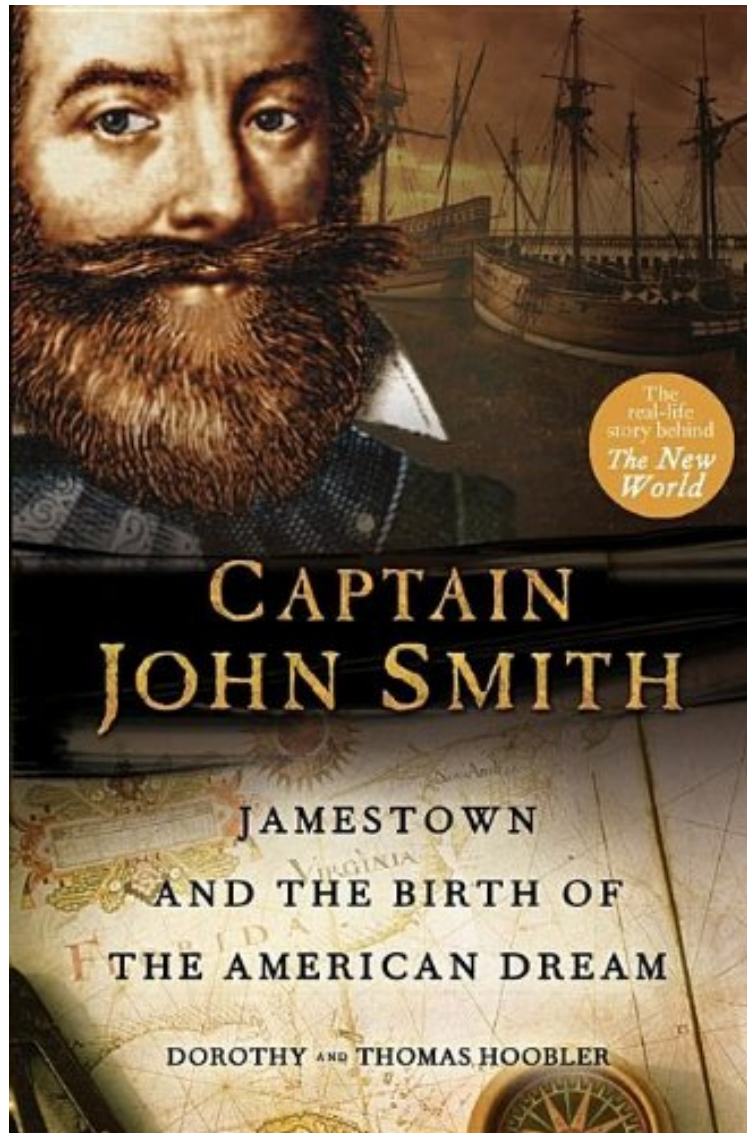


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Captain John Smith: Jamestown and the Birth of the American Dream

Thomas Hoobler, Dorothy Hoobler

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Thomas Hoobler, Dorothy Hoobler : Captain John Smith: Jamestown and the Birth of the American Dream before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captain John Smith: Jamestown and the Birth of the American Dream:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. John Smith--Renaissance Man--and a great story, tooBy Richard W. HudsonBefore listening to a brief lecture on John Smith from The Teaching Company, about all I knew was the Pocahontas story, like 99.99 percent of Americans. Well, let me say that this book does an excellent job of chronicling the "real" adventurous life of John Smith both before, during and (briefly) after Jamestown and the New World. While he had a combative side, he was certainly innovative and persistent and knew how to survive in tough situations. The real story of his meetings with Powhatan is far more interesting than the Disney story and the romantic legend. And you'll be surprised at stories of Smith winning three straight jousting battles to the death and later being enslaved in Turkey and escaping by killing his master. Smith certainly had luck or Divine Providence on his side as this book shows--he came close to dying at the hands of both the Native Americans and his fellow Englishmen on numerous occasions, as his feuds with higher-ranking but less prudent colleagues are detailed here. Indeed, one of the lasting impressions I carried from this book was that Smith never felt appreciated for his efforts to keep early colonies alive.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Factual History that is also a Great Read!By BoydAuthors have used multiple sources to separate the facts from the fiction surrounding the life and contributions of this early American icon. Reads like a great novel. Recommended to anyone interested in the early settlement of Virginia.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Engaging HistoryBy Mike FExcellent read. So much history has not highlighted about Captain Smith. Total enjoyment.

