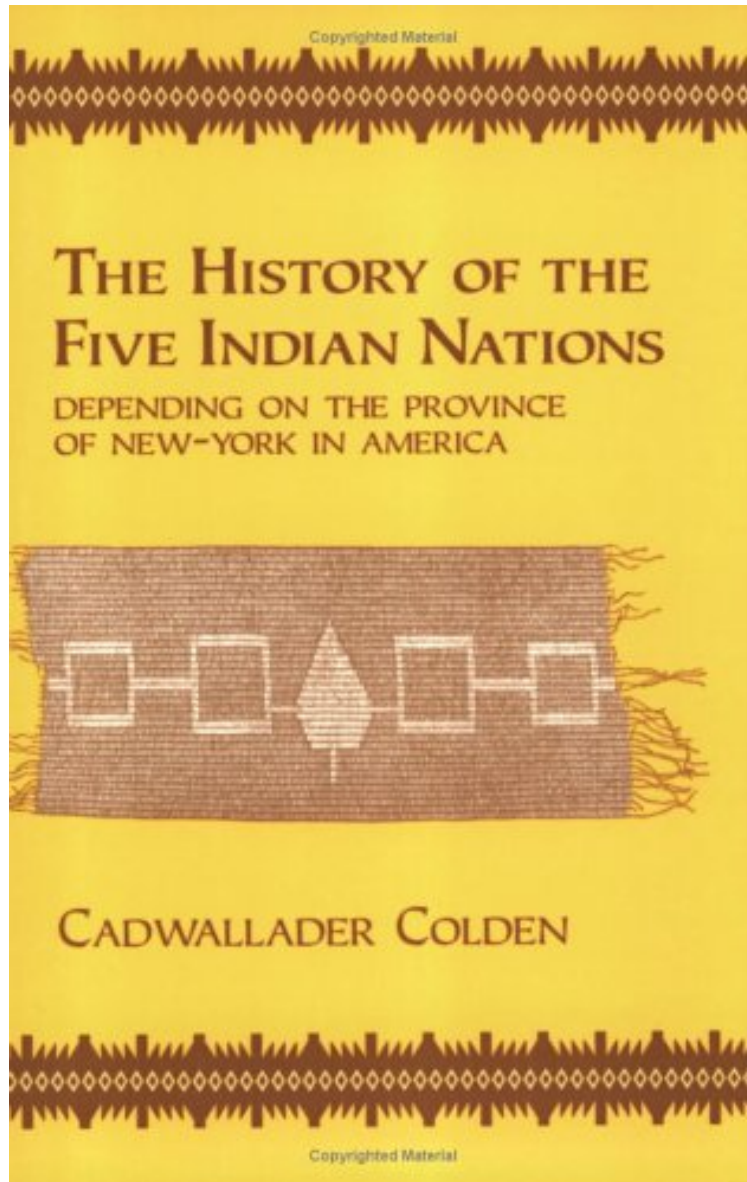


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Cadwallader Colden

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Cadwallader Colden : The History of the Five Indian Nations (Cornell Paperbacks) (Great Seal Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of the Five Indian Nations (Cornell Paperbacks) (Great Seal Books):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ye Olde english writing at its bestBy K. ShoopThis is a very revealing book. It is mostly a synopsis from then existing French and English documents in their dealings with the "locals" of the time, as long as a few first hand accounts by the author. For seventeenth century english, it is not as confusing to read as most. It also sheds light on the way the English (mis)handled the Iroquois, and how most of the five nations remained firmly in their corner anyway, at least most of the time. Some of the Horrors committed by the Indians and the French (which the French properly and proudly document) actually turned my stomach, and did indeed, as Mr. Colden writes, "offend my Christian sensibilities." Nonetheless, you will learn much of Northeastern Indian customs by reading this book, along with where the English failed in their relationships with these loyal people.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent readingBy Lyle J. MateyThis is a must read for anyone studying the history of early Indian Nations in America from one of the best historians from that era

Cadwallader Colden.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. First American HistoryBy Paul WilliamsThis Cornell paperback edition is quite good, well bound, good print, a decent size. It does not contain all the introductory material that some other editions contain, but none of them have much biography of the author. The original book was in two volumes published a number of years apart; all modern versions I have seen are one volume. Colden came from the British isles after education as a physician. My recollection of the reading I've done about him is that it was at Edinburgh University that he got his advanced schooling. His mother was on a trip to Ireland when he was born. After his first trip to America he returned to Britain to marry. He became the Surveyor General of New York Colony. That meant he travelled the territory a great deal. Since being a physician meant knowing plants which were the medications of that day, he soon documented his observations of plants in New York. He had many children, but it was one of his younger ones, Jane Colden, who did one of the first botany books of the colony. It was not published until modern times but has distinct, accurate drawings of leaves and plant characteristics. (Unfortunately, she married a man by the name of Farquhar (sp), an Englishman, and they left the colonies at the time of the Revolution; she died giving birth to her first child.) Colden corresponded with Benjamin Franklin, and with other colonial officials. He established communication with Linneaus and is credited with introducing the Linnean (scientific) naming system to the Americas.

The colonial scholar and political leader Cadwallader Colden was among the most learned American men of his time, and his history of the Iroquois tribes makes fascinating reading. The author discusses the religion, manners, customs, laws and forms of government of the confederacy of tribes composed of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, and gives accounts of battles, treaties, and trade with these Indians up to 1689. The book consists of Part I (1727) and Part II (1747) of The History fo the Five Nations. The text is reprinted from the 1866 reprinting of the original editions.

"No collection pretending an interest in Indian or Colonial affairs should be without this contemporary account."Library Journal

About the AuthorCadwallader Colden (16881776), an educated Scottish emigrant and powerful colonial politician, was at the forefront of American intellectual culture in the mid-eighteenth century.