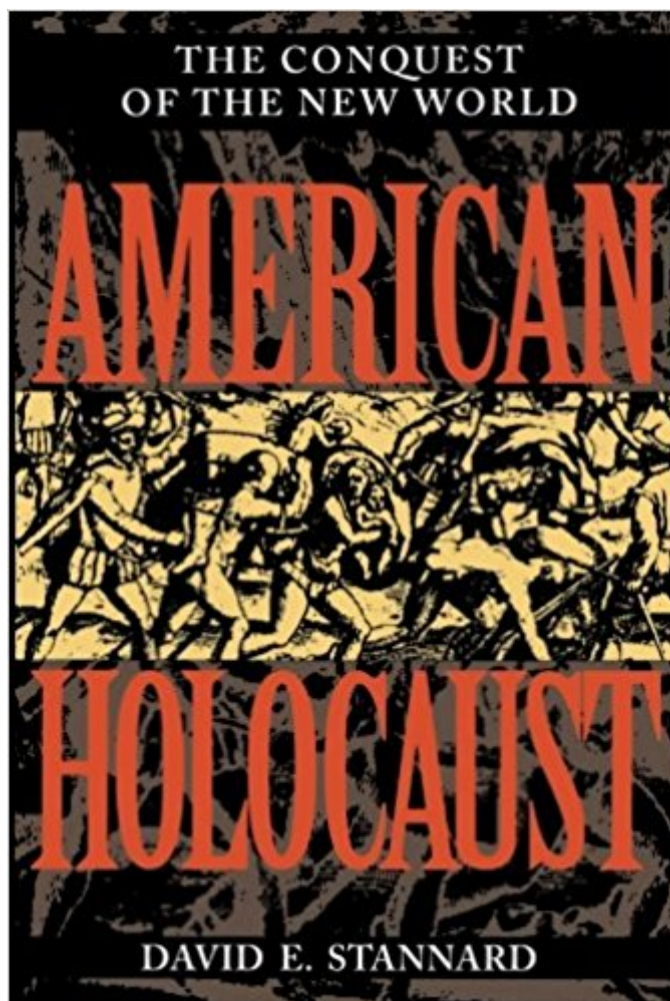


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American Holocaust: The Conquest Of The New World



Synopsis

For four hundred years--from the first Spanish assaults against the Arawak people of Hispaniola in the 1490s to the U.S. Army's massacre of Sioux Indians at Wounded Knee in the 1890s--the indigenous inhabitants of North and South America endured an unending firestorm of violence. During that time the native population of the Western Hemisphere declined by as many as 100 million people. Indeed, as historian David E. Stannard argues in this stunning new book, the European and white American destruction of the native peoples of the Americas was the most massive act of genocide in the history of the world. Stannard begins with a portrait of the enormous richness and diversity of life in the Americas prior to Columbus's fateful voyage in 1492. He then follows the path of genocide from the Indies to Mexico and Central and South America, then north to Florida, Virginia, and New England, and finally out across the Great Plains and Southwest to California and the North Pacific Coast. Stannard reveals that wherever Europeans or white Americans went, the native people were caught between imported plagues and barbarous atrocities, typically resulting in the annihilation of 95 percent of their populations. What kind of people, he asks, do such horrendous things to others? His highly provocative answer: Christians. Digging deeply into ancient European and Christian attitudes toward sex, race, and war, he finds the cultural ground well prepared by the end of the Middle Ages for the centuries-long genocide campaign that Europeans and their descendants launched--and in places continue to wage--against the New World's original inhabitants. Advancing a thesis that is sure to create much controversy, Stannard contends that the perpetrators of the American Holocaust drew on the same ideological wellspring as did the later architects of the Nazi Holocaust. It is an ideology that remains dangerously alive today, he adds, and one that in recent years has surfaced in American justifications for large-scale military intervention in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. At once sweeping in scope and meticulously detailed, *American Holocaust* is a work of impassioned scholarship that is certain to ignite intense historical and moral debate.

