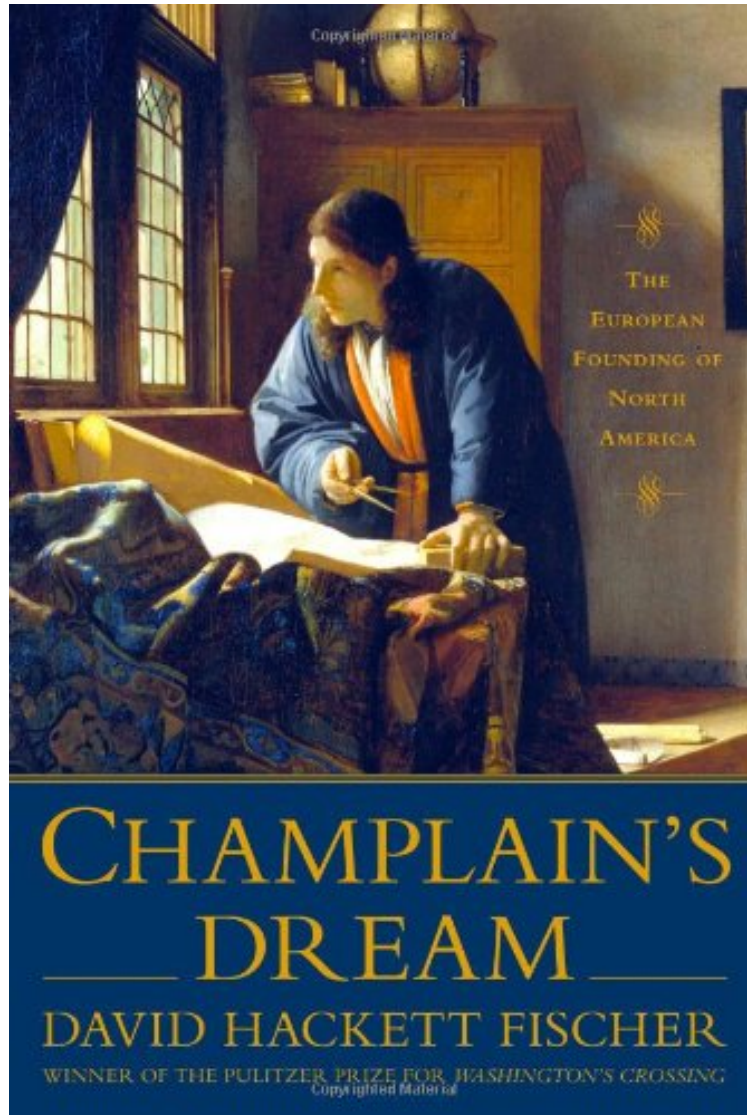


[Ebook free] Champlain's Dream

Champlain's Dream

David Hackett Fischer

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David Hackett Fischer : Champlain's Dream before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Champlain's Dream:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Problem with the kindle versionBy FroggyMI think the book itself is excellent. This is my first time reading a book by this author, and I am quite impressed. One of my favorite aspects of the paperback version is all the maps and images included in the text. The maps, especially, are important to understanding what's happening in the book.I also have the kindle version, which is much more amenable to my lifestyle than a heavy pile of dead tree. However, the image quality of the maps/images included in the kindle version

is just terrible. Very low res. It is no better on the iPhone kindle app on my iPhone, which has a much higher res screen than my Kindle 3. I'm not sure if this is an problem or a publisher problem, but the maps need to be very high res for them to be useful to the reader. At this point, if you're on the fence between paperback and kindle, I'd suggest the paperback version. Rating for the book itself: 5 stars Rating for the kindle version: 3 stars

