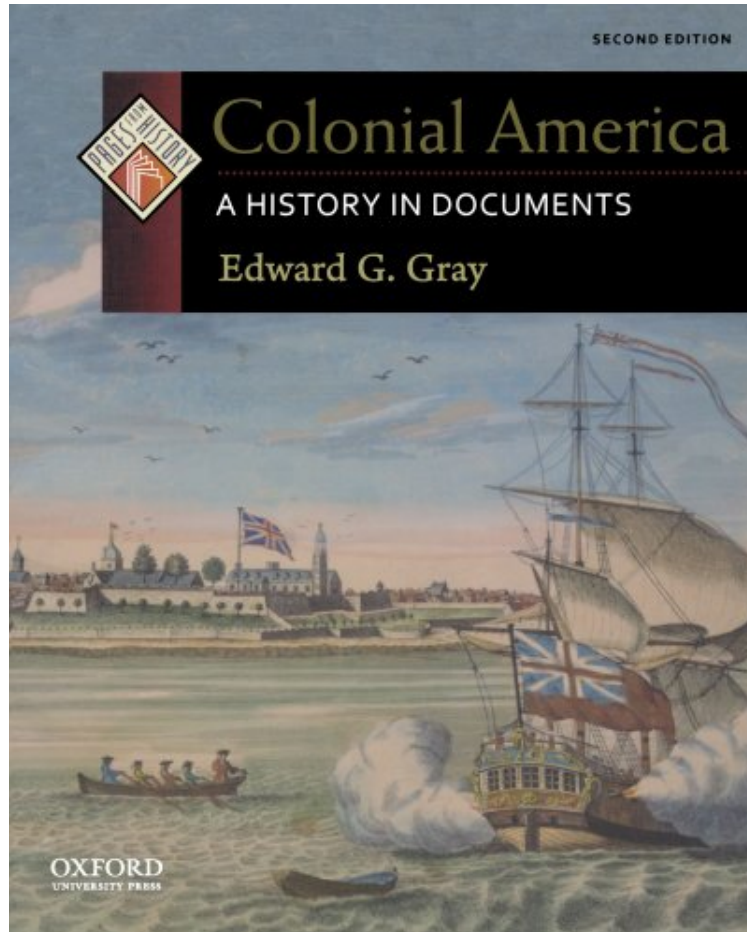


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Colonial America: A History in Documents (Pages from History)

Edward G. Gray

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Edward G. Gray : Colonial America: A History in Documents (Pages from History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Colonial America: A History in Documents (Pages from History):

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By examining the lives of the colonists through their own words--in diaries, letters, sermons, newspaper columns, and poems--Colonial America: A History in Documents, Second Edition reveals how immigrants, despite their vast

differences, laid the foundations for a new nation: the United States. One of the earliest documents is Sir Walter Raleigh's account of the failed colony at Roanoke, the first British settlement. The harrowing experiences of the first colonists are recorded in Captain John Smith's tale of Indian attack and starvation at Jamestown and in a young Massachusetts colonist's letter to his English parents pleading for supplies. A Catawba Indian's letter to the governor of South Carolina describing a devastating smallpox epidemic is evidence of the even greater toll that war and illness had on the Native Americans. From these difficult beginnings, the colonies developed into vibrant communities. A poem by a young Englishman sentenced to be deported is the story of one laborer who helped build the colonies. An exchange of letters between friends about choosing a husband provides insight into colonial family life. The title page of a book about evil spirits and a Mohawk Indian's telling of the creation myth demonstrate the diversity of colonial religious beliefs. American colonists were also guided by secular codes of behavior. Young George Washington's exercise book filled with rigid rules of conduct exemplifies the manners and mores of the colonies' future leaders. A picture essay about the material world gathers objects ranging from military artifacts to fine furnishings to reveal how the colonies evolved from rough outposts to near-independent states. Using such historical evidence, *Colonial America* provides a captivating look at the textured lives of the people who founded the United States. The second edition includes a new chapter, "The Tumult of Empire," on the imperial tensions that erupted during this period and the internal strife within the colonies, as demonstrated in the violence of Bacon's Rebellion, Governor Andros's harsh ruling over the Dominion of New England, the overturning of provincial regimes in response to William and Mary's Glorious Revolution, and the golden age of piracy. Twenty-eight new visual documents enrich this edition, including a map of Native American villages, a proclamation on the destruction of forests, and Hippopotamus hide whips used on slaves. Ten new sidebars provide shorter documents, such as John Winthrop's journal entry on the effects of the English Civil War in Massachusetts, a 1730 poem about growing Philadelphia, and a 1743 newspaper advertisement aimed at German-speaking colonists. There is a new note on sources and interpretation and there are updates to the further reading and websites recommendations.

From School Library Journal Grade 7 Up—This excellent series addition presents excerpts from printed and pictorial primary sources that together form a compact portrait of the Colonial era in America, from the late 15th century through 1763. Eight thematic chapters treat English and European expansion, the process of settlement, Native Americans and the colonists, indenture and slavery, family life, religion, the genteel classes, and common material goods and luxuries. Each chapter begins with concise introductory remarks that create a clear context for the lists, letters, drawings, maps, portraits, ads, diagrams, news stories, diary entries, poems, and other documentation that follow. Additional cogent commentary and analysis by Gray appears in boldface type between the primary documents. Short sidebar quotations and black-and-white illustrations enhance both the content and the attractive layout. Text and picture credits are given in a separate appendix. Useful appended material also includes a time line, suggestions for further reading subdivided by topic, and an adequate index. A fine source for reports about this period. Starr E. Smith, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist ed with John J. Patrick's *The Bill of Rights*. Gr. 9-12. The latest volumes in the *Pages from History* series spotlight topics from American history, featuring excerpts from source documents, which are introduced, occasionally explained, and put into context by Gray and Patrick's discussions. The large pages are divided into wide inner columns, which carry the main text, and narrow outer columns, in which short quotations, brief commentaries, and definitions sometimes appear. Reproductions of period documents, maps, art, and artifacts illustrate the texts. *Colonial America* presents a wide variety of documents thematically arranged in chapters discussing topics such as colonial confrontations with Native Americans and slavery. One chapter uses photos and texts to spotlight colonial American homes and artifacts. Beginning with English common law, *The Bill of Rights* covers not only the British and colonial background but also issues, actions, and court cases challenging and clarifying the rights, from the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 to a 2000 Supreme Court decision involving prayer before a public school football game. One unusual chapter commenting on both the right to bear arms and the right to free expression looks at gun control through the medium of political cartoons. Both books offer broad, varied representations of their topics through well-chosen selections of original documents supported by solid background information. Each volume concludes with a time line and a bibliography. Carolyn Phelan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "[Editors Gray and Kamensky] bring us essays that go international, 'institutional,' and 'cultural' while bridging patrician-plebeian divides. ... [A] very useful entry in the Oxford Handbook series." -- s in *American History* "...[T]he worldwide reach of the revolution is the overarching theme. Most entries link the lives of participants - and victims - in surprising ways to the larger picture. ... This is a comprehensive introduction to current trends in the historiography of the American Revolution. Recommended." --CHOICE "[A] once-in-a-generation reassessment of scholarship on [the American Revolution and the Founding Fathers]." --Verso: Blog of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens