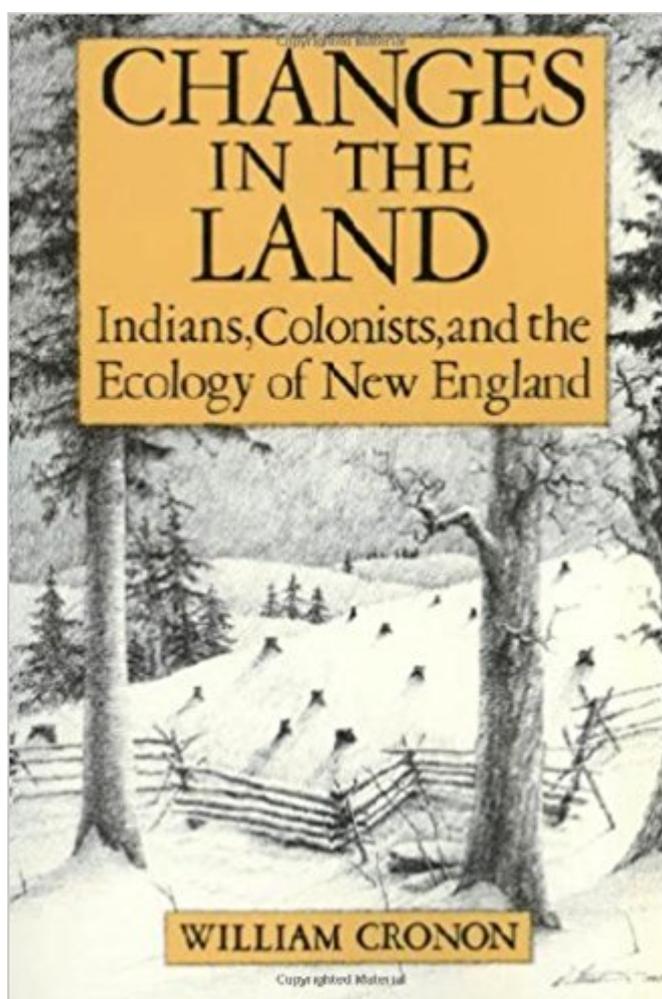


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Changes In The Land: Indians, Colonists And The Ecology Of New England



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

Paperback: 242 pages

Publisher: Hill and Wang (July 1, 1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0809001586

ISBN-13: 978-0809001583

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #62,601 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > Travel > United States > Northeast > New England](#) #54 in [Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Biology & Life Sciences > Ecology](#) #56 in [Books > History > Europe > Great Britain > England](#)

Customer Reviews

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. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

"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

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,

I received this book on time in better than expected condition. I've skimmed it and it's a great book about a subject of great interest.

Well written. Lots of information and I used it as a source for my Master's Thesis in History.

LOVE this book! I had to purchase it for a class, and have ended up really enjoying this historical accounting of early American ecology. This should be a required high school text in my opinion.

I'm in the middle of reading this book and I'm really enjoying it so far. Cronon is a precise and thoughtful writer who knows how to convey information well. I would definitely recommend this to anyone studying in the environmental field. Background information is always helpful.

Very informative

I bought this book because it was required for my US Environmental History class, but I did enjoy reading this. Although it told me basically what I already knew. I suggest it for the historian as well as environmentalists at heart.

This book was cheap, and was marked as used. That being said, it seemed to have a higher level of wear and tear than what I expected, but by no means was unreadable. On the plus side, all the important information was already highlighted!

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