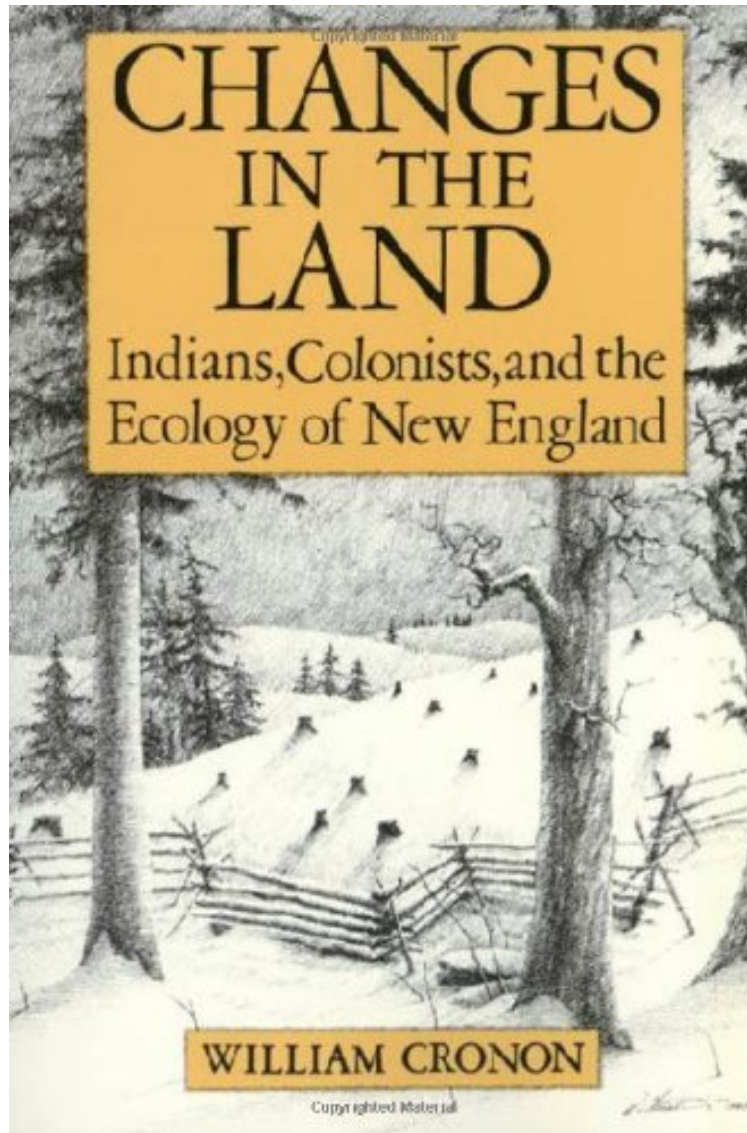


[Free read ebook] Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England

# Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England

William Cronon

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#483707 in Books Hill and Wang 1983-07-01 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 8.30 x .67 x 6.36l, #File Name: 0809001586242 pages Paperback with scene of snow, trees and country | File size: 24.Mb

**William Cronon : Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reflections on a People of Plenty By Roger D. Launius Perhaps it is