America was the place Smith had dreamed of his whole life. There, his character, determination, and ambition had propelled him to the top of society. He spent the rest of his life trying to return. Though he failed, he pointed the way for others, who were drawn by the dream that opportunity was here for anyone who dared seize it . . . Smith founded more than a colony. He gave birth to the American dream.--from Captain John Smith Captain John Smith tells the real story behind the swashbuckling character who founded the Jamestown colony, wrote the first book in English in America, and cheated death many times by a mere hairbreadth. Based on rich primary sources, including Smith's own writings and newly discovered material, this enlightening book explores Smith's early days, his forceful leadership at Jamestown that was so critical to its survival, and his efforts upon his return to England to continue settlements in America. This unique volume also reveals the truth behind Smith's relationship with Pocahontas, a tale that history has greatly distorted. Bringing to life heroic deeds and dramatic escapes as well as moments of great suffering and hardship, Captain John Smith serves as a great testament to this important historical figure.

From Booklist Of all the icons of early Virginia colonization, John Smith is the hardest to grasp. Most of the primary source "documentation" comes from Smith himself, and he was a notorious self-promoter. Still, he is undeniably an important historical figure, and the first third of the Hooblers' work provides valuable background information on Smith's early life. He was born in rural England to a family of yeomen, and he seemed to have absorbed their hopes of ascending to the status of "gentleman." Smith is portrayed here as ambitious, daring, and possessed of a questing, adventurous spirit, which led him to fight in the Netherlands, eastern Europe, and the Mediterranean. He was precisely the sort of rootless swashbuckler to try his luck in the wilds of Virginia. And it is there that the Hooblers' saga is most engrossing, painting a grim picture of the struggles of the colonists, and they convincingly illustrate Smith's key role in that struggle. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved From the Inside Flap In the predawn darkness of April 21, 1607, three small ships groped for landfall along the North American coastline. Confined below decks and most likely in chains was John Smith, a young, hot-tempered fellow accused of plotting mutiny and facing the possibility of execution. Many of the crew expected Smith to be hanged once they reached Virginia and were shocked when Smith was named as one of the seven people who would make up the governing council of the new colony, a decision made before the ships left England. This caused many to wonder: just who was this John Smith, this brash, red-bearded nobody who seemed to have such powerful connections? That question has been asked repeatedly for centuries; now, here is the most definitive answer. Captain John Smith explores the true history behind the man who would become the person most directly responsible for the survival of the Jamestown colony. Based on Smith's own writings which history has proven to be accurate and on letters and diaries from other Jamestown colonists and archives in both Virginia and England, this enlightening volume focuses in riveting detail on the years Smith spent in Jamestown and his efforts to promote the colony after his return to England, while also covering his swashbuckling earlier life. Using newly discovered material, historians Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler present a well-rounded portrait of the Jamestown colony and Smith's accomplishments there, as well as new information on the Native Americans Smith and the other colonists encountered. The famous tale of Smith and Pocahontas carried down through history has distorted and even falsified their actual lives, turning them into colonial America's Romeo and Juliet. The Hooblers demythologize Smith's relationship with Pocahontas who in reality was a preadolescent child and examine the truth behind her efforts to rescue Smith from death, possibly more than once. You'll experience all the heroic deeds, hairbreadth escapes, suffering, and glory of Smith's pre-Jamestown days stirring events that have all but been forgotten. You'll be there as he finds himself thrown overboard ships only to be rescued; joins in fierce battles only to be gifted with riches; and encounters a variety of efforts to kill him whether

by jousting battle, ambush, or execution only to find help from sympathizers. For Smith, it was often a case of the damsel helping the knight, appearing at a critical moment to spare his life yet again. His astounding ability to maneuver his way out of disastrous situations allowed Smith to make his mark but did he owe his success to cunning, talent, or sheer luck? As the settlement of Jamestown approaches its four hundredth anniversary, Captain John Smith leads the way with a thrilling, eye-opening account of this key figure in American history. From the Back Cover "America was the place Smith had dreamed of his whole life. There, his character, determination, and ambition had propelled him to the top of society. He spent the rest of his life trying to return. Though he failed, he pointed the way for others, who were drawn by the dream that opportunity was here for anyone who dared seize it . . . Smith founded more than a colony. He gave birth to the American dream." from Captain John Smith Captain John Smith tells the real story behind the swashbuckling character who founded the Jamestown colony, wrote the first book in English in America, and cheated death many times by a mere hairbreadth. Based on rich primary sources, including Smith's own writings and newly discovered material, this enlightening book explores Smith's early days, his forceful leadership at Jamestown that was so critical to its survival, and his efforts upon his return to England to continue settlements in America. This unique volume also reveals the truth behind Smith's relationship with Pocahontas, a tale that history has greatly distorted. Bringing to life heroic deeds and dramatic escapes as well as moments of great suffering and hardship, Captain John Smith serves as a great testament to this important historical figure.