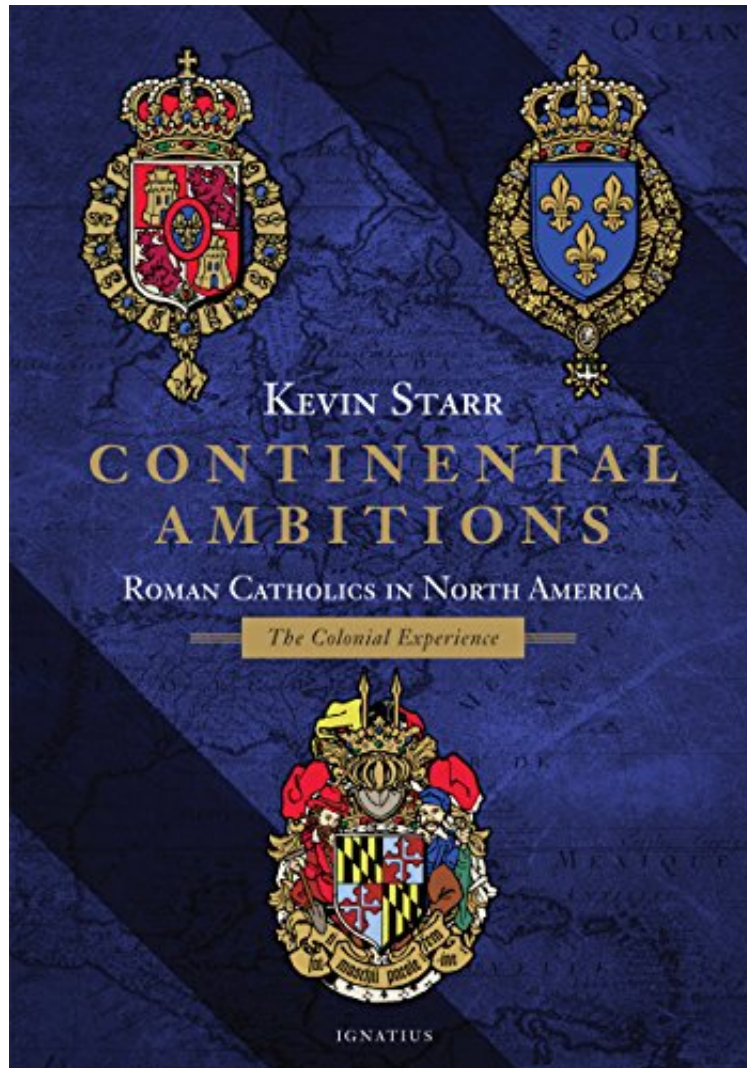


[FREE] Continental Ambitions: Roman Catholics in North America: the Colonial Experience

Continental Ambitions: Roman Catholics in North America: the Colonial Experience

Kevin Starr

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Kevin Starr : Continental Ambitions: Roman Catholics in North America: the Colonial Experience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Continental Ambitions: Roman Catholics in North America: the Colonial Experience:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. It would make an excellent resource for a graduate history course on the subject ...By SusanThis volume is well written and covers the subject well. It would make an excellent resource for a graduate history course on the subject of the Church's role in the European incursion in and domination of the North

American continent. It is not light reading. I would suggest reading it in portions, according to the divisions provided by the author. Over all, the facts related in this book can be quite depressing, even if, and especially since they really took place, a point the author regularly relates. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Kevin Starr has made a major contribution to our understanding ...By Gil BailieKevin Starr has made a major contribution to our understanding of the role that Catholic Christianity played in laying the foundation of the American republic. Continental Ambitions is a work of almost unimaginable scholarship written in clear and compelling prose. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An amazingly impressive intellectual work of history. A giant ...By Alice BealAn amazingly impressive intellectual work of history. A giant has left our midst. Well done work coming at the end of an impressive life of scholarship. Professor Starr will be missed on all levels.

