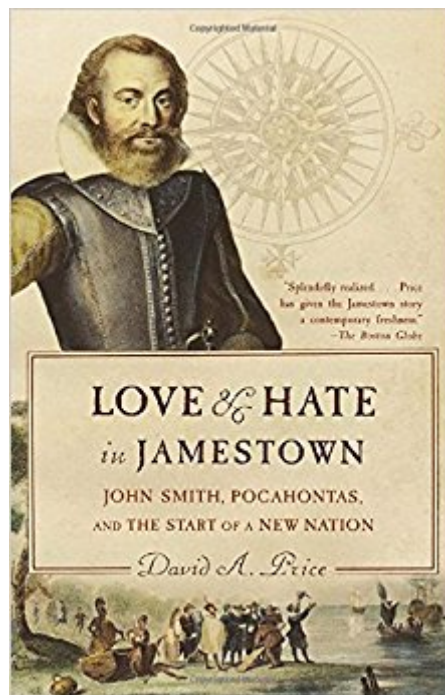


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Love And Hate In Jamestown: John Smith, Pocahontas, And The Start Of A New Nation



Synopsis

A New York Times Notable Book and a San Jose Mercury News Top 20 Nonfiction Book of 2003
In 1606, approximately 105 British colonists sailed to America, seeking gold and a trade route to the Pacific. Instead, they found disease, hunger, and hostile natives. Ill prepared for such hardship, the men responded with incompetence and infighting; only the leadership of Captain John Smith averted doom for the first permanent English settlement in the New World. The Jamestown colony is one of the great survival stories of American history, and this book brings it fully to life for the first time. Drawing on extensive original documents, David A. Price paints intimate portraits of the major figures from the formidable monarch Chief Powhatan, to the resourceful but unpopular leader John Smith, to the spirited Pocahontas, who twice saved Smith's life. He also gives a rare balanced view of relations between the settlers and the natives and debunks popular myths about the colony. This is a superb work of history, reminding us of the horrors and heroism that marked the dawning of our nation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This sparkling book retells a beloved tale in modern terms. Journalist Price's subtitle suggests that the book might be only about John Smith and Pocahontas—who "crossed into one another's cultures more than any other Englishman or native woman had done"—as well as about Pocahontas's eventual husband, John Rolfe. Fortunately, the book ranges more widely than that. Price relates the entire riveting story of the founding of Virginia. Smith is of course at the center of the tale, because rarely did a colonial leader so bountifully combine experience, insight, vision, strength of character

and leadership skills to overcome extraordinary odds. But no one will come away from this work without heightened admiration also for the natives, especially Chief Powhatan, and greater knowledge of the introduction of a third people, African slaves, into the Chesapeake. The book's leitmotif is the interaction of differing cultures and men, like the British gentry, whom Smith scorned for refusing to adapt to hard colonial labor, and the wily Indians, who resorted to starving out the colonists and in 1622 massacred many of them. If there's a fault in a work built unobtrusively on the best scholarship, it's Price's insistence that we see Virginia principally as a place that rewarded courage and hard labor-for white men-in the service of self-advancement and personal liberty. Such a place it was. But it was also for all participants a site, at the start of the nation's history, of danger, horror and death. This is a splendid work of serious narrative history. 2 maps. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Adult/High School--A richly flavored, fascinating narrative of the first two decades of the Jamestown settlement. Price has drawn on a wealth of primary sources, but details don't interrupt the flow of the story. As a mercenary in the Netherlands and Romania, and a slave in Turkey, Smith learned the importance of communicating in new languages and understanding unfamiliar cultures. He developed the skills that would later enable him to stand between the fragile new colony and disaster. The author describes the establishment of the Virginia Company and provides intriguing portraits of the new colonists. Parts of the tale sound surprisingly modern. Fearful that bad news would spook investors and discourage future colonists, the company censored accounts of hardship in letters coming from Virginia. Despite demands from London to cultivate more corn and less tobacco, tobacco always sold at much higher prices, and so remained the crop of choice, even when the colonists were forced to buy corn from the natives. Although reliable information about Pocahontas is incomplete, Price's depiction of the bright, compassionate princess is warm and admiring. Smith's return to England to recover from an injury resulted in disaster for Jamestown. The inexperienced former courtiers made incredible errors that led to the Starving Time and massacres. The author describes these horrific events in graphic detail. The book concludes with an account of Smith's writings and an analysis of the man's vision of America.--Kathy Tewell, Chantilly Regional Library, VA 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.

