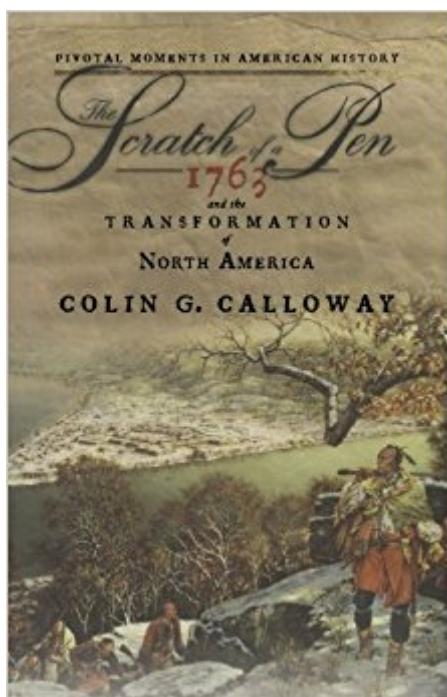


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The Scratch Of A Pen: 1763 And The Transformation Of North America (Pivotal Moments In American History)



Synopsis

In this superb volume in Oxford's acclaimed Pivotal Moments series, Colin Calloway reveals how the Treaty of Paris of 1763 had a profound effect on American history, setting in motion a cascade of unexpected consequences, as Indians and Europeans, settlers and frontiersmen, all struggled to adapt to new boundaries, new alignments, and new relationships. Britain now possessed a vast American empire stretching from Canada to the Florida Keys, yet the crushing costs of maintaining it would push its colonies toward rebellion. White settlers, free to pour into the West, clashed as never before with Indian tribes struggling to defend their way of life. In the Northwest, Pontiac's War brought racial conflict to its bitterest level so far. Whole ethnic groups migrated, sometimes across the continent: it was 1763 that saw many exiled settlers from Acadia in French Canada move again to Louisiana, where they would become Cajuns. Calloway unfurls this panoramic canvas with vibrant narrative skill, peopling his tale with memorable characters such as William Johnson, the Irish baronet who moved between Indian campfires and British barracks; Pontiac, the charismatic Ottawa chieftain; and James Murray, Britains first governor in Quebec, who fought to protect the religious rights of his French Catholic subjects. Most Americans know the significance of the Declaration of Independence or the Emancipation Proclamation, but not the Treaty of Paris. Yet 1763 was a year that shaped our history just as decisively as 1776 or 1862. This captivating book shows why. Winner of the Society of Colonial Wars Book Award for 2006

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Dartmouth historian Calloway (author of the outstanding *One Vast Winter Count: The Native American West Before Lewis and Clark*) tells a spellbinding tale of a year in American history. In 1763, with the peace treaty that ended the French and Indian War, France and Spain handed over all the territory east of the Mississippi, as well as Canada, to the British. In this one stroke, settlers both on the East Coast and on the frontier came under British rule. Calloway's enthralling chronicle follows the lives of settlers, Indians and immigrants as this new British rule affected them. He demonstrates convincingly that the seeds of the American Revolution were planted in 1763, as a near-bankrupt Britain began to impose heavy "taxation without representation." The year brought bloody skirmishes between Indians, who were being pushed off more of their lands, and settlers; Calloway also narrates the expulsion of Acadians from Nova Scotia and their resettlement in Louisiana. This first-rate cultural history, part of Oxford's *Pivotal Moments in American History* series, reveals that the events of 1763 changed not only the political geography of a nation but also its cultural geography, as various groups moved from one part of the country to another. B&w illus., maps. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In North America in 1763, people were on the move, some under compulsion, some under their own volition, many under arms. The ensuing cultural and political collisions are Calloway's theme as he surveys the consequences of the French and Indian War. A historian of American Indian history, Calloway ably delivers on his introductory promise to explain how the war's territorial transfers impacted countless people. Immediately objecting to their abandonment, in their perception, by the French and accurate in their belief that the victorious British came to conquer, the Indians of the Ohio country raised the tomahawk in Pontiac's War. The war heralded that adjustments to the new imperium would be required of every ethnic group: the southern Indian tribes; British settlers surging over the Appalachians; the French inhabitants of Canada, Illinois, and Louisiana; and the Spanish colonists of East and West Florida. Imbued with cultural erudition and diplomatic insight, Calloway's study sequences perfectly with Fred Anderson's *War That Made America* (2005). Gilbert TaylorCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this compelling study, Colin Calloway offers ample evidence for including the year 1763 among the "Pivotal Moments in American History", the Oxford University Press series to which this book belongs. Calloway states that his intention "is not to retell the familiar story of the growing rift