Kevin Starr has achieved a fast-paced evocation of three Roman Catholic civilizations--Spain, France, and Recusant England--as they explored, evangelized, and settled the North American continent. This book represents the first time this story has been told in one volume. Showing the same narrative verve of Starr's award-winning Americans and the California Dream series, this riveting--but sometimes painful--history should reach a wide readership. Starr begins this work with the exploration and temporary settlement of North America by recently Christianized Scandinavians. He continues with the destruction of Caribbean peoples by New Spain, the struggle against this tragedy by the great Dominican Bartolom de Las Casas, the Jesuit and Franciscan exploration and settlement of the Spanish Borderlands (Florida, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Baja, and Alta California), and the strengths and weaknesses of the mission system. He then turns his attention to New France with its highly developed Catholic and Counter-Reformational cultures of Quebec and Montreal, its encounters with Native American peoples, and its advance southward to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. The volume ends with the founding of Maryland as a proprietary colony for Roman Catholic Recusants and Anglicans alike, the rise of Philadelphia and southern Pennsylvania as centers of Catholic life, the Suppression of the Jesuits in 1773, and the return of John Carroll to Maryland the following year. Starr dramatizes the representative personalities and events that illustrate the triumphs and the tragedies, the achievements and the failures, of each of these societies in their explorations, treatment of Native Americans, and translations of religious and social value to new and challenging environments. His history is notable for its honesty and its synoptic success in comparing and contrasting three disparate civilizations, albeit each of them Catholic, with three similar and differing approaches to expansion in the New World. "These accounts of a human drama heroic and villainous, saintly and sanguineous, are a feast for the historian and, more importantly, food for our generation starved of the story of its own past. The romantic whose knowledge is airbrushed and the cynic whose knowledge is cobbled together with clichés will jointly be challenged. For everyone, reading this book could be a transforming experience, and a delight as well." Fr. George Rutler, Author, He Spoke to Us: Discerning God in People and Events Kevin Starr's enthralling Continental Ambitions meticulously narrates the history of Catholicism as North America's first form of Christianity vividly present centuries before the waves of immigration that we typically associate with the formation of the American Catholic community. Charlotte Allen, Author, The Human Christ: The Search for the Historical Jesus To see in one book the history of Catholics in the New World, its glories and its tragedies, is almost like reading a secret history of a lost tribe. Kevin Starr's magisterial narration of European Catholic presence in North America the Norse, the Spanish, the French, the English, plus a few others is a contribution of the first order to our understanding of the whole foundation of this land of the free. James V. Schall, S.J. Professor Emeritus, Georgetown University

"Continental Ambitions is the book I have been craving for years. It is the first historical study I've ever read that explains my America, in which Catholicism is not marginal and Hispanics are not minor latecomers. Starr's vision is truly continental. For him, the West is not a nineteenth century Yankee frontier but the epic landscape that parallels (and often precedes) Puritan New England as foundational to American identity. Continental Ambitions is not just the history of the Catholic Church in North America but also the untold story of the United States." --Dana Gioia, Former Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts and Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture, University of Southern California "Continental Ambitions represents a major contribution to a fresh perspective on the European making of the New World. Guided by this narrative, we tread in the steps of intrepid men and women and come to measure their convictions and courage." -- Judge John T. Noonan, Jr., United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit "Many Americans, Catholics among them, know very little about the distinctive Catholic cultures that flourished in North America long before the Pilgrims and the Puritans arrived. Now, thankfully, we have Kevin Starr's scholarly but highly readable Continental Ambitions to fill the knowledge gap. The story it tells is not only fascinating in its own right but illuminating for the light it sheds on issues that remain part of the Catholic experience." --Russell Shaw, Author, Catholics in America About the Author Kevin Starr holds a B.A. from the University of San Francisco, an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University, and a Master of Library Science from U.C. Berkeley. He has served as the City Librarian of San Francisco and the State Librarian for California. He is currently a University Professor and a Professor of History at the University of Southern California, where he served for fifteen years as a director of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies. Starr's many articles and books, including his Americans and the California

Dream series, have earned him a Guggenheim Fellowship, election to the Society of American Historians and the American Antiquarian Society, the Presidential Medallion of the University of Southern California, the Centennial Medal of the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and the National Humanities Medal.