David A. Price writes a singularly outstanding account of the Jamestown Colony. Jamestown is the first permanent English settlement in the New World. Jamestown is a business venture-a get rich

quick scheme that turns out to be a multi-year disaster that includes a long "Starving Time" winter. Price writes very frankly about the situation. The first wave of colonists are mostly gentlemen class Englishmen who don't know how to work and instead scheme and plot and fall into bickering. They are rescued by the Captain John Smith, who figures out how to deal with the Indians, and organize the place. Eventually, the colony becomes the seed stock of a new nation. All of this—from the first arrival of the English to the colony's eventual incorporation into a Crown Colony following two bloody Indian Wars involved a great many details. There are triumphs, disasters, intrigues and financial matters including stocks and lotteries. This is carefully explained by the author. Additionally, the author has an extra section where he examines the interpretations of John Smith and Pocahontas. The two, he argues, were not lovers as she was too young for that sort of thing. Also, Price dismisses the thoughts that Smith was spared execution as the whole thing was a staged event as part of an "adoption ceremony." He also discusses the anti-Smith/Pocahontas literature that emerged in the North at the time of the Civil War and afterwards. Much of that turns out to be anti-South propaganda in the Orwellian "He who controls the present, controls the past" sense. Price goes on to describe John Smith's later work, as an author of plans to settle the North—a place Smith named New England. Smith is never hired on as a colonial advisor again but his writings are not ignored—an exiled group of English religious dissidents carry out his plan. In sum, this book is a highly entertaining, well written account of Jamestown.

I loved this book! I have a whole new perspective and understanding regarding the beginnings of our nation. Human nature never changes...jealousy, power struggles, and greed basically forced John Smith out of Jamestown and the New World. But even from afar his influence was a major contribution to the successful building of a new nation. Full of facts.. but written in such a way that the story unfolds naturally, I thank David Price for this fascinating and honest (as possible through historical data) account of the people of Jamestown, their relationship with the Powhatans, and the sketchy business of trade and colonization. Thank you David!

[...]Last year I went on a family vacation to Virginia. We stayed in an antebellum home overlooking the James River. As part of our trip, we visited the historical site of Jamestown, which was truly a pleasure since I have such an interest in America history. I wandered around the gift shop of the Jamestown museum and one book in particular--Love & Hate in Jamestown--caught my eye. Recognizing my own ignorance of much of the details of the Jamestown saga I decided to read what David A. Price had to say about a pivotal moment in our nation's history before it was our

nation. Love & Hate in Jamestown is a great book. Its brevity is certainly a strength for many readers who aren't willing to dedicate weeks and weeks, hours and hours reading about one particular topic. At the same time, the book doesn't feel as if it's being unfair to the personalities and events it discusses. I would have liked some additional details at various points in the book and was disappointed when the author moved in another direction so quickly, but the complaint is minor seeing as how there is a multitude of books on the same topic which could enrich my knowledge even more of this important time. David A. Price does a wonderful job, in my opinion, of being fair while dealing with some very harsh realities between the colonists of Jamestown and the 'savages' in their midst. It reminded me so much of reading Nathaniel Philbrick's *Mayflower* as he described the pilgrim's interactions with the natives in Massachusetts. There were faults, misunderstandings, civility, incivility, kindness, and brutality from both sides. The treatment of the Native Americans during the colonization era can be politically charged, but Love & James in Jamestown leaves most of the politics behind and allows the reader to merely observe. Love & Hate in Jamestown is very much worth reading, and I would recommend it without hesitation. It's not burdensome to read, and it reveals a fascinating part of America's past before it was America. Love & Hate in Jamestown is a fine choice for any Thousand's list.[...]

I thought this was an articulate treatment of the events that occurred in the first successful English settlement in America. The details are rich and fascinating using a lot of original source material, without being dry. My only complaint is that in several chapters Price reverses in time to explain other events that have happened and it is not always clear at first that he has gone back to an earlier date. It makes the text slightly confusing at times. I would highly recommend to anyone who is interested in American colonisation or history in general.

This provides an accurate account of the history of Jamestown in an easy to read narrative form. The author uses actual written accounts to explain specific events.

One of the few historical books I've read that is sufficiently detailed as to provide context to the overall story, but not too detailed as to lose the reader in irrelevant minutia. The book takes the reader from the very first seeds that became Jamestown and up to the point where its legacy was firmly established in American history. The reader truly learns to appreciate how Jamestown was the template that established the American legacy of reaping personal rewards through hard work and perseverance. It was at Jamestown that the seeds of freedom and self-sufficiency were

established, and this book enables the reader to see clearly how those virtues came to be established in the American psyche.

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