

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Trade, Land, Power: The Struggle for Eastern North America.* By DANIEL K. RICHTER. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013. 384 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$45.)

In *Trade, Land, Power*, distinguished colonial historian Daniel Richter brings together eleven essays focused on the relationship between native peoples and European colonists in the mid-Atlantic region. Most have been published previously, but Richter argues that combining the essays into a single volume allows readers to better grasp the complexity of several interconnected themes at work in colonial-era cross-cultural encounters: trade, land, and power. While Richter acknowledges that we may never fully understand the intricacies of native-European interactions, he “is more convinced than ever that we need to probe those mysteries, to trace the roles of trade, land, and power in the conquest of North America” (10).

The book is organized into two parts. The first, “Native Power and European Trade,” focuses primarily on Indian conceptions of trade, land, and power. The six essays in this section take the reader on a seventeenth-century tour of the mid-Atlantic from Virginia to New Netherland. They illustrate native peoples’ understanding of the relationship between trade and political power, where native alliance systems, based in part on the control of goods and resources, depended upon trade for the maintenance of power. In part 2, “European Power and Native Land,” Richter analyzes how European constructions of trade, land, and power ultimately came to center upon the appropriation of native lands as an extension of European power. These five essays bring the reader forward into the eighteenth century, where the focus narrows slightly as most of the discussions center on Pennsylvania. Here Richter demonstrates that European desire for native lands, both as a commodity and as an extension of European political and economic power, increasingly stressed native polities and gave rise to a militant Indian resistance, one that ultimately brought disastrous consequences for Indian communities during the Seven Years’ War and the American Revolution. Throughout the book Richter skillfully demonstrates that native peoples were active participants in these encounters, engaging in trade with Europeans to further their own designs and goals, and not passive victims of European manipulation (despite at times coming out on the short end of exchanges or land deals). Engaging native peoples as participants in their own history is a hallmark of his scholarship, and an analytical framework that he has succeeded at bringing to the fore of early American historiography as well as anyone, perhaps to a greater

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extent than even the remarkable Francis Jennings (who Richter acknowledges often as a powerful influence).

Given that eight of the eleven essays in this book have been previously published, followers of Richter's work will not necessarily find an abundance of new insights here. He admits that he has "resisted the urge to update references to secondary sources or to revise the substance of arguments in light of more recent scholarship" (251n2). However, there is still much of value within these pages, even for specialists in the field. The previously unpublished critique of William Penn's altruism regarding native lands is a fine example; the insightful overview of the fate of native peoples in the mid-Atlantic after 1760, which fills the volume's final chapters, is another. Regardless, Richter certainly has earned the right to repackage his work into a single format that allows a new generation of scholars easy access to his careful insights, compelling prose, and abundant wit. They will no doubt benefit greatly from the opportunity.

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DANIEL P. BARR

*The Contest for the Delaware Valley: Allegiance, Identity, and Empire in the Seventeenth Century.* By MARK L. THOMPSON. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013. 288 pp. Maps, notes, index. \$48.)

When William Penn arrived in the Delaware Valley in 1682, he found a population with diverse national origins, the legacy of a seventy-year contest among colonizing powers to control the valley. Those disputes had rested on the shared assumption that everyone belonged to nations, cultural and political collectivities formed of sovereign and subjects. But with Sweden, the Netherlands, and England all claiming ownership of the Delaware Valley, settlers with different backgrounds fought, traded, and transferred their loyalties to a succession of political regimes. Thompson argues that those "cosmopolitan forms of interaction and communication coexisted with, and indeed reinforced, national identities" (13).

The Englishman Henry Hudson's 1609 explorations while under Dutch employ initiated this contest, as the Netherlands and England each claimed Hudson and, by extension, the lands he had explored. Later seventeenth-century colonial ventures also operated under national auspices while assuming a cosmopolitan character. Lacking funds and familiarity with North America, Swedish officials combined their patronage with Dutch capital and experience, dismissing English and Dutch claims to the Delaware Valley and appointing Peter Minuit, a former director of New Netherland, to purchase native lands and establish New Sweden in 1638.

Undermanned and poorly supplied, New Sweden could no more control the valley than could Dutch and English claimants, especially as Lenape and Minquas-