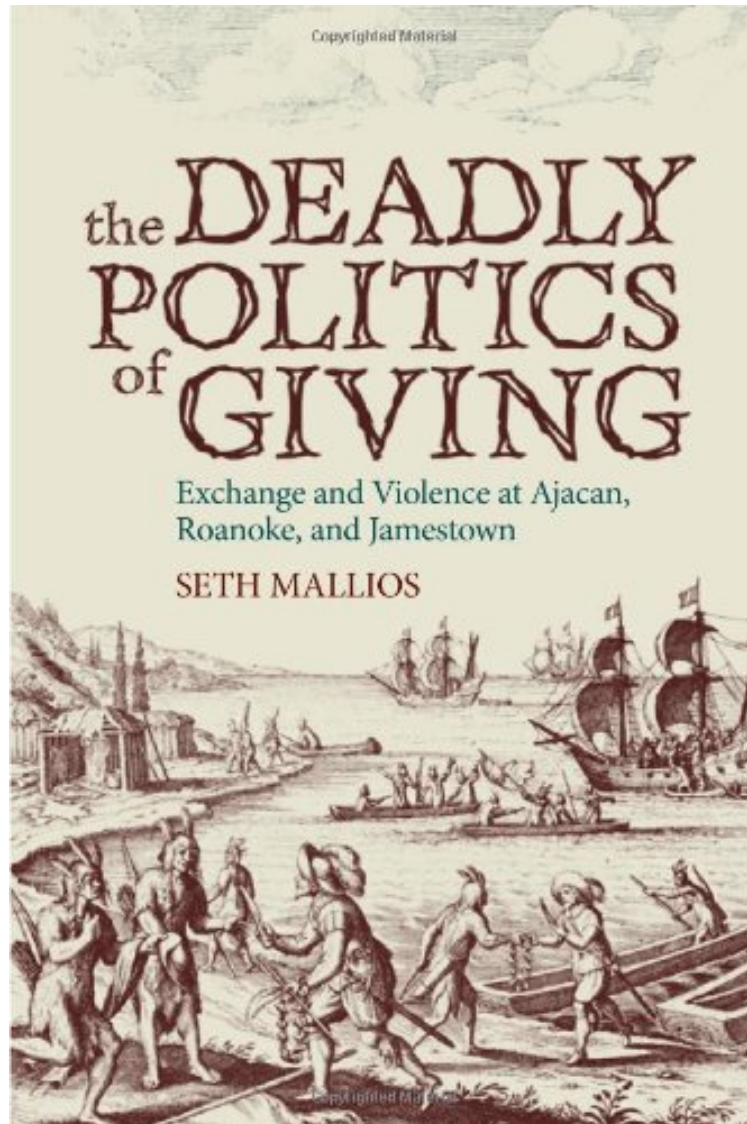


[Read now] The Deadly Politics of Giving: Exchange and Violence at Ajacan, Roanoke, and Jamestown

The Deadly Politics of Giving: Exchange and Violence at Ajacan, Roanoke, and Jamestown

Dr. Seth Mallios

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Dr. Seth Mallios : The Deadly Politics of Giving: Exchange and Violence at Ajacan, Roanoke, and Jamestown before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Deadly Politics of Giving: Exchange and Violence at Ajacan, Roanoke, and Jamestown:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Great look at the early days of colonial americaBy Lehigh History StudentSeth Mallois delivers an interesting anthropological/historical book on trade patterns in the early Chesapeake

area. He follows three different colonies and their attempts to start up and looks at the demise and troubles through the lens of trade. Using anthropological techniques he establishes a model based on trading patterns of societies which show how cultures expect to give and receive when they are establishing relations. The first colony Ajacan is a Spanish colony where Spaniards take food and give back holy sacraments leaving the Indians feeling cheated. One of the Indians who had traveled to Spain named Don Louis eventually tells the Spanish they will help build the church if they can borrow axes and promptly hack the Spanish to death keeping the axes as payment. The second colony tracked was the failed British colony at Roanoke which is covered in exquisite detail. It is very hard to find a concise summary of this doomed colony and it really falls to anthropologists and archeologists to do so as we don't have many documents giving us the details. We can see that the British lack of understating in relation to the culture of the Indians spurred many of the arguments that took place. The early trade was done well but lack of supplies and taking advantage of the Indians wore thin leading to attacks on the colony. Many Indians also saw the giving of European diseases which they believed Europeans controlled as tantamount to war and required sharp reprisals against the colonists. The third colony of Jamestown provides the best studies as there are written documents that outline what happened very closely. Although in the case of the John Smith diaries there are some exaggerations it does provide a very complete picture with regard to trading in the area. Overall John Smith understood the Indians and was able to keep the peace by moderating the rates of exchange and controlling the goods that flowed into the market. This control ensured stable prices and kept exchange congenial. When Smith is sent home after being injured the colonies notice a sharp upswing in attacks as the markets are flooded and the trusted trading partner is gone. Overall this is an excellent summary of the colonial era and well worth reading if you want to understand the days of the early colonial period. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Early European Mistakes....By Michael Valdivielso Want to understand the mistakes and flaws of early European and American contacts? This is the book for you. An honest, hard, look at the events and misunderstandings between the first Europeans and their failure to understand the local system of gift-exchange. At less than 150 pages there is really no reason not to pick it up and expand on your knowledge. A must for any one interested in American history, World history, or Human history.

A clash of cultures on the North American continent.

"Mallios (anthropology, San Diego State Univ.) adds a new dimension to understandings of early North American colonization efforts in his anthropological examination of the three earliest European settlements in the greater Chesapeake region. The author uses gift exchange--in particular, the many layers of meaning in exchanging and trading goods--as his lens for exploring cultural differences. He finds that Europeans and Native Americans possessed dramatically different understandings of exchange, with often-fatal consequences. Seeing most exchanges as gifts, Natives reacted angrily when their offerings of food were not reciprocated by the metal goods they desired. Coming from a commodity-based system, Europeans sought to trade rather than explicitly give. Mallios cites repeated violations of gift protocol in each settlement as a major cause of Native hostility and finally violence toward the Europeans. The author offers an insightful anthropological reading of the relevant primary sources. As such, his book is a nice addition to the growing literature on Jamestown and other early Colonial efforts. Still, most historians and students would find James Horn's *A Land as God Made It* (CH, Jun'06, 43-6098) more useful. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above." CHOICE "Mallios presents a fascinating study of early relations between Native Americans and Europeans at Ajacan, Roanoke, and Jamestown that will have wide appeal among anthropologists, historians, ethnohistorians, and archaeologists. An excellent book!" Heather Lapham, Southern Illinois University Carbondale