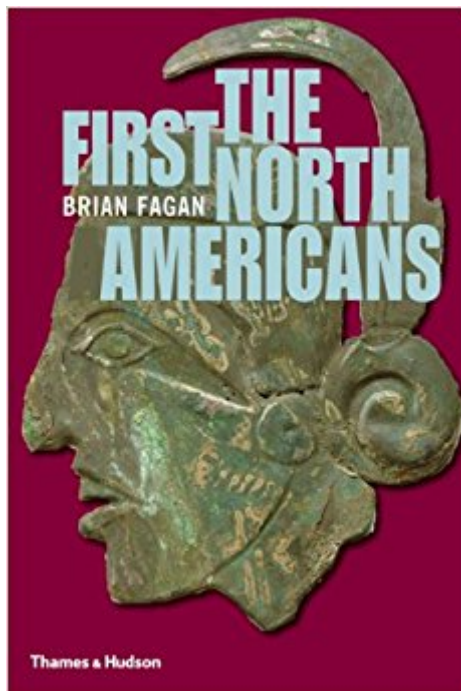




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The First North Americans: An Archaeological Journey (Ancient Peoples And Places)



Synopsis

A carefully researched and up-to-date history of North American settlement, from around 15,000 years ago to the arrival of Europeans in the fifteenth century AD. This new history of North America is based mainly on archaeology, but also on cutting-edge research in many scientific disciplines, from biology and climatology to ethnohistory and high-tech chemistry and physics. Brian Fagan describes the controversies over first settlement, which likely occurred via Siberia at the end of the Ice Age, and the debates over the routes used as humans moved southward into the heart of the continent. A remarkable diversity of hunter-gatherer societies evolved in the rapidly changing North American environments, and the book explores the ingenious ways in which people adapted to every kind of landscape imaginable, from arctic tundra to open plains and thick woodland. Professor Fagan recounts the increasingly sophisticated acclimation by Native Americans to arctic, arid and semiarid lands, culminating in the spectacular Ancestral Pueblo societies of the Southwest and the elaborate coastal settlements of California and the Pacific Northwest. He then traces the origins of the Moundbuilder societies of the Eastern Woodlands, which reached their apogee in the flamboyant Mississippian culture of the South and Southeast and the mounds of the ancient city of Cahokia. The book ends with a description of the Algonquian and Iroquoian peoples of the Northeast and St. Lawrence Valley, and an epilogue that enumerates the devastating consequences of European contact for Native Americans. 26 color and 165 black-and-white illustrations

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A good introduction to the subject. "The Guardian" A masterful tapestry of diverse pre-Columbian Native North American societies, life, and history. . . . An extraordinarily enjoyable work for layperson and student alike. "Christopher Carr, Arizona State University

Brian Fagan is Emeritus Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His many books include *The First North Americans*, *Discovery!*, and *The Complete Ice Age*.

I had to read this book for a college course, but even despite that very much enjoyed it. Fagan covers many different groups of First peoples and in the process provides a clear depiction each society's respective culture and the archaeological evidence that makes such a depiction possible. The different pictures and aside panels break up the text in a way that makes the book feel like a quick read, yet when I got to the end I felt like I had developed a pretty good foundation on which I could build a more in-depth understanding of the Native peoples of North America.

Thank you.

This is the third Brian Fagan book that our book club has read. This is totally outside the comfort zone of most of the members but they have thoroughly enjoyed each one. We've had wonderful discussions. I'm the only one with an anthropology background and I've taken great pleasure in the interest these books inspire among my friends.

The book is easy to follow and it gives much information. It is well organized and is a good read.

Professor Fagan's books are always informative. This one is no exception.

Professor Fagan put out this condensed well-researched book in understanding the development and diversity of North American natives. It covers a long period and a vast region with a good description on the ancient Indian life. This time machine enables readers to learn, understand and appreciate the Native Americans' culture and civilization and best of all their accomplishment. They multiplied and occupied this land just as others in different lands - being born, growing up, falling in love, quarreling, negotiating, going to war, and dying (P.257) for thousands of years. However, it all changed with Christopher Columbus. Indian life and fate yielded a different outcome with destructive diseases

outbreak and almost total wipe-out. Professor Fagan helps reader to discover America with its fascinating history and humanity. He made the journey simple and easy.

Dr. Fagan summarizes in a clear interesting manner that allows me to trust that his books will be consistently worth buying. I recommend this one as well. An update will be needed to keep up with the archeological evidence.

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