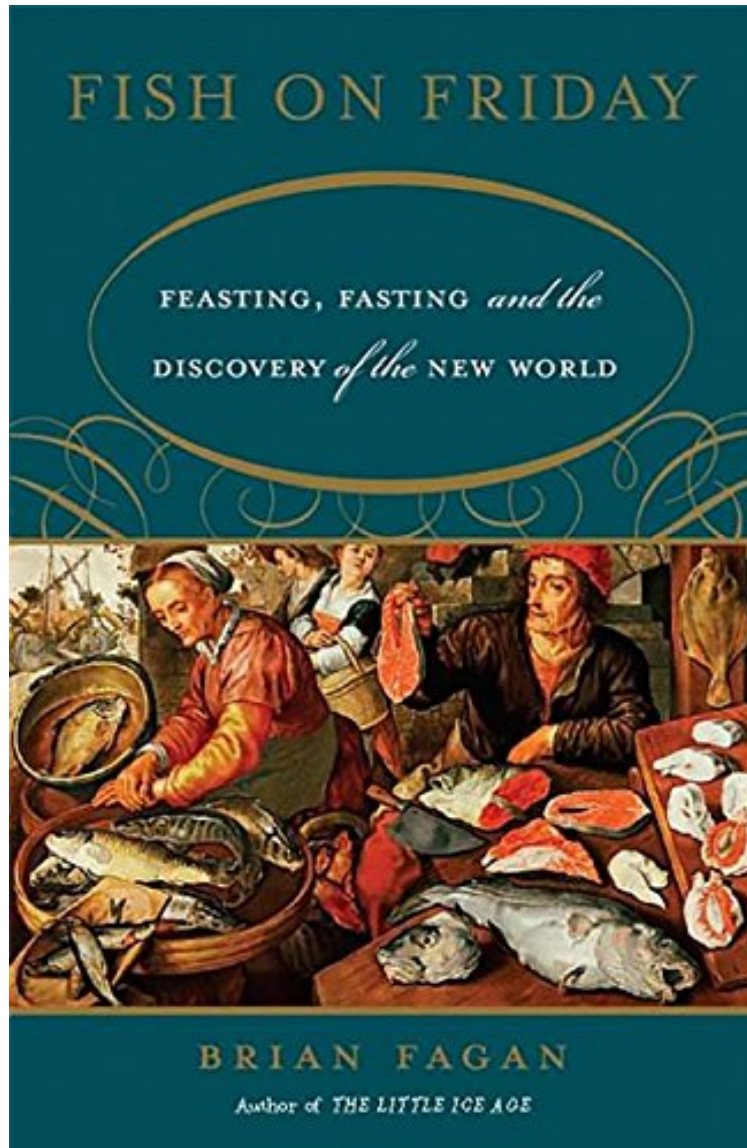


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# Fish on Friday: Feasting, Fasting, and the Discovery of the New World

*Brian Fagan*

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**Brian Fagan : Fish on Friday: Feasting, Fasting, and the Discovery of the New World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fish on Friday: Feasting, Fasting, and the Discovery of the New World:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Bit of FunBy Michael E. FitzgeraldBrian Fagan's Fish on Friday is

an interesting take on the progression over the centuries between the initial supply and demand factors for fish in early European history, to the remarkable strides made in preserving it before the advent of refrigeration and the resulting evolution of fishing in the North Atlantic. The time period covered stretches from 800 AD until just after the Puritans land in Massachusetts Bay. Along the way Fagan develops a most difficult theme, the history of fishing in the North Atlantic, the ship building technology advances that made it possible and the continual search for better and more productive fishing grounds that ultimately resulted in the discovery of the amazing fishery known as the Grand Banks off of Labrador. His theme is simple and therefore remarkably credible: Fishing, as a primary source for food production for European tables, predated the discovery of America. The ever increasing demand and the remarkably economic success of early voyages ultimately built an international business off the shores of North America hundreds of years before the voyages of discovery led by Christopher Columbus and John Cabot. By the time of Walter Raleigh's Jamestown and the Puritan's settlement at Plymouth Rock, hundreds upon hundreds of boats from all European nations were annually plying the water south of the Grand Banks. Who knew? In fact, so ill prepared were the early English colonists for survival along the American coast that without the fish purchased from the fishing fleets, these early colonies would have died of starvation. It is an interesting read, but as the previous reviewer has noted, it is a little dry in spots. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Repeat By ron vranich Highly repetitive and poorly written. The author's chronology is chaotic. A hundred page book stretched into two hundred. Nevertheless the book reveals a fascinating view of the "desolate" ocean Cabot, Columbus and the Pilgrims traversed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read and very well written. By elizabeth baker Lots of personal touches and good information tying climate and use of diet to the whole issue of how the continent was opened. This is one of my favorite books of his.

What gave Christopher Columbus the confidence in 1492 to set out across the Atlantic Ocean? Fish on Friday tells the story of the discovery of America as a product of the long sweep of history: the spread of Christianity and the radical cultural changes it brought to Europe, the interaction of economic necessity with a changing climate, and generations of unknown fishermen who explored the North Atlantic in the centuries before Columbus. A fascinating and multifaceted book, Fish on Friday will intrigue everyone who wonders how the vast forces of climate, culture, and technology conspire to create the history we know.

"Enthralling history of one of our basic foods." -- Anne Willan "A lively social history that will captivate readers of Mark Kurlansky and Jared Diamond." "Delightful.... The author's intelligence, erudition, and sheer enthusiasm for his subject shine through on every page." -- William Chester Jordan "Brian Fagan weaves a detective story of Friday fish-eating, climate change, and ship design to guess who beat Columbus to the New World." -- Jared Diamond About the Author Brian Fagan is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. A former Guggenheim Fellow, he has written many internationally acclaimed popular books about archaeology, including The Little Ice Age, Floods, Famines, and Emperors, and The Long Summer. He lives in Santa Barbara, California.