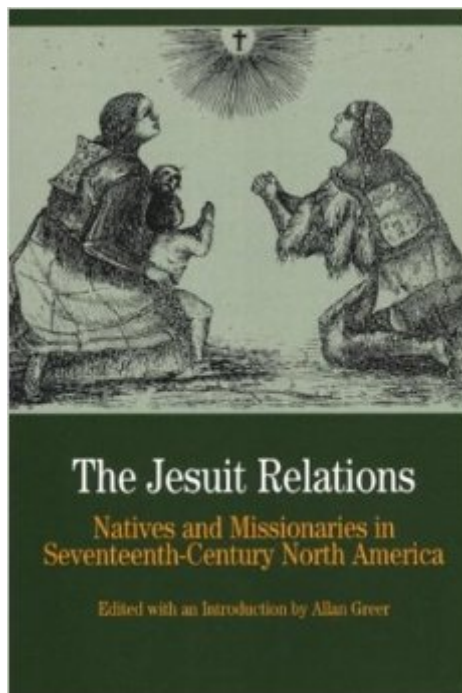


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The Jesuit Relations: Natives And Missionaries In Seventeenth-Century North America (Bedford Cultural Editions Series)



Synopsis

As a 73-volume library, the original *The Jesuit Relations* has long been inaccessible to undergraduate students. Vitally important, the writings of seventeenth-century French Jesuits in Native North America tell the story of early American encounters. This new edition deftly binds them into a thematically arranged, 35-document sampler with a detailed introduction that provides background on these missionaries, the Indians, and their cohabitation in early North America. Colorful journal entries by such fathers as Paul LeJeune, Jean de Br beuf, Isaac Jogues, and Jacques Marquette describe the Huron, Algonquin, Iroquois, and Montagnais peoples. Eleven images, two maps, a chronology, a bibliography, and questions for consideration supplement these firsthand accounts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are student of Native American studies or just interested at all in the early contact of Indians with Europeans this book is perfect. Surprisingly interesting and very helpful in fleshing out an oft shaded part of American/Canadian history. This offers a wonderful though slightly tainted point of view on the customs of specific Indian tribes. My favourite section has to be the writing of father Paul Le Jeune on the non-sedentary tribe of the Montagnaise. Greer's editing is great especially for the non-academic reader (I've read some of the unabridged version which was slightly painful) Maybe I'm just a nerd but I think this book would be entertaining even for those with less than scholarly knowledge on the subject.

Any one curious about Indian life must read Jesuit descriptions of their lives among the Indians. The Jesuit priests were missionaries who lived with the Indians in their villages in the 1600s, learned their languages, recorded their culture in great detail, and clearly loved and cared for the native peoples even though naturally repelled by a few of their customs. This 211-page abridgement is fascinating, and includes nice maps and drawings from the period. I found myself wishing it was longer.

Greer's succinct version of the Jesuit Relations is an enjoyable and educational look into French and Indian relations in early Canada. His selection of pieces is insightful and covers a broad scope of information. Highly recommend for students and scholars of Indian or Canadian history.

I guess I was just hoping for more of the real thing. The original "Jesuit Relations" was a hefty book full of all of the letters and writings of the Jesuit Missionaries who were really forming north America. This book is so tiny and only has excerpts from the real book. Does anyone know where I can find the original Jesuit Relations? I've even asked monks and nuns who live in monasteries known for their extensive catholic libraries and they've never even heard of it! Allan Greer did do a great job of this, in giving a brief account of it all. It's just a shame that such an important part of American history and such important sacrifices as these missionaries made should fall into such obscurity.

The jesuit Relations was an annual periodical reporting the events of missionary endeavor that stretched from Acadia on the North Atlantic all the way to the middle of the continent, to Lake Winnipeg, and even beyond to the Rocky Mountains, long before the famed explorations of Lewis and Clark. About the only criticism I would make is that the jesuit missions in Baja California are not included, though they were certainly in North America.

This book offers an interesting perspective on Native American life not often found in textbooks. Because the United States was heir to English law, philosophy, and thought-patterns, we often forget that other countries also played a part. This book shows how American Indians were seen from a French-Catholic perspective.

As a believer I always look forward to reading historic accounts of any people group's first encounter with the Gospel. I am always in awe at the faith and dedication of missionaries who said

no to human sacrifice and cannibalism. It takes a very special person to deliver the Gospel to a people who just might kill you, eat you and think they did an honorable thing. Read Mr. Greer's commentary, but keep his perspective in mind. Unlike the missionaries, Mr. Greer's perspective is apparently non-Christian and ethnographic in nature. It's pretty obvious that Mr. Greer does not believe in the Great Commission which was central to the Jesuit effort. I am always confused by authors who write about topics that they seem to have no heart for. Overall it seems like a good collection of selected portions of the Jesuit Relations that gives one a broad and brief view of Jesuit Missionary Great Commission efforts in early Canada. It's a quick read and interesting read and well worth the price.

This is a great book about which I would warn readers to skip the first 22 pages where the publisher decided to tell the reader what to think. It is unfortunate that the space in this short document has to be wasted on erudition regarding our ability to discern history.

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