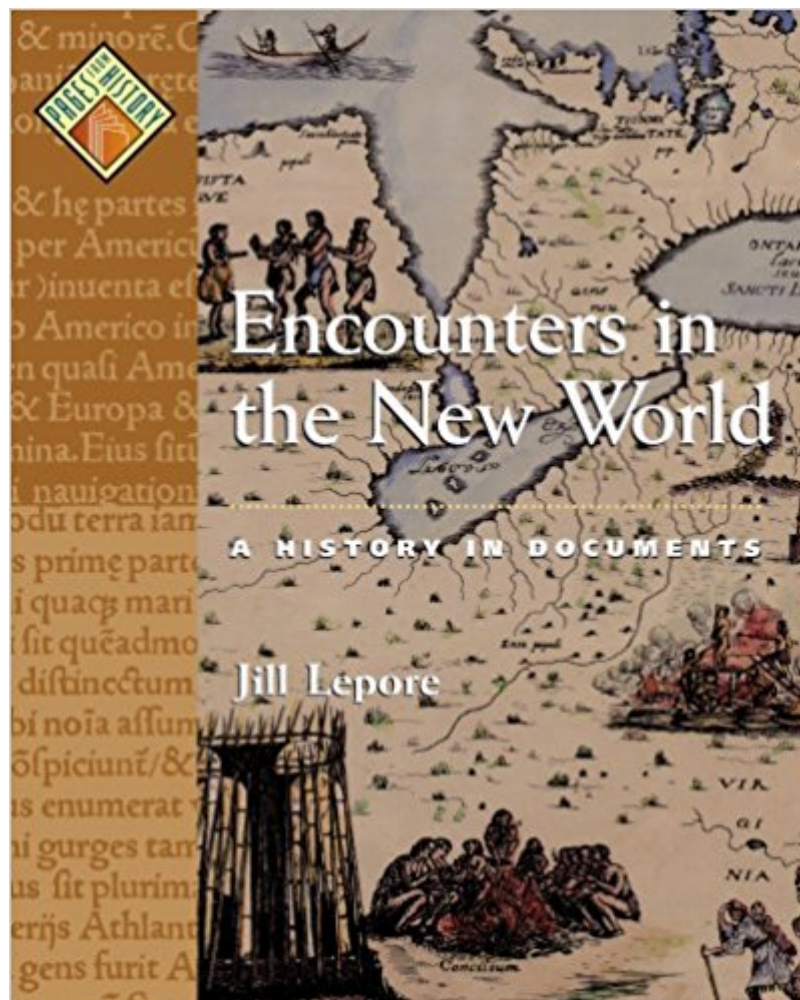




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# Encounters In The New World: A History In Documents (Pages From History)



## Synopsis

From Columbus's voyage in 1492 to the publication of the autobiography of Olaudah Equiano, a former slave, in 1789, Jill Lepore, winner of the distinguished Bancroft Prize for history, brings to life in exciting, first-person detail some of the earliest events in American history in *Encounters in the New World*. Providing fascinating commentary along the way, Lepore seamlessly links together primary sources that illustrate the powerful clash of cultures in the Americas. Through emotional eyewitness accounts -- memoirs, petitions, diaries, captivity narratives, private correspondence -- formal documents, official reports, and journalistic reportage, dramatic stories of the New World are revealed, including:

- \* A Jesuit priest's chronicle of life among his Iroquois captors
- \* Aztec records of forbidding omens
- \* John Smith's account of cannibalism among the British residents of Jamestown
- \* Memoirs by members of Cortes's expedition
- \* Reminiscences of an escaped slave

A special 16-page color cartographic section, including maps from both Europe and North America, provides a fascinating look at how the maps' creators saw themselves and the world around them.

