Readings I Bibliography: Colonial America and the Atlantic World

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This is in no sense a comprehensive listing of works in colonial and Atlantic history. Rather, the list serves three purposes. First, it is the basis for the colonial questions in the Stage I PhD examination. Students taking that examination are assumed to have read about 120-150 books from this list, and to have studied in all six areas of the list. In meetings before the examination with the early American common examiner, students generally select certain areas in which to read more broadly and certain areas to read only the most important works. The list provides a starting point for this reading. Second, the bibliography is used to select books for Readings in American History I (16:510:555). In a typical fourteen week course, the instructor will assign at least two books (plus articles) from each of the six areas of the list, and two additional books from any area that she or he wishes. This helps students gain an appreciation of the breadth of the field and is a starting point for their study for the Stage I examination. Third, the list provide background reading, especially for those in 19th-century or modern American history, for teaching an introductory survey of American history. For this reason, the list includes for each area citations of published Sources and Surveys. While the surveys may help in studying for the Stage I examination, these works are included primarily to help with teaching. The “Sources” sections is obviously not comprehensive. Rather, we have highlighted source collections that are in print and in paper edition; a number of these come from the Bedford/St. Martin’s series of “A Brief History with Documents” [indicated below as B/SM]; you are encouraged to look at the entire series, many volumes of which are not included here.

Area 1: Contact

A. Theorizing the Atlantic World


Bernard Bailyn, Atlantic History: Concept and Contours (Harvard, 2005)

Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs and Steel (Norton, 1997) [Prologue and Part II only]

John Elliott, Empires of the Atlantic World (Yale, 2006)


**B. Glimpsing the Pre-Columbian Past**

Inga Clendinnen, *Aztecs: An Interpretation* (Cambridge, 1992)


**C. Encounters**


James Lockhart, ed., *We People Here: Nahua! Accounts of the Conquest* (UCLA, 1993)


Nicolás Wey Gómez, *Tropics of Empire: Why Columbus Sailed South to the Indies* (MIT, 2008)

**D. Spanish Settlement / Borderlands**

James Brooks, *Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship and Community in the Southwest Borderlands* (Chapel Hill, 2002)


Maria Elena Martínez, *Genealogical Fictions: Limpieza de Sangre, Religion, and Gender in Colonial Mexico* (Stanford, 2008)


-----, *Malintzin’s Choices: An Indian Woman in the Conquest of Mexico* (New Mexico, 2006)


Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away* (Stanford, 1991)


**E. French Settlement / Borderlands**


Bruce Trigger, *Natives and Newcomers: Canada’s Heroic Age Reconsidered* (McGill, 1985)

**F. Dutch and Early English Settlement**

Alan Gallay, *The Indian Slave Trade* (Yale, 2002)


Andrew Lipman, *The Saltwater Frontier: Indians and the Contest for the American Coast* (Yale, 2015).


Sources Area 1: Contact


Geoffrey Symcox and Blair Sullivan, eds., *Christopher Columbus and the Enterprise of the Indies: A Brief History with Documents* (B/SM, 2005).


Overviews Area 1: Contact

Area 2: Anglo Colonial Maturation

A. Early Modern England


B. New England and the Puritans


John Demos, *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America* (Yale, 1994)

Christine Heyrman, *Commerce and Culture: Maritime Communities of Colonial Massachusetts* (Norton, 1984)


Perry Miller, *The New England Mind, The Seventeenth Century* (Boston, 1939) - note this is often referenced as volume one of two Miller books entitled the *New England Mind*.

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**C. The Middle Colonies**


Marisa Fuentes and Deborah Gray White, eds., *Scarlet and Black: Slavery and Dispossession in Rutgers History* (Rutgers, 2016).


Brendan McConville, *These Daring Disturbers of the Public Peace: The Struggle for Property and Power in Early New Jersey* (Cornell University Press, 1999)

**D. Plantation Colonies** [See also: Area 3]


Paul Clemens, *The Atlantic Economy and Colonial Maryland’s Eastern Shore: From Tobacco to Grain* (Cornell, 1980)


### Sources Area 2: Anglo Colonial Maturation:


### Overviews Area 2: Anglo Colonial Maturation

Area 3: African Diaspora in the New World

A. Colonial Encounters


B. Atlantic Slave Trade


**C. Early Iberian America: the Spanish Caribbean as a Context**


Gwendolyn Hall, *Africans in Colonial Louisiana* (Louisiana, 1992)


**D. Early British Americas**


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**E. Slavery, Race, and Gender in North America**


**F. Slave Trade Abolition and Emancipation**


**Sources Area 3: African Diaspora in the New World**


**Overviews Area 3: African Diaspora in the New World**

Area 4: Material Worlds

A. Environment

Judith Carney and Richard Rosomoff, In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World, California, 2009


William Cronon, Changes in the Land (Norton, 1984)

Alfred Crosby, The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492, Greenwood, 1973

Katherine A. Grandjean, “New World Tempests: Environment, Scarcity, and the Coming of the Pequot War,” WMQ 68 (2011): 75-100


B. Animals in the History of the New World

Virginia De John Anderson, Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America, Oxford, 2004


Susan Scott Parrish, "The Female Opossum and the Nature of the New World,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3d Ser., LIV (July 1997), 475-514.