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. chronique By Alain Nantel SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN Qui ne connat pas Champlain? Son nom voque pour la plupart le pre de la Nouvelle-France, le fondateur de la ville de Qubec et pour d'autres, un pont, un lac, un comt et pour les plus gs une marque de bire. Mais qui est derrire ce personnage historique? Qui est cet homme? C'est cette question qu'entreprend de rpondre le professeur David Hackett Fischer, historien amricain et gagnant du prestigieux Pulitzer Price for History en 2005. Dans sa rcente biographie "Champlain's Dream", l'auteur retrace l'itinraire de l'homme qui marqua le cours de l'histoire en Amrique du Nord. Des millions d'hommes et de femmes d'origine franaise provenant de l'Acadie, du Qubec, du Canada et des tats-Unis lui doivent leur prsence en terre d'Amrique. Mais ce livre fait surtout ressortir la personnalit de cet homme dans toute sa grandeur et dans toute sa complexit galement. Fischer utilise admirablement bien la forme narrative, rendant son rcit vivant et captivant. La description par exemple du clbre affrontement de Champlain avec les Iroquois Ticonderoga est tout simplement saisissante. De l'avis mme de l'historien qubcois Denis Vaugois, il s'agit de la biographie la plus complte de ce grand personnage historique. Champlain tait au dpart un militaire et un navigateur de premier ordre o il dveloppa ses grandes qualits de chef et d'organisateur. Mais sa passion pour l'exploration l'emporta et le poussa la dcouverte du nord de l'Amrique. Il parcourut de vastes tendues, representant de nos jours l'quivalent de six provinces canadiennes et de cinq tats amricains. Le plus souvent du temps, il tait le premier homme blanc voir ces contres sauvages. Ses qualits de cartographe lui permirent de laisser de nombreuses cartes fort prcises et d'tonnantes illustrations qui font encore l'admiration des gographes. Fischer puise abondamment dans les nombreux livres et les milliers de pages o Champlain dcrit ses expditions, ses rencontres et ses nombreuses activits relies sa vie de dcouvreur et de fondateur. De nombreuses pages sont consacres l'observation de la faune, de la flore, de la qualit des sols et du climat, Champlain tant toujours la recherche du meilleur endroit pour accueillir un nouvel tablissement. Mais ce qui distingue surtout Champlain des autres entreprises de colonisation du Nouveau Monde, c'est son comportement l'gard des peuples autochtones. Contrairement aux Espagnols qui ont asservi les indignes et aux Anglais qui les ont chasss pour s'appropriier leur territoire, Champlain s'approcha d'eux en ami, intress par leur culture et leurs habitudes de vie. Il cherchait tablir un lien de confiance et de respect permettant aux deux peuples de se ctoyer en paix et de s'associer ensemble l'dification de la premire colonie franaise, chacun y voyant son intrt. Par son sens profond de l'humanit, ce gentilhomme sut s'allier les Montagnais, les Algonquins et les Hurons au bord du lac du mme nom o il passa un hiver entier vivre avec eux. Quant aux Iroquois, il sut les neutraliser pour une bonne priode. Champlain avait un sens profond de la dignit de l'homme, de tous les hommes, quelque soient leurs origines ou leurs croyances. Il rvait de fonder un tablissement en terre d'Amrique qui deviendrait rapidement autonome et peupl de familles nombreuses qui sauraient s'y attacher pour y vivre en paix et prosprrer. Il rejetait l'id de d'un comptoir ou d'un simple poste de traite, tel que le dsiraient certains puissants intrts en France. Malgr tous les dboires et les nombreux obstacles, Samuel de Champlain prouva la satisfaction de voir la fin de ses jours la Nouvelle-France prendre forme tel qu'il en avait rv. Publie en 2008, cette biographie de Samuel de Champlain par David Hackett Fischer mrite de figurer au palmars des oeuvres offertes dans le cadre des ftes du quatre centime anniversaire de la fondation de la ville de Qubec, mme si cet ouvrage n'existe pour le moment qu'en anglais. Champlains's Dream. David Hackett Fischer. Simon Schuster, New York. 2008 334 pages

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Another Pulitzer? By Dr. Philip J. Kinsler This book is a massive, sweeping undertaking in the best tradition of historical writing, pulling together events, personalities, the philosophical zeitgeist of the time, and the cultural impact viewed from our times. David Hackett-Fisher portrays Champlain as unique among the explorers/colonists of North America in taking an open, humanistic, cooperative and curious view of the Native American tribes he interacted with. He sought alliances for mutual benefit, not conquest. He viewed the 'Indians' as fully his equal in competence, intelligence, ability to adapt to the environment, and personal power and dignity. He kept his word, honored his agreements, and was respected in Indian oral traditions hundreds of years later. Hackett-Fisher gives a glimpse of what might have developed had Champlain explored further south, and planted a colony at NY prior to the Dutch--might this continent have developed in a very different way? In following Champlain's life, Hackett-Fisher writes an easy to read and compelling narrative. It is a pleasure to read. The book is a lavish work. There are illustrations and maps galore. The places mentioned in the text are actually present on the maps, a pet peeve of mine. There are illustrations of historical artifacts such as an Iroquois war club, and fascinating asides, such as this club was often used for a final strike to put a dying warrior out of their misery--thus the invention of the phrase coup-de-grace. This story of the founder of New France portrays a man far ahead of his times, and with attitudes towards 'the other' that we would still do well to emulate. Champlain's life and Hackett Fisher's book illustrate history as compelling moral story with lessons for our time. A terrific book. One other less happy thought from this writer's point of view. It seems that now, when one writes a serious work of history, one writes the book, and then has to write almost an entire additional book defending why you wrote the original book the way you did. The 'historiography' section of this book is virtually 250 pages in length itself, with analysis of preceding historical viewpoints, bows to

their contributions etc. For this non-professional historian reader, this was too much. Whatever happened to writing one's book, giving a note to sources, and publishing journal articles about how you arrived at your interpretations? This reader found the Appendixes, from A through N, unnecessarily detailed and tedious.

