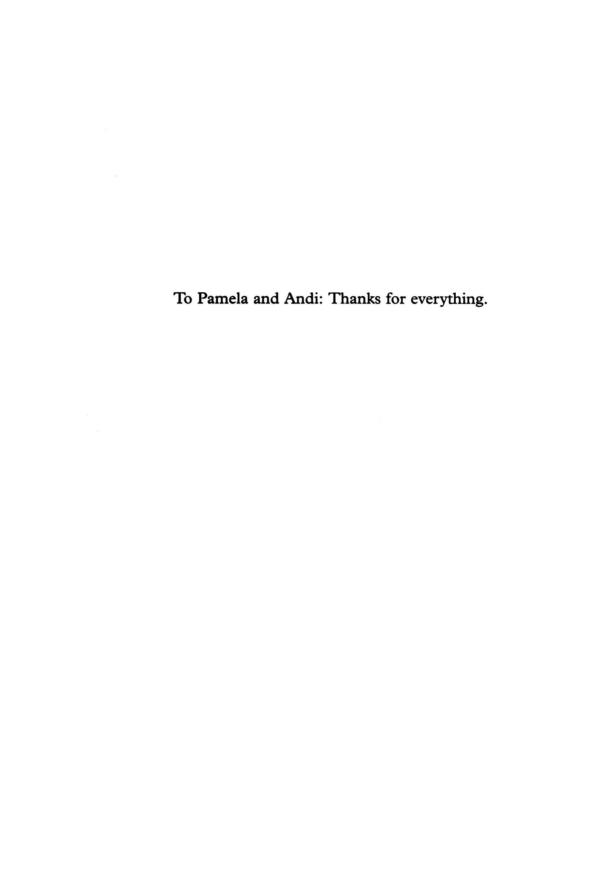
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The way that Americans view themselves and their history has changed substantially during the last thirty years. Where the traditional view seemed to champion the progress and development of the United States, a growing number of scholars have questioned this interpretation of the past. This document reader attempts to present students with the perspectives of many different issues and events in the American past, rather than advance a particular agenda.

Like many of our colleagues, we have found document readers useful to introduce our students to some of the ideas and issues of the past. Our purpose in selecting these documents was to use readable texts that would provide a relatively balanced introduction to some of the major questions and concepts in United States history. Organized so that it can be easily used with most of the major college textbooks, we have chosen both the "great documents," as well as selections from less well-known voices to highlight these diverse issues. Each document is preceded by: 1) a brief introduction which sets the historical context, and 2) a series of questions for instructors and students to consider as they read and analyze the selection. While we have not been able to include a "point-counterpoint" on every issue, it is our hope that the documents will enable instructors and their students to begin to explore various aspects of the American past. The result has been a valuable learning experience, as it forced us to constantly rethink our views on many of the central questions in American history. We hope students and faculty will find this reader useful.

In collecting, editing, and writing this reader, many individuals too numerous to mention have been influential. A few, however, deserve special recognition and thanks. As teachers at an institution where undergraduate education is the faculty's first priority, we are grateful to our colleagues in the Department of History at James Madison University who set standards for teaching excellence that make all of us better instructors. We owe a special thanks to our colleagues Philip Riley, Sidney Bland, Clive Hallman, and Jacqueline Walker for reading early drafts and making valuable suggestions. Drake Bush, Kristie Kelly, Laura Hanna, and David Tatom of Harcourt Brace College Publishers have been especially helpful at various stages of the project. The reviewers' critical suggestions helped immeasurably to improve the quality of the reader. We would like to

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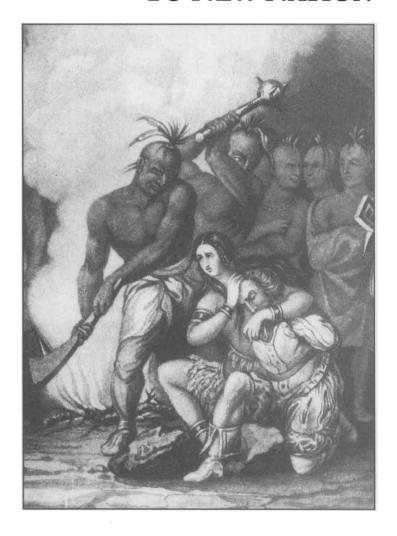
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FROM SETTLEMENT TO NEW NATION



DIVERSE BEGINNINGS



1

American history began not in 1607, but tens of thousands of years earlier with the first arrivals, the prehistoric peoples who became the Native Americans. Native Americans spent millennia unaffected by contact with the outside world until the late 15th century arrival of European explorers. The contact of cultures initiated a process which radically transformed societies throughout the world. The rush to conquer and colonize the area of the present-day United States began with the Spanish, but soon came to include other Europeans. Native Americans were not passive bystanders in the process and responded to the contact in a variety of ways. The following documents collectively reveal European motives in North America and provide a glimpse of the impact that this presence had upon the native population.

