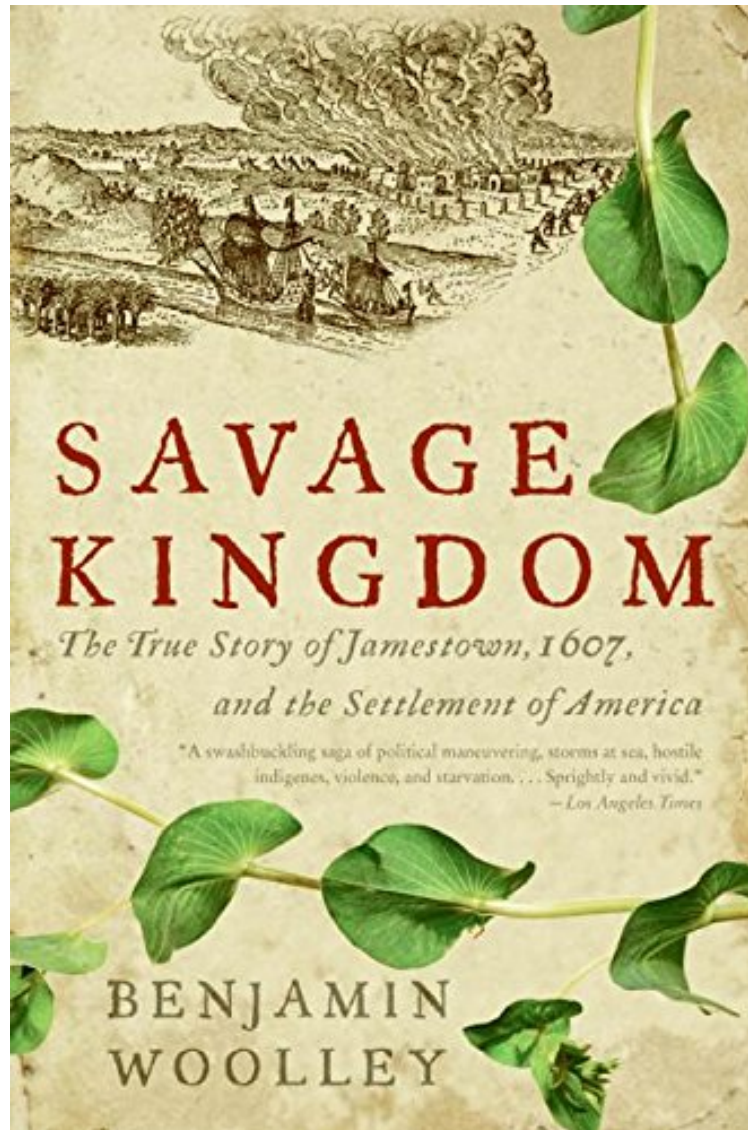


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Savage Kingdom: The True Story of Jamestown, 1607, and the Settlement of America

Benjamin Woolley

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Benjamin Woolley : Savage Kingdom: The True Story of Jamestown, 1607, and the Settlement of America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Savage Kingdom: The True Story of Jamestown, 1607, and the Settlement of America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How our country really got started
By SusanNever knew what a struggle Jamestown was. Also wondered why the Pilgrims in 1620 were considered the start of America when Jamestown was founded 1613 and still in existence? Maybe because Jamestown was a bloody starving story...not so nice. This book would make a good movie that could keep an audience's attention.
36 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Great stories about our first steps...
By Todd E. BabcockI came across this book after hearing the author interviewed on NPR on the anniversary of the Jamestown colony. From just the few minutes I managed to catch from that conversation the author had me rethinking my vague and mostly uninvestigated thoughts on that early settlement. Woolley has a great ability to take well researched and documented accounts and weave a compelling narrative without overly indulging in fantasy or sketches compiled of heresy or assumptions. What took me in about this book was just how much Byzantine politics and motives the early administrators of the colony had coming over from England. (i.e. aliases, spies, traitors, defectors, etc.) If you are interested in what the first steps were in The New World before Declarations and Revolutions and why they were made, I would check this out. It's an essential foundation if you are, like me, consuming our country's earliest intentions and ambitions that led us to where we are now.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By CustomerGood book. It was enough to wet my appetite for further reading.

Four centuries ago, and thirteen years before the Mayflower, a group of men led by a one-armed ex-pirate, an epileptic aristocrat, a reprobate cleric, and a government spy arrived in Virginia aboard a fleet of three ships and set about trying to create a settlement on a tiny island in the James River. Despite their shortcomings, and against the odds, they built Jamestown, a ramshackle outpost that laid the foundations of the British Empire and the United States of America. Drawing on new discoveries, neglected sources, and manuscript collections scattered across the world, Savage Kingdom challenges the textbook image of Jamestown revealing instead a reckless, daring enterprise led by outcasts of the Old World who found themselves interlopers in a new one.

From Publishers Weekly This highly readable account of the founding of Jamestown moves from the English throne to the daily struggles of the colony's first settlers and the experience of Virginia's Indians as their relations with colonists became increasingly strained. Here are the famous tales from early Virginia, like Pocahontas's marriage to John Rolfe. But well-known explorers sit cheek by jowl with fascinating, lesser-known people, such as the colonists' wives, who consulted an astrologer to reassure themselves about their husbands' fate on the open seas. Woolley emphasizes both the financial and religious aims of colonization: English backers expected to get rich on the bounty the settlers would uncover and produce (though the first ships of wood and iron ore sent back disappointed the London Company). But Englishmen also saw Virginia as a "religious mission," an opportunity to spread Protestantism abroad. Woolley persuasively argues that the settlers' aggressive response to a 1623 Indian attack became the "defining moment" in the history of English settlement of Virginia it was through this event, more than any other, that the colonists articulated their connection to their new land and "crafted and honed their American identity." Woolley blends nuanced analysis with fast-paced narrative. 16 pages of color illus. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist The 400th anniversary of the first American colony has stimulated renewed interest in the Jamestown settlement. Woolley tackles his subject with the same type of narrative gusto displayed by Nathaniel Philbrick in his best-selling *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War* (2006). Like Philbrick, his treatment of a legendary event and era in American history is comprehensive and myth shattering. In addition to analyzing the economic, social, and cultural roots of the fledgling colony, all the major historical players--and quite a few of the minor ones--are given their due. Approaching his subject from a number of angles, Woolley presents a revisionist portrait of the Jamestown colony. Without resorting to pedestrian platitudes, he evokes a stirring epic in American history in all its greed, gore, and glory. Margaret Flanagan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Brilliantly framed narrative fascinating. A well-told story." ---Kirkus Starred