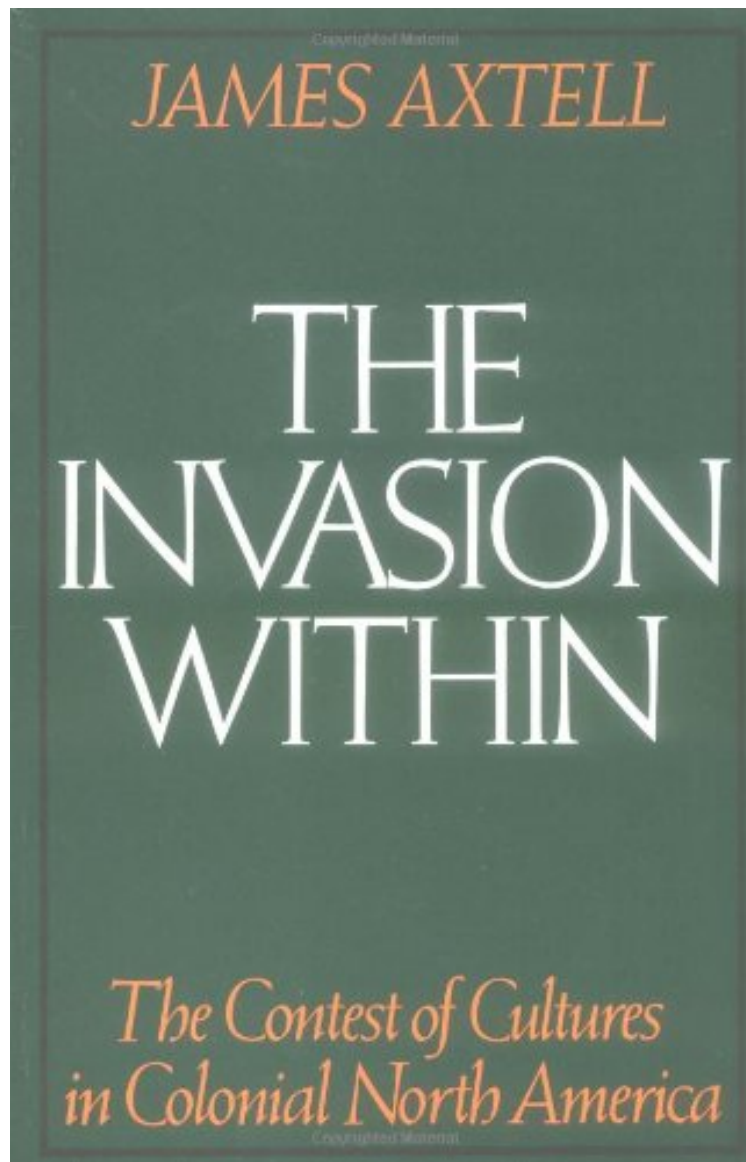


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The Invasion Within: The Contest of Cultures in Colonial North America (Cultural Origins of North America)

James Axtell

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Invasion Within: The Contest of Cultures in Colonial North America (Cultural Origins of North America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Comment on Axtell's *The Invasion Within* By Wild Horses Flying In
The Invasion Within, James Axtell has the best expository writing quality I've ever read. His treatment of the subject, based on broad unbiased research. He brings important insights to American Indian cultures before and since Europeans' arrival, clarification and new light on common misrepresentations and misunderstandings about the actions and reactions of both Indians and whites and the mutual influence the cultures have had on each other. I think this is an important offering to current thinking and issues -- not just those involving Native Americans but to constructive understanding of this country, our roots and our ability to continue to grow and change into a good future. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A solid piece of work. By willmonk I bought two of Axtell's books on : this one and *The European and the Indian*. Both are restrained in their claims, both are clearly written, both are well researched. The best part - although included in both texts - is the "Little Red School" chapter on the schooling of Indians in white communities. Yet the work itself is well worth your time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Tricia L VanVorce The author is very knowledgeable on the subject and writes in a fluid manner that is easy to read and understand - would love to take one of his classes!

Colonial North America was not only a battleground for furs and land, but also for allegiances and even souls. In the three-sided struggle for empire, the English and French colonists were locked in heated competition for native allies and religious converts. Axtell sharply contrasts the English efforts to civilize the Indians with the French willingness to accept native lifestyles, and reveals why the struggle for control over the continent became a fascinating contest of cultures between shrewd opponents lasting nearly 150 years.

From Library Journal A remarkable and important ``ethnohistory of the colonial French, English, and Indian efforts to convert each other." Covering the same period and terrain as Francis Parkman's *France and England in North America* (1865-92), Axtell concentrates on social and cultural interaction. He treats French and English missionary efforts extensively, bringing out, with telling examples, the reasons for the relative success of the French Jesuits' adaptive approach. New perspectives are presented in revealing the longstanding English desire to destroy Indian ``pride" and in detailing the many successful conversions of captive whites to the Indian way of life. Highly recommended for academic, special, and large public libraries. Roy H. Tryon, Delaware State Archives, Dover Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. "The best introduction now available to the problem of cultural conversion in the New World."--The New York Times Book "Offers an impressive array of insights."--The Historian "Axtell is one of the finest practitioners of this history of real persons, and his style makes him one of its most graceful writers."--The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography "The most ambitious and sophisticated contribution to early American ethnohistory to date."--Alden T. Vaughan, Columbia University, in *William and Mary Quarterly* "A stimulating and important contribution to our understanding of cultural relations in colonial America."--Pacific Historical "[Axtell's] scope, pace, and clarity are unprecedented....Readers new to the field can use this volume as a reliable introduction and guide."--The Catholic Historical "This work summarizes current scholarship regarding many topics. The author focuses on the mutual impact that French, English, and Indian cultures made on each other from earliest contact to the beginning decades of the eighteenth century. He stays largely within the northeast culture area and describes ways in which indigenous tribes confronted Jesuit and Puritan representations of Christian civilization. This synthesis combines broad coverage with balanced judgements to produce a gratifying, solid narrative. It is, moreover, a delight to read....Because its scope, pace, and clarity are unprecedented. It brings disparate voices of the time together in splendid synthesis."--The Catholic Historical "Lucid, packed with detail...the book stands as a provocative study of the psychology and consequences of missionary work, and of the resistance to it."--Times Literary Supplement About the Author James Axtell is at College of William and Mary.