## Book Information

Series: Pages from History

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (April 4, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195154916

ISBN-13: 978-0195154917

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 0.6 x 7.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #155,290 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #125 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > United States](#) #269 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Colonial Period](#) #450 in [Books > History > Americas > Native American](#)

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-Lepore provides a wealth of primary-source materials to describe the arrival of Europeans in the Americas. The result is an eye-opening look at the "discovery" of the New World. Chapters are grouped thematically, rather than chronologically. An introduction by the author sets the scene for each account, offering insight into the text that follows. The passages range from single paragraphs to a few pages in length. Sources are cited in an appendix. The letters,

particularly those written by Native peoples, clearly show the contrast between European and Native American ideas and interpretation of events. A discussion of early religious conflicts includes an eloquent speech by the Iroquois leader Red Jacket, given in 1828. The account of a slave-ship captain who discusses his "cargo" of goods in a chillingly businesslike manner is another of the many powerful selections. The author is careful to point out that not all firsthand accounts are true, citing Christopher Columbus and Jacques Cartier as examples. Nearly every page features a black-and-white period reproduction, most with captions giving additional information. The chapter "Mapping the World" includes full-color reproductions of historical maps. In addition to offering valuable perspectives, this book will introduce readers to the challenges involved in understanding the past. Steven Engelfried, Deschutes County Library, Bend, OR Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Students of American history will find plenty to chew on in this meaty, heavily illustrated entry in the new Pages from History series....Beginning with a full-color section, the pictures are...heavy on maps that chart the world's expansion in the European consciousness and including often fanciful scenes that in many cases are all that is left of vanished Native American cultures.... [Lepore] draws from a host of hard-to-find sources, and creates a ghastly, compelling picture of one of human history's pivotal moments."--Kirkus Reviews

"A wealth of primary source materials...an eye-opening look at the 'discovery' of the New World....Nearly every page features a black-and-white period reproduction, most with captions giving additional information...full-color reproductions of historical maps. In addition to offering valuable perspectives, this book will introduce readers to the challenges involved in understanding the past."--School Library Journal

"Presents primary source material--diaries, letters, maps, illustrations--and combines it with solid, in-depth examinations. Lepore provides essential background information and helps readers understand the context surrounding each document."--Horn Book

"The author does an excellent job of introducing these documents, filling in their historical context, and pointing out their salient features....This volume provides a balance to traditional texts by presenting the voices of people not often heard, who suffered from European colonization of the new world. Classroom discussions and individual reports will be enriched....Recommended."--Book Report

"Promises to be both useful and capable of holding student interest....Contains many clear, large, and easy-to-use charts, diagrams, and pictures. The sixteen-page map section is a delight that students will find fascinating....Well-edited and beautifully illustrated."--OAH Magazine of History

This is a fabulous textbook in and of itself. I use it with middle schoolers and it is not too advanced for them, but it would work equally well at all levels, I think. The author has a point of view, and her sympathies lie with the indigenous peoples, but the documentary record is pretty compelling in and of itself. With a good introduction on what original sources consist of. Covers Spanish, French and English encounters.

After reading this + a few other of Jill Lepore's book, I simply had to order several other books that she has published. She's an eye-opening scholar and a terrifically exciting author. I can't praise her enough. She makes history human and exciting.

ok

"Encounters in the New World" offers six familiar episodes of New World encounters between indigenous peoples and European colonizers. Locations such as Mexico, New England, New France, and Roanoke Island provide the setting for the story of culture clash, occupation, and resistance. Lepore also includes chapters on the evolution of reliable maps and on the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The chapter on the slave trade is a good example of Lepore's facility for selecting apt documents. She uses selections from Olaudah Equiano, letters from merchants engaged in the trade, journal entries recorded by the captain of a slave ship, records of a slave auction, and passages from slave narratives to give readers an informed perspective on this key issue of New World encounters. The book contains many clear, large, and easy to use charts, diagrams, and pictures. The 16-page map section is a delight that students will find fascinating. Lepore provides informed and very readable commentary that sets up each chapter nicely. Her prose is both to-the-point and suggestive, gently helping readers to frame the context that the documents illuminate. Sidebars offer more information on a particular topic within the chapter. A detailed timeline and suggestions for further reading round out the volume. I myself found the short, illustrated sections at the front of the book about what a document is and how to read a document especially helpful.

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got my text in a prompt manner and it came in the condition it was said to be and that was fantastic.

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