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Customer Reviews

Stannard (history, Univ. of Hawaii-Manoa), whose previous works include *Shrinking History: On Freud and the Failure of Psychohistory* (LJ 6/1/80) and *Before the Horror: The Population of Hawaii on the Eve of Western Contact* (Univ. of Hawaii Pr., 1989), turns his attention to the devastating impact of the European intrusion into the New World. He argues that with more than 100 million people the Americas were not the unpopulated open spaces so often described and notes the squalor and disease that dominated Europe in contrast to the relative peace and harmony that prevailed in the New World. The arrival of the Spanish and other Europeans, he argues, brought about a demographic disaster of incredible proportions--the largest genocide in history--as a result of disease and depredation, as well as through enslavement and outright massacre. Though Stannard tends to gloss over violence and intertribal warfare in pre-Columbian America and accepts accounts of Spanish atrocities by early chroniclers as well as high population estimates for pre-Columbian America, his is a carefully researched, well-written monograph based on the latest secondary sources. A provocative account for public and academic libraries.- Brian E. Coutts, Western Kentucky Univ. Libs., Bowling Green
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"A splendid antidote to those many books on American Indian policy that tend to ignore the realities of the subject."--Journal of American Ethnic History
"Superb scholarship and compellingly accessible presentation."--Professor Benjamin R. Tong, Ph.D., California Institute of Integral Studies
"American Holocaust is a substantial addition to the library of injustice toward American Natives....From an ethical standpoint, works such as Stannard's are necessary to counterbalance the ethnocentricities of past historical works on Natives. From an academic standpoint, the book is an interdisciplinary monument. The author has taken an incredible amount of data and applied contemporary anthropological, demographic, and historical techniques to synthesize a comprehensive piece of scholarship. American Holocaust will provide a desirable textbook for students at both the graduate

and undergraduate levels. Finally, scholars of Indian-white relations from various disciplines will find the book a valuable resource in terms of method and content."--Samuel R. Cook, *American Indian Quarterly*. "An important work that will have [Stannard] canonized by some and pillored by others by the end of the Quincentennial Year. It is the product of massive reading in the important sources, years of pondering, and fury at what Europe hath wrought in America....His convincing claim is that what happened was the worst demographic disaster in the history of our species, that Old World diseases and Old World brutality reduced the number of Indians enormously and drove away many Native American peoples over the brink of extinction. How convincing are his evidence and reasoning? Very, I am unhappy to say....Nothing can be done to improve the past, but we can at least face it. David Stannard insists that we do."--Alfred Crosby, *The Boston Sunday Globe*"Offers a much-needed counterbalance to centuries of romantic confabulation about the explorer."--The Los Angeles Times"Honest, factual, painful, powerful, inspiring!"--Zaher Wahab, Lewis and Clark College"Vivid and relentless, combining a formidable array of primary sources with meticulous analysis--a devastating reassessment of the Conquest as nothing less than a holy war."--Kirkus Reviews"We need to be reminded, again and again, of what Stannard speaks of as 'the treasure of a single life.' Stannard gives us a fine review of recent literature and a rousing, effective call to define our terms,'racism,' 'genocide,' and use them to describe what happened and still happens."--Ellen Nore, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville"A fascinating book, enormously impressive in its research and engaging in its style....Puts the Columbus story in philosophical and historical perspective. Further, it makes connections with our own time which are unsettling and profoundly important."--Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States*"A shattering realization is brought home: the German holocaust was not unique in history. There is a holocaust in our American past. We owe it to its victims, and to our own future, to reflect on Stannard's merciless book."--Hans Koning, author of *Columbus: His Enterprise*"In a thoroughly documented narrative, David Stannard demolishes a score of historical myths, and turns American Holocaust into a searing account of what happened in the Americas after the arrival of Columbus. It is a stirring and troubling book."--Dee Brown, author of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*"A landmark of necessary remembering, American Holocaust acutely dissects the demons driving the European invaders and presents the most compelling answer yet to the horrifying question of what it was like to be 'discovered.'"--Richard Drinnon, author of *Facing West: The Metaphysics of Indian-Hating and Empire-Building*"The book to read to understand the last five hundred years. Stannard has courageously documented the initial and continuing genocide of natives of the western hemisphere in an irrefutable and convincing manner."--Vine Deloria, Jr., author of *God is Red and Custer Died*

for Your Sins"A scholarly assemblage of articulate, absorbing facts."--KLIATT"The book offers an outstanding synthesis of pre-Columbian Indian history and demographics across the Americas. Students should find genocide thesis to be provocative."--Vincent Z. C. de Baea, Metropolitan State College"A much needed corrective to the centuries of heroizing regarding the impact of European expansion and colonization on the New World. No one can read this book and not be ashamed of the Janus face of the West's cultural and religious roots!"--Dr. Thomas B. Andersen, St. Michael's College"Good! Makes the students think about terms such as genocide, ethnocide, etc."--Clare McKanna, San Diego State University

This was hard to read because this is my history. This needs to be taught in schools to stop the ignorance of the so called society we are forced to live in today.

Great historical account and analysis. heavy opinions at the end about other holocausts. I recommend everyone should read this book

Fast delivery keep up the great work

The author did a very good job of presenting the facts. Many hours were spent searching the available documents to substantiate the facts. It is undeniable what horrid acts were inflicted on indigenous people. These truths should be incorporated into the American education system. This is our history. Tell it like it is. Wado Bob McFarlin

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So sad.

Take off your blindfold, Believe what you see. Inbred Traditions under a light. Hope you are ready for some surprise.

The book was for a class. It served it's purpose.

Best written report telling the TRUE story of the story of the founding of and early contacts in America between early explorers and indigenous people! It's about time that the truth is told!

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