SPANISH DESCRIPTION OF AMERICAN SOUTHWEST AND GREAT PLAINS (1540)

The first Spaniards in the Americas were either soldiers in search of fortune or missionaries looking for souls to convert to Roman Catholicism. Spain's conquest of spectacularly wealthy and sophisticated cultures such as the Mexica (Aztec) in Mexico and the Inca in the Andes created the impression that glittering cities and willing converts could be found throughout the Americas. Following a failed expedition to Christianize Zuni villages in modern-day New Mexico, a Spanish missionary returned to Mexico with news of the Seven Cities of Cibola. According to the friar, the smallest of these cities was larger and wealthier than even Mexico City. Lured by these tales of fortune, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado led an expedition through the American Southwest and Great Plains between 1540 and 1542. The following description, excerpted from expedition member Juan Jaramillo's account, reports a more accurate version of the region. Although the failure to find the cities of Cibola dampened Spain's interest in the area, stories of Native American cities of gold persisted among the Europeans.

Questions to Consider: What are the differences between two Native American tribes that Captain Jaramillo described? What is his opinion about each tribe? What did Jaramillo find favorable about this region? What did he anticipate as the basis of its future?

In this province of Cibola there are five little villages besides this, all with flat roofs and of stone and mud. . . . The country is cold, as is shown by the houses and hothouses (estufas) they have. From this first village of Cibola, facing the northeast and a little less, on the left hand, there is a province called Tucayan, about five days off, which has seven flat-roofed villages, with as good as or better food supply than these, and even a larger population; and they also have the skins of cows and of deer, and cloaks of cotton. . . .

From this village of Cibola . . . we went to another in this same province, which was about a short day's journey off, on the way to Tihuex [Rio Grande]. It is nine days of such marches as we have made from this settlement of Cibola to the river of Tihuex. Halfway between, . . . is a village of earth and dressed stone, in a very strong position, which is called Tutahaco. All these Indians, except the first in the village of Cibola, received us well. At the river of Tihuex there are 15 villages within a distance of about 20 leagues, all with flat-roofed

Captain Juan Jaramillo, "Description of Kansas and Nebraska," Bureau of Ethnology, Fourteenth Annual Report (Washington, DC: 1896), 584-593.

houses of earth, and not stone, after the fashion of mud walls. There are other villages besides these on other streams which flow into this, and three of these are, for Indians, well worth seeing, especially one that is called Chia, and another Uraba, and another Cicuique. Uraba and Cicuique have many houses, two stories high. All the rest, and these also, have corn and beans and melons, skins, and some long robes of feathers which they braid, joining the feathers with a sort of thread; and they also make them a sort of plain weaving with which they make the cloaks with which they protect themselves. They all have hot rooms underground, which, although not very clean, are very warm. They raise and have a very little cotton, of which they make the cloaks of which I have spoken above. This river comes from the northwest and flows about southeast, which shows that it certainly flows into the North sea. . . . [We] began to enter the plains where the cows [buffalo] are, although we did not find them for some four or five days, after which we began to come across bulls, of which there are great numbers, and after going on and meeting the bulls for two or three days in the same direction, after this we began to find ourselves in the midst of very great numbers of cows, yearlings, and bulls all in together. We found Indians among these first cows, who were called, on this account, by those in the flat-roofed houses, Querechos. They live without houses, but have some sets of poles which they carry with them to make something like huts in the places where they stop, which serve them for houses. They tie these poles together at the top and stick the bottoms into the ground, covering them with some cowskins which they carry around, and which . . . serve them for houses. From what was learned of these Indians, all their human needs are supplied by these cows, for they are fed and clothed and shod from these. They are a people who go around here and there, wherever seems to them best. . . . The Indian who guided us from here was the one that had given us the news about Ouivira and Arache (or Arahei) and about its being a very rich country, with much gold and other things. . . . It seems that, as the said Indian wanted to go to his own country, he proceeded to tell us what we found was not true. . . .

This country presents a very fine appearance, than which I have not seen a better in all our Spain nor Italy nor a part of France, nor indeed, in the other countries in which I have travelled in His Majesty's service, for it is not a very rough country, but it is made up of hillocks and plains, and very fine appearing rivers and streams, which certainly satisfied me and made me sure that it will be very fruitful in all sorts of products. Indeed, there is profit in the cattle ready to the hand, from the quantity of them, which is as great as one could imagine. We found a variety of Castillian prunes which are not all red, but some of them black and green; the tree and fruit is certainly like that of Castile, with a very excellent flavor. Among the cows we found flax, which springs up from the earth in clumps apart from each other, which are noticeable, as the cattle do not eat it, with their tops and blue flowers, and very perfect although small, resembling that of our Spain (or and sumach like ours in Spain) there are grapes along some streams, of a fair flavor, not to be improved upon. . . .