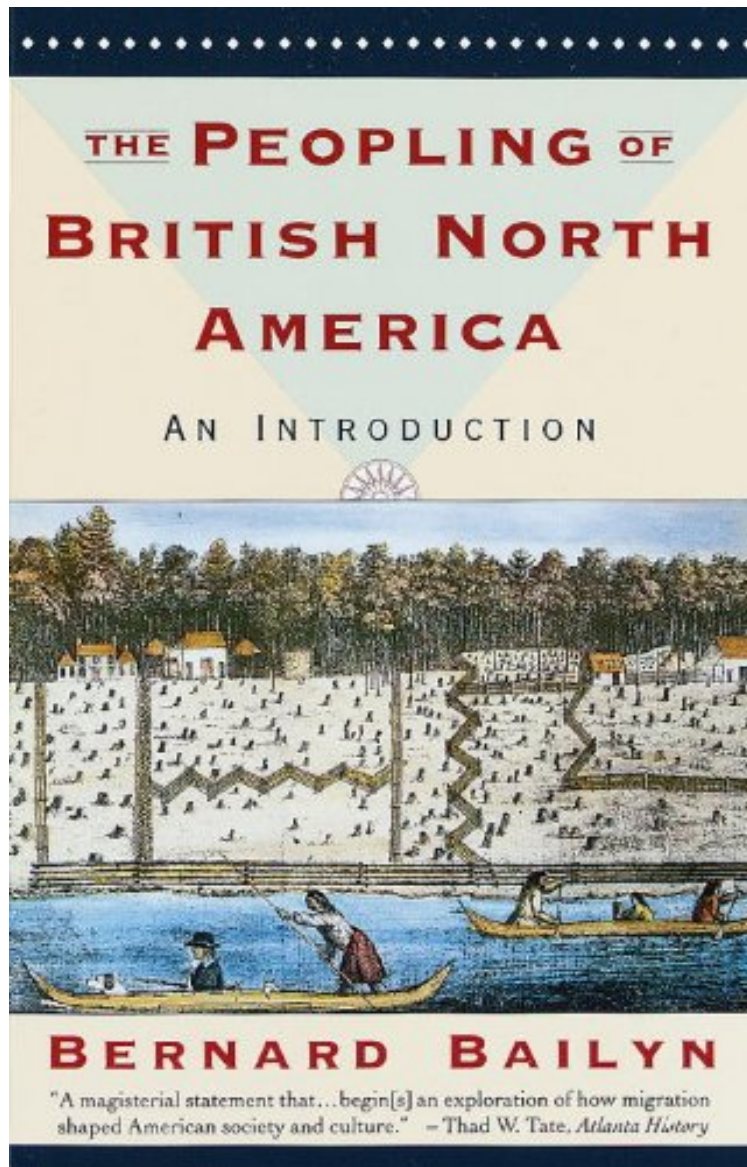


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# The Peopling of British North America: An Introduction

Von Bernard Bailyn

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**Von Bernard Bailyn : The Peopling of British North America: An Introduction** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Peopling of British North America: An Introduction:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A magnificent work of American historiography Von Stephen Taylor This is one fascinating book! I can't believe how

successful Mr. Bailyn has been in making the demographics of British North America so interesting. Harvard's eminent historian has written a very lively, very well-researched, immensely entertaining work. Being an historian in training myself, I find his examination of the elements of population history absolutely exemplary. Bailyn structures his magisterial two-volume study (to which this book is the introduction) around four "propositions" about socio-demographics in Britain's North American colonies. He subsequently answers these "queries" by offering a broad overview of his own research and the field in general. Among the interesting ways he wished to enter into research was by stating his "propositions" and then assaying to fill them out. For instance, one section of the book is based on an imaginative "proposition": if an 18th-century British King had attempted to do what William the Conqueror did in the 11th century -- to conduct a survey and compile a "Domesday Book" about his realms -- what would he have found? What would have been the trends at work in the empire? How were Old World socio-economic forces intimately linked to the discovery and settlement of the New, not only in England, but also on the European continent? Bailyn carries out a penetrating examination of the great migrations in 17th-century England -- from North to South, from village to village, from the countryside to the city -- and then considers the extension of this process to North America. 250 years after this imaginary census, Bailyn's fascinating analysis is part of what makes "The Peopling of British North America" such a success: he unifies a century's historical research into a comprehensive whole. Another "proposition" Bailyn outlines is this: how did the movement and interactions of populations in the New World affect the psychology of the colonists? In other words, what was migration's impact on mentality? How could civilization exist side-by-side with barbarism? Effete plantations with brutal frontiers? Old world with New? How, for example, could William Byrd of Westover, Virginia, lead the refined plantation lifestyle for which he is famous, reading his Bible and his classics in Greek, Latin, and Hebrew every day, the paragon of culture and English sobriety, and then turn around to beat his slaves for the most trivial offenses, which he subsequently records for us in his "Secret Diary" with not so much as the smallest regret? What do these trends say about the American character? How did they shape our basic institutions and the fundamentals of our history? In short, you will not find a better book on the population of the American colonies than Mr. Bailyn's. While I have not yet read the succeeding two volumes in his work, I eagerly look forward to doing so. I trust they, too, are more shining examples of this brilliant historian's outstanding scholarship.

0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Concise Introduction to Massive Project Von Brian O'Malley This compact work introduces Bernard Bailyn's multi-volume population history of America. This work offers a colorful portrait of settlement throughout British North America before the American Revolution. Various regions and colonies are considered in detail. For a contrasting consideration of British East Florida, see the relevant essay in The African American Heritage of Florida.

**Kurzbeschreibung** In this introduction to his large-scale work *The Peopling of British North America*, Bernard Bailyn identifies central themes in a formative passage of our history: the transatlantic transfer of people from the Old World to the North American continent that formed the basis of American society. *Voyagers to the West*, which covers the British migration in the years just before the American Revolution and is the first major volume in the Peopling project, is also available from Vintage Books.

**Pressestimmen** "Mr. Bailyn brings a new vividness, authenticity and excitement to the story of the settlement of North America....He sees the past in a more lively and human fashion, and in sharper detail, than have most previous historians....This is a rich canvas of a great folk-wandering over two centuries .... If the Introduction is any guide to what is to follow, the volumes to come will be treasure houses indeed."-- Esmond Wright, *The New York Times Book Review* "With a spare and delicate genius, [Bailyn] sketch[es] out the fiendishly complex essentials of a world where 'everything seems strange close up.'... Bernard Bailyn's work has the grandeur of a Braudel and the humanity of a Michelet. And he's got to the roots."-- Gwyn A. Williams, *The Guardian*

**Kurzbeschreibung** In this introduction to his large-scale work *The Peopling of British North America*, Bernard Bailyn identifies central themes in a formative passage of our history: the transatlantic transfer of people from the Old World to the North American continent that formed the basis of American society. *Voyagers to the West*, which covers the British migration in the years just before the American Revolution and is the first major volume in the Peopling project, is also available from Vintage Books.