appropriate that this book review be done at this particular time; since it is so much about the convergence of cultures in early America and how the use of resources changed as a result. This is especially important as we pause for the holidays and the bounties that are so much a part of the American experience. William Cronin has been a leading figure in the study of the environmental history of the American West for a generation. This book is one of the reasons why. It is an elegant study, at once entertaining and enlightening as well as seminal in its characterization of the New England frontier and the relationships of the native population to the English immigrants in their homeland. Cronin's thesis is straightforward. As he characterized it: the shift from Indian to European dominance in New England entailed important changes well known to historians in the ways these peoples organized their lives, but it also involved fundamental reorganizations less well known to historians in the regions' plant and animal communities. To the cultural consequences of the European invasion what historians sometimes call the frontier process we must add the ecological ones as well (p. xv). So true, but that insight was lost on many earlier historians who had previously studied native/English interactions. What Cronin offers is a well-researched, effectively-argued, and finely-honed explanation of this situation. Chapters on the landscape and its changes over time, the different natures of agriculture among the native and English populations, ownership and patterns of use, and the interactions of both communities bring this together in a useful manner. Accessing standard historical materials as well as works in archaeology, anthropology, plant and animal science, and climatology Cronin synthesizes a major historical episode in a new way. His greatest conclusion, at least from my perspective, harkens back to the frontier thesis of Frederick Jackson Turner. Turner asserted, and I believe Turner was correct that this was the case, that the broad expanse of land available dominated the thinking of Europeans coming to America and prompted a structuring of the American experience along a specific path. Cronin makes the case that this European path was uniquely destructive to the New England ecology. They assumed the limitless availability of more land to exploit, he wrote, and in the long run that was impossible (p. 169). Ultimately, Cronin noted, the people of plenty were a people of waste (p. 170).

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He discusses the misunderstanding between their concept of how to use the land and the Europeans' concept of land as real estate. By Rebecca Smith This is one of the most fascinating books I have ever read. It is absolutely packed with important information and insightful analysis. If you are interested in ecology, Native Americans, history, anthropology, economics and the law you have a lot to learn in this book. Cronon describes how the Native Americans lived before the Europeans came and how their hunter-gatherer lifestyle shaped the land and forests. The colonists found land that was far from being wilderness. He discusses the misunderstanding between their concept of how to use the land and the Europeans' concept of land as real estate that was rightfully owned by whoever could "put it to good use" as laid out in Genesis in the Bible. I could go on and on.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting. By Granny-By-The-Sea This is a very well researched summary of the changes in the New England landscape due to the arrival of white men. I read it as part of a study I have been doing on how the New England forest has evolved over time. Both the English and the Indians manipulated the natural forest to meet their own needs and expectations, but as they began to share the same landscape, new changes emerged. The story is much less simplistic than we were all taught and reminded me that we all shape the world we live in - whether we think we do or not,

Winner of the Francis Parkman Prize *Changes in the Land* offers an original and persuasive interpretation of the changing circumstances in New England's plant and animal communities that occurred with the shift from Indian to European dominance. With the tools of both historian and ecologist, Cronon constructs an interdisciplinary analysis of how the land and the people influenced one another, and how that complex web of relationships shaped New England's communities.

.com Much historical writing is far more concerned with the players than the stage: narratives of kings and cabbage-merchants, although acted out in fields and forests, typically include nature only as a convenient prop to provide the occasional splash of color. In *Changes in the Land*, Cronon treats the land of New England with the same sensitivity and attention to detail as the lives of the American natives and the colonists--he depicts the effects of changing land-use patterns on the texture of the New England landscape, and gives voice to the changing communities of trees, rock walls, and rivers. The chapter on the effects of changing notions of "property" on the ecology of New England are especially strong. *Changes in the Land* is almost the equal of Cronon's masterpiece, *Nature's Metropolis*, a monumental study of the ecological effects of Chicago on the entire central portion of the United States in the 1800s. Highly Recommended to specialists and general readers alike. "Changes in the Land exemplifies, and realizes, the promise of ecological history with stunning effect. Setting his sights squarely on the well-worn terrain of colonial New England, [Cronon] fashions a story that is fresh, ingenious, compelling and altogether important. His approach is at once vividly descriptive and profoundly analytic."--John Demos, *The New York Times Book Review* "A superb achievement: Cronon has changed the terms of historical discourse regarding colonial New England."--Wilcomb E. Washburn, director of the Office of American Studies, Smithsonian Institution "A cogent, sophisticated, and balanced study of Indian-white contact. Gracefully written, subtly argued, and well informed, it is a work whose implications extend far

beyond colonial New England."--Richard White, Michigan State University"This is ethno-ecological history at its best . . . American colonial history will never be the same after this path-breaking, exciting book."--Wilbur R. Jacobs, University of California, Santa Barbara"A brilliant performance, from which all students of early American history will profit."--Edmund S. Morgan, Yale University