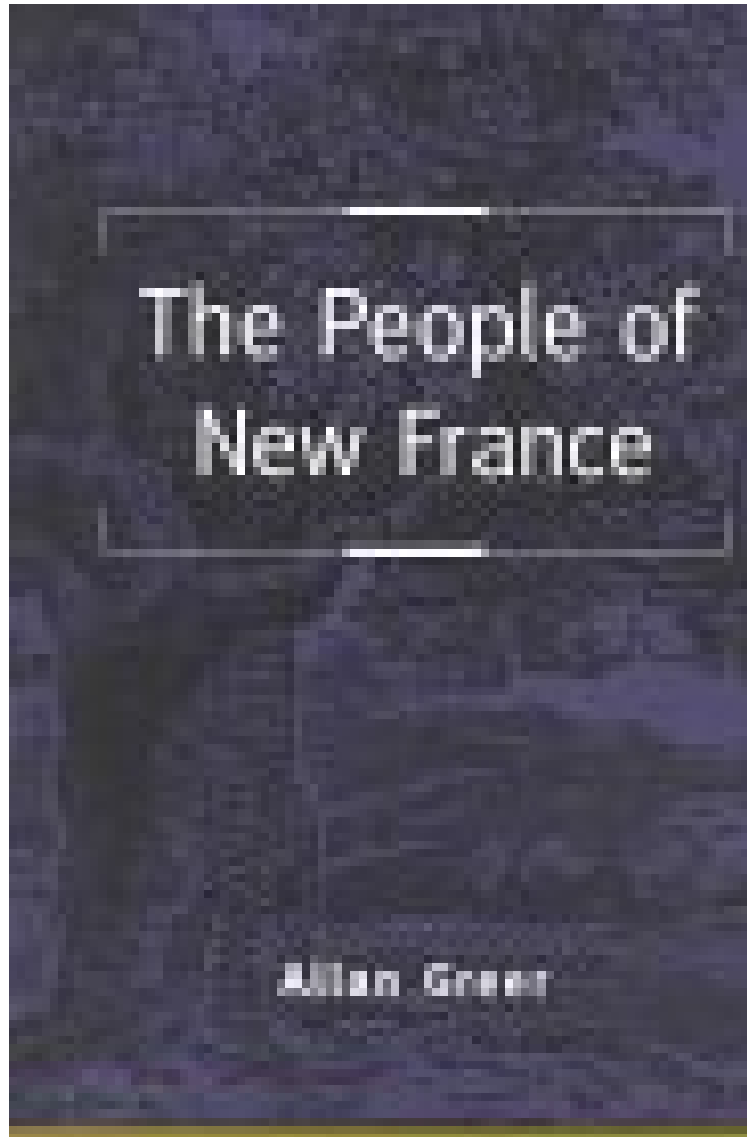


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## The People of New France (Themes in Canadian History)

*Allan Greer*

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**Allan Greer : The People of New France (Themes in Canadian History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The People of New France (Themes in Canadian History):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent readBy Gene LessardExcellent read. Gave me good insight into life in early Canada.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A short IntroductionBy joeAllen Greers book on the peoples of New France is very interesting and well written. He is able to give a good overview of the different peoples that lived within the colony of New France. He does not limit himself to Europeans and natives

but also slaves and servants. This is just a brief history but Greer is able to show important points that many historians would ignore. He looks at the daily lives of all different peoples of New France. The book is written in a very general way, so that any person could read and understand it. He does romanticize the history of New France and its people. This unlike many other histories is done very well. It gives the book a distinction from other books on New France usually portraying it as insignificant and a failed attempt at being an empire. The romanticism adds depth to the peoples lives, so that it is easy to understand what life was like in the colony. However the reader must be critical when reading the book due to its romanticized fashion. Greer at times gets caught up in what life was like in New France without pointing out problems of interpretation of sources or bias that may be involved. As well he does make generalizations, especially when referring to other colonial societies. In all it is a good book, perfect as an introduction to the study New France and no doubt gives the reader more to think about and further study regarding the people of New France.<sup>26</sup> of 26 people found the following review helpful. well-written introduction to interesting topic  
By A Customer  
The People of New France was written by Professor Greer with his undergraduate students in mind. This book is therefore comprehensive while being accessible. He includes chapters on the role of women and native people in colonial life: groups who were marginalized during the period and are still under-represented in historical work today. (However, his contention that New France was 'multicultural' is debatable.) Greer is a very good writer: after reading the book, you feel like you know what it was like to live in New France, which is reason enough to pick it up.

This book surveys the social history of New France. For more than a century, until the British conquest of 1759-60, France held sway over a major portion of the North American continent. In this vast territory several unique colonial societies emerged, societies which in many respects mirrored ancien regime France, but which also incorporated a major Aboriginal component. Whereas earlier works in this field presented pre-conquest Canada as completely white and Catholic, *The People of New France* looks closely at other members of society as well: black slaves, English captives and Christian Iroquois of the mission villages near Montreal. The artisans and soldiers, the merchants, nobles, and priests who congregated in the towns of Montreal and Quebec are the subject of one chapter. Another chapter examines the special situation of French regime women under a legal system that recognized wives as equal owners of all family property. The author extends his analysis to French settlements around the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi Valley, and to Acadia and Ile Royale. Greer's book, addressed to undergraduate students and general readers, provides a deeper understanding of how people lived their lives in these vanished Old-Regime societies.

About the Author  
Allan Greer is a Professor in the Department of History at McGill University.