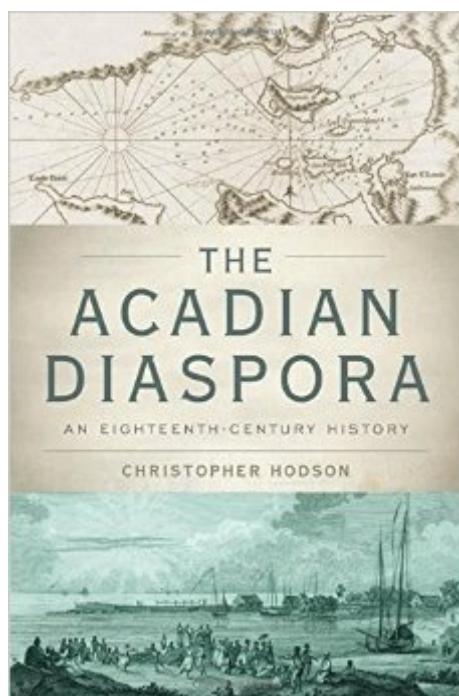


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The Acadian Diaspora: An Eighteenth-Century History (Oxford Studies In International History)



Synopsis

Late in 1755, an army of British regulars and Massachusetts volunteers completed one of the cruelest, most successful military campaigns in North American history, capturing and deporting seven thousand French-speaking Catholic Acadians from the province of Nova Scotia, and chasing an equal number into the wilderness of eastern Canada. Thousands of Acadians endured three decades of forced migrations and failed settlements that shuttled them to the coasts of South America, the plantations of the Caribbean, the frigid islands of the South Atlantic, the swamps of Louisiana, and the countryside of central France. The Acadian Diaspora tells their extraordinary story in full for the first time, illuminating a long-forgotten world of imperial desperation, experimental colonies, and naked brutality. Using documents culled from archives in France, Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, Christopher Hodson reconstructs the lives of Acadian exiles as they traversed oceans and continents, pushed along by empires eager to populate new frontiers with inexpensive, pliable white farmers. Hodson's compelling narrative situates the Acadian diaspora within the dramatic geopolitical changes triggered by the Seven Years' War. Faced with redrawn boundaries and staggering national debts, imperial architects across Europe used the Acadians to realize radical plans: tropical settlements without slaves, expeditions to the unknown southern continent, and, perhaps strangest of all, agricultural colonies within old regime France itself. In response, Acadians embraced their status as human commodities, using intimidation and even violence to tailor their communities to the superheated Atlantic market for cheap, mobile labor. Through vivid, intimate stories of Acadian exiles and the diverse, transnational cast of characters that surrounded them, The Acadian Diaspora presents the eighteenth-century Atlantic world from a new angle, challenging old assumptions about uprooted peoples and the very nature of early modern empire.

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Customer Reviews

When I was a child I thought that the Expulsion of the Acadians had happened in my grandmother's lifetime, so frequent and vivid were the stories told of it in my home. My ancestors had been among those who had hidden in parts of Maine and New Brunswick, then returned and intermarried with English Loyalist settlers, or so I was to understand. Others had fled further and settled in the southern U.S. states or Caribbean islands. These people could no longer rightly be called "Acadians," I was taught, but were more like distant cousins. Or, as Christopher Hodson puts it, the Acadian Diaspora. This book feels very personal to me, like a hidden part of my own personal family tree. For more, please visit my blog, [CozyLittleBookJournal!](#) Disclaimer: I received a digital galley of this book free from the publisher from NetGalley. I was not obliged to write a favourable review, or even any review at all. The opinions expressed are strictly my own.

While this book is dry, dry, dry and definitely has an academic style it is relatively easy reading. Not long, and is chunked up into logical sections. I used this to help research my husband's family. I learned a lot that I really had no idea about (not being a Cajun myself). Even those who do descend from the original group of Acadians forced out of Nova Scotia, and eastern Canada in 1755 will learn much. Many do not know how they got to Louisiana that it wasn't a direct migration at all! That many moved via a circuitous route to places all around the Atlantic basin in both hemispheres and stayed there. Many don't realize just how long ago it was some family memories seem to stop with the civil war. I heard from my own family, assertions that records were lost in "Church fires." Not so for those parishes deep in the southern swamps. Other records showing their Canadian existence and migrations are really fascinating. Not all of this is in this book but it gives you a really good background to learn more. Recommended. Good citations of source material.

I was able to be in Prof. Hodson's class throughout college, and I have to say though the courses were extremely difficult, the man was riveting in his lectures. This book is no different than those classes. Excellent read on the Acadians or French-Americans who lost their land after wars with

Britain. I've yet to read any other book that tracks these peoples down and reveals their new destinations. Highly recommend the book for anyone who is interested in early North American history.

I enjoyed the read. This work adds information to Brasseaux's treatise printed about 20 years ago for UL Press covering the period between the expulsion and post-diaspora re-organization. The activity of the French and Spanish governments, the difficulties which the group endured once again secondary to government intervention, and the esteem for the colonization success of the group are all well documented. This work reads well and I have gladly added it to my library of Acadian history and lore.

This is a scholarly, dispassionate account of the Acadian Grande Derangement. I have read a lot about it as I am a descendent of the Vincent/Montet exiles from Riviere aux Canards to Belle Isle au Mer to South Louisiana. His approach puts their struggles in a different light. Very interesting. The book is also enjoyable and easy to read.

Written objectively by a historian. Delivered as promised. An excellent addition to my collection of like material. If you are interested in Acadian history, this should be on your reading list.

This is a well-written, easy to read book about a fascinating piece of history I knew nothing about. Wish there was an audio version--I would have liked the French pronunciation.

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