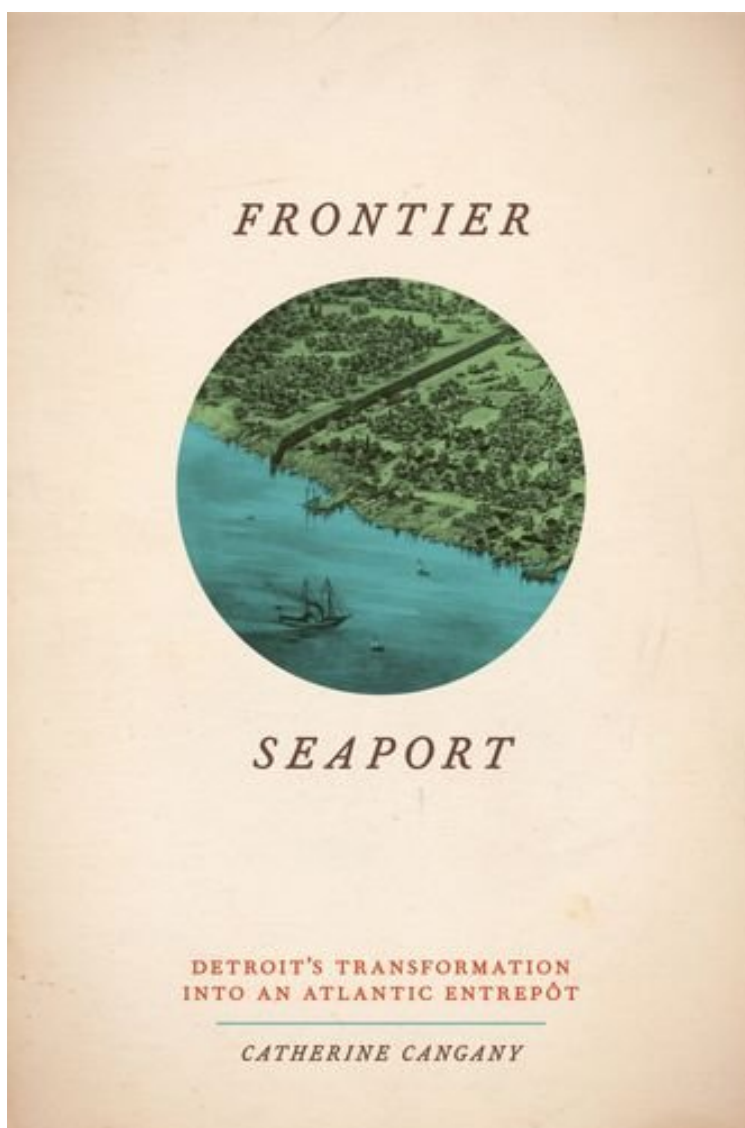


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## Frontier Seaport: Detroit's Transformation into an Atlantic Entrepot (American Beginnings, 1500-1900)

*Catherine Cangany*

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**Catherine Cangany : Frontier Seaport: Detroit's Transformation into an Atlantic Entrepot (American Beginnings, 1500-1900)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Frontier Seaport: Detroit's Transformation into an Atlantic Entrepot (American Beginnings, 1500-1900):

Detroit's industrial health has long been crucial to the American economy. Today's troubles notwithstanding, Detroit has experienced multiple periods of prosperity, particularly in the second half of the eighteenth century, when the city was the center of the thriving fur trade. Its proximity to the West as well as its access to the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River positioned this new metropolis at the intersection of the fur-rich frontier and the Atlantic trade routes. In *Frontier Seaport*, Catherine Cangany details this seldom-discussed chapter of Detroit's history. She argues that by the time of the American Revolution, Detroit functioned much like a coastal town as a result of the prosperous fur trade, serving as a critical link in a commercial chain that stretched all the way to Russia and China thus opening Detroit's shores for eastern merchants and other transplants. This influx of newcomers brought its own transatlantic networks and fed residents' desires for popular culture and manufactured merchandise. Detroit began to be both a frontier town and seaport city—a mixed identity, Cangany argues, that hindered it from becoming a thoroughly American metropolis.

In this thoroughly researched and well-written study, Catherine Cangany shows how the people of late-eighteenth-century Detroit participated fully in a vibrant Atlantic economy. Indeed, she demonstrates persuasively that traditional notions of a simple life on the frontier do not hold for this settlement. Detroit's entrepreneurs—Native Americans as well as Europeans—developed exciting new trade goods, such as moccasins, that sustained a sophisticated level of commerce. *Frontier Seaport* is an impressive and challenging accomplishment.