In this sweeping, enthralling biography, acclaimed historian David Hackett Fischer brings to life the remarkable Samuel de Champlain -- soldier, spy, master mariner, explorer, cartographer, artist, and Father of New France. Born on France's Atlantic coast, Champlain grew to manhood in a country riven by religious warfare. The historical record is unclear on whether Champlain was baptized Protestant or Catholic, but he fought in France's religious wars for the man who would become Henri IV, one of France's greatest kings, and like Henri, he was religiously tolerant in an age of murderous sectarianism. Champlain was also a brilliant navigator. He went to sea as a boy and over time acquired the skills that allowed him to make twenty-seven Atlantic crossings without losing a ship. But we remember Champlain mainly as a great explorer. On foot and by ship and canoe, he traveled through what are now six Canadian provinces and five American states. Over more than thirty years he founded, colonized, and administered French settlements in North America. Sailing frequently between France and Canada, he maneuvered through court intrigue in Paris and negotiated among more than a dozen Indian nations in North America to establish New France. Champlain had early support from Henri IV and later Louis XIII, but the Queen Regent Marie de Medici and Cardinal Richelieu opposed his efforts. Despite much resistance and many defeats, Champlain, by his astonishing dedication and stamina, finally established France's New World colony. He tried constantly to maintain peace among Indian nations that were sometimes at war with one another, but when he had to, he took up arms and forcefully imposed a new balance of power, proving himself a formidable strategist and warrior. Throughout his three decades in North America, Champlain remained committed to a remarkable vision, a Grand Design for France's colony. He encouraged intermarriage among the French colonists and the natives, and he insisted on tolerance for Protestants. He was a visionary leader, especially when compared to his English and Spanish contemporaries -- a man who dreamed of humanity and peace in a world of cruelty and violence. This superb biography, the first in decades, is as dramatic and exciting as the life it portrays. Deeply researched, it is illustrated throughout with many contemporary images and maps, including several drawn by Champlain himself.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . Fischer, Pulitzer Prizewinner for Washington's Crossing, has produced the definitive biography of Samuel de Champlain (1567-1635): spy, explorer, courtier, soldier, sailor, ethnologist, mapmaker, and founder and governor of New France (today's Quebec), which he founded in 1608. This extraordinary and flawed individual was a man of war who dreamed of establishing a peaceful nation in the New World. Fischer once again displays a staggering and wide research, lightly worn, including no fewer than 16 fascinating appendixes covering everything from the Indian Nations in Champlain's World, 1603-35 to Champlain's preferred firearm. The bibliography is equally impressive, and the same should be said of Fischer's literary skills and approach. He does not have a thesis, or a theory, or an ideology, but instead answers questions (Who was this man? What did he do? Why should we care?) to weave together his epic story. With 2008 the 400th anniversary of the foundation of New France, the time is ripe for this outstanding work. 16 pages of color photos; bw photos, maps. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine Regarding the history of European settlement in North America, David Hackett Fischer has been around the block. It is no surprise, then, that Champlain's Dream speaks with authority on the relatively unknown biography of one of the period's leading figures. Fischer's solid, comprehensive and ultimately sympathetic portrayal of the enigmatic Champlain rekindles the consequences of European settlement in the Americas. Throughout, the author maintains a professional interest in separating fact from fiction: "Because he is a rigorous historian, not a historical novelist, [Fischer] is always scrupulous about drawing a firm line between facts and inferences," claims the reviewer for the New York Times Book Review. With the exception of the Washington Post's critic, who cites poor "skills as a narrative historian," critics agree that Fischer's effort is both important and admirable. Copyright 2008 Bookmarks Publishing LLC From Booklist * Starred * Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec four centuries ago, and the intervening years have seen his historical treatment swing from hagiography to iconoclasm. Noting the extremes, Fischer seeks out a realistic Champlain in his formative influences, personal qualities, and purposes in establishing New France. Not surprisingly from the author of the outstanding Washington's Crossing (2004), Fischer marvelously achieves his aim. Framing Champlain's maturation within France's religious civil wars, Fischer argues that his experience with atrocity and fanaticism caused Champlain to aspire to a more equitable and humane pacification of conflict, the dream Fischer's title references. In practical terms, Champlain's military and maritime education in the 1590s schooled him in the conduct of arms and ships vital to the explorations on which he subsequently embarked, while his possible status as an illegitimate son of King Henri IV might have been a factor in the royal support he obtained for his ventures. Narrating Champlain's activities in North America is where Fischer excels, both in his chronicle of events and his analysis of Champlain's leadership, political and commercial backing, and diplomacy with the native peoples.

Fischers comprehensive, incisive portrayal will enthrall the Age of Discovery audience. --Gilbert Taylor