between Britain and her thirteen colonies, nor simply to narrate the events of just one year," but rather to assess "the enormous changes generated by the Peace of Paris...[and] their impact on many societies and countless lives in North America" (p. 14). Calloway succeeds marvelously. By connecting political events with social and cultural history, Calloway takes his readers on a panoramic tour of North America in the wake of the 1763 Treaty of Paris, the hard-bargained peace accord that formally ended the Seven Years' War (more commonly referred to as the French and Indian War in Britain's American colonies). Borrowing a phrase from Francis Parkman, a nineteenth-century Whig historian with whom Calloway shares little interpretative ground, Calloway illustrates how "the scratch of a pen" in Europe dramatically affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, including Native Americans, Britons, Canadians, and American colonists (p. 15). Calloway successfully combines a broad portrait of North America with closer inspection of specific regions, important episodes, and interesting individuals. His treatment of the 1763 Indian uprising generally referred to as Pontiac's Rebellion is particularly enlightening, as Calloway makes a thoroughly convincing argument that Native peoples struck the first blows for self-determination and home rule in Britain's new North American empire, rejecting British hegemony more than a decade before the American colonists asserted their own independence. Although Calloway devotes most of the book to canvassing attitudes and conditions found in Indian country, there is ample coverage of events in the thirteen colonies to provide a well-balanced history. Colonial angst over British efforts to preserve the interior of the continent for Native Americans and colonists' resentment against the British government's new and expanded taxation programs are important parts of Calloway's story and crucial developments in the chain of events that ultimately pushed Americans toward open rebellion. Not to be overlooked is Calloway's assessment of Canada and Louisiana. When those two regions changed hands at the end of the war, it immensely impacted the lives of their residents. For this reviewer, those chapters were among the most enlightening and compelling of the book. "The Scratch of a Pen" must be included on the list of required readings for any who wish to understand the origins of the American Revolution. By delineating how the peace treaty that ended the Seven Years' War had a more lasting effect in North America than did the war itself, Calloway has greatly bolstered the growing inclination of historians to dig for the roots of American independence in the fertile ground of the final imperial struggle for mastery of North America.

This is a detailed overview of the affects of the French and Indian War. It's not about the war itself, but the consequences of the war and the treaty that ended it. The relations among the English,

French and various Native America tribes, were all impacted by the change in the balance of power. The Native Americans had good relations with the French traders. When the British took over the area between the Appalachians and the Mississippi River, the relation with the Indians changed. The British acted less like trade partners and more like conquerors. Jeffrey Amherst was notable in not wanting to placate the Indians, but rather to show them who is the boss. This caused a lot of conflict, like Pontiac's War. In addition to discussing the events in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, and Ontario, there is also a good overview of the French Acadians and their travel to Louisiana. The Spanish in Florida and the Spanish take over of the French land west of the Mississippi are also covered. These topics are not usually given much coverage in writings about this time between the wars. Some of the comments have mentioned that the book is an overview, and not a comprehensive history. But this period of history is often forgotten and not very well known. An overview is a great introduction. It gives the reader a good understanding of the events. A large, academic tome would be overkill for the average person interested in history.

Easily the very best book that I've found, so far, on the question of "What was perhaps the single most important reason for which the mid-eighteenth-century colonists in America chose to fight that bloody and quite costly war of independence from England in the first place?". In "The Scratch of a Pen", author and Dartmouth College history professor Colin Calloway presents us with what I consider an extremely accurate historical account of what began to take place in the American colonies immediately after the Royal Proclamation of 1763 was signed into law by England's King George III. Whether it was Mr. Calloway's intent or not, after reading the book I came away with the fairly firm conclusion that the reason was a fairly simple one: that is, it was mainly because those land-owning, slave-holding elites among the colonists at the time, which included such well-known figures as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, were fiercely determined to somehow find a way to acquire legal ownership to large tracts of that vast territory that lay west of the Appalachian Mountains which, due to the provisions of the Royal Proclamation, was now officially protected and controlled by England and was more-or-less totally off-limits to all except the local Indian populations and those who were authorized by the British government to trade with them. And so it seems, at this point, that the uncontrollable desires of the wealthiest of those "elites" to acquire portions of that territory for themselves - one way or another - was just too much to resist, and plans were almost immediately set into motion by them which led, approximately thirteen years later, to the signing of The Declaration of Independence and to the protracted war that followed. ("And the rest", they say, "is history") A highly recommended book for anyone who is interested in American

history, and especially recommended for those, like me, who have always had a somewhat difficult time believing that the American Revolution was fought due mainly to the founding fathers' overwhelming respect for the concepts of "liberty and freedom" and to their supposed "outrage" over the price of tax stamps and tea.

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