C. Natural History and Collecting


Susan Scott Parrish, *American Curiosity: Cultures of Natural History in the Colonial British Atlantic World*, UNC Press, 2006

Londa Schiebinger, *Plants and Empire: Colonial BioproSpecting in the Atlantic World*, Harvard, 2004

D. Science, Technology and Networks


Joyce Chaplin, Subject Matter: Technology, the Body, and Science on the Anglo-American Frontier, 1500-1676, Harvard, 2000


Neil Safier, Measuring the New World: Enlightenment Science and South America, Chicago, 2008


E. Material and Visual Cultures and Archaeology

Daniela Bleichmar, Visible Empire: Botanical Expeditions and Visual Culture in the Hispanic Enlightenment, Chicago, 2012


Richard Bushman, *The Refinement of America*, Knopf, 1992


Ilona Katzew, *Casta Paintings: Images of Race in Eighteenth Century Mexico*, Yale, 2004


**F. Medicine and Healing**


**Overviews Area 4: Material Worlds**

Area 5. The Eighteenth-Century

A. Colonial Society and Politics in the Eighteenth Century

Books:


Articles:


**B. Colonial Economy: Transition to Capitalism/Consumerism**

**Books:**


Christopher Clark, The Roots of Rural Capitalism: Western Massachusetts, 1780-1860 (Cornell, 1990).


David Hancock, Oceans of Wine: Madeira and the Emergence of American Trade and Taste (Yale University Press, 2009).

**Articles:**


C. Religion and Culture

Books:


**Articles:**


**D. Borderlands**
Books:


Seven Hackel, Children of Coyote, Missionaries of Saint Francis: Indian-Spanish Relations in Colonial California, 1769-1850 (2005)

Pekka Hämäläinen, The Comanche Empire (Yale University Press, 2008).

James H. Merrell, The Indians' New World: Catawbas and Their Neighbors From European Contact Through the Era of Removal (Chapel Hill, 1989).

Jane Merritt, At the Crossroads: Indians and Empires on a Mid-Atlantic Frontier, 1700-1763 (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2007).


Articles:


Jane Landers, “'In Consideration of her Enormous Crime': Rape and Infanticide in Spanish St. Augustine,” in Catherine Clinton and Michele Gillespie, eds., The Devil’s Lane: Sex and Race in the Early South: (Oxford, 1997), 205-217.


**E. British Empire**

Books:


Julie Flavell, *When London was capital of America* (Yale University Press, 2010).


Articles:


Sources Area 5: Eighteenth Century


Timothy J. Shannon, ed., *The Seven Years’ War in North America: A Brief History with Documents* (B/SM, 2014)

Overviews Area 5: Eighteenth Century


Area 6. The American Revolution and its Consequences

A. Coming of the American Revolution

Books:


Brendan McConville, *The King's Three Faces* (North Carolina, 2007)


Articles:


B. War for Independence

Books:


Andrew Jackson O’Shaughnessy, *The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire* (Yale UP, 2014)


C. The Critical Period and the Constitution

Books:


Merrill Jensen, *The Articles of Confederation: An Interpretation of the Social-Constitutional History of the American Revolution, 1774-1781* (Wisconsin, 1940)


**Articles:**


**D. The 1790s**

**Books:**


**Articles:**

Max Edling, “‘So Immense a Power in the Affairs of War”: Alexander Hamilton and the Restoration of Public Credit” *William and Mary Quarterly* 64 (2007): 287-326


E. The Jeffersonians in Power

Books:


**Articles:**


Andrew Shankman, “How Should We Think About the Election of 1800?” *Journal of the Early Republic* 33 (2013): 753-761

Herbert Sloan, “The Earth Belongs in Usufruct to the Living” in Peter S. Onuf, ed., Jeffersonian Legacies (Virginia, 1993), 281-315

Lucia Stanton, “‘Those Who Labor for My Happiness’” Thomas Jefferson and His Slaves” in Peter S. Onuf, ed., Jeffersonian Legacies (Virginia, 1993),


Sources Area 6: The American Revolution and Its Consequences

John C. Dana, The Revolution Remembered: Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence (Chicago, 1980)


Woody Holton, ed., Black Americans in the Revolutionary Era: A Brief History with Documents (B/SM, 2009)


Thomas P. Slaughter , ed., Common Sense and Related Writings (B/SM, 2001)

Overviews Area 6: The American Revolution and Its Consequences


