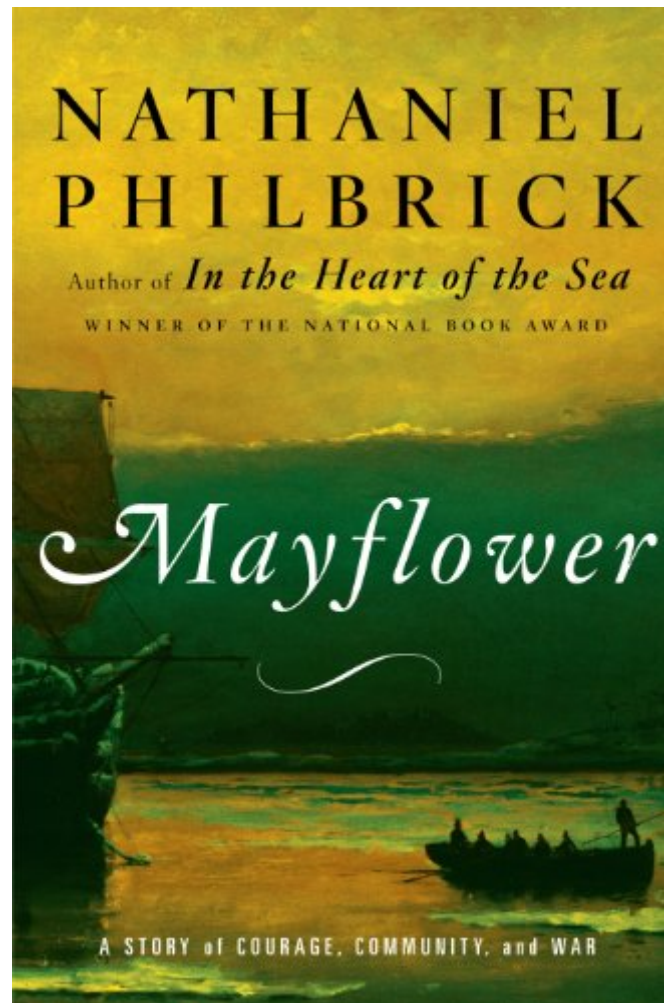




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Mayflower



Synopsis

"Vivid and remarkably fresh...Philbrick has recast the Pilgrims for the ages."--The New York Times Book Review
Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in history
New York Times Book Review Top Ten books of the Year
How did America begin? That simple question launches the acclaimed author of Bunker Hill and Valiant Ambition on an extraordinary journey to understand the truth behind our most sacred national myth: the voyage of the Mayflower and the settlement of Plymouth Colony. As Philbrick reveals in this electrifying history of the Pilgrims, the story of Plymouth Colony was a fifty-five year epic that began in peril and ended in war. New England erupted into a bloody conflict that nearly wiped out the English colonists and natives alike. These events shaped the existing communities and the country that would grow from them.
From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

Not just a well written book on one of the most famous ships in history, but very informative on the people who decided to cross to unknown lands and what drove them to make such life altering decisions. What little you knew - or thought you knew - about the "Pilgrims" and the indigenous

people who took them in is greatly revealed and explained, with much sympathy to the relationships and bonds that were sorely tested in future generations. Nathan Philbrick does a great job of introducing familiar historical facts and then expanding on them and making this old story new. Highly recommend.

As an amateur genealogist, I have managed to trace my family to the Mayflower. I read about the Plymouth settlements and the ships in high school, but I think we ignored this part of history in college. This book is so easy to read and so factual that I couldn't put it down. I have both the paperback and the kindle versions - I've found this is the best way to read any book I want to retain and understand fully.

Political created an explanation for the New England evolving attitudes towards the Native Americans. He did this with few documents but with little conjecture. I enjoyed reading this account of my forefathers but finished wishing for more. The History of New London, written by Frances Manwaring Caulkins, written in the early 1800s, gives more depth to the Pequot War in Connecticut and explains the whys and wherefore better. Nathaniel Philbrick wrote In The Heart of the Sea with such intensity... I did not find the same result with the Mayflower.

I purchased this non-fiction title soon after reading the author's In the Heart of the Sea. I found his research and presentation of little known history to be enlightening and educational. The topic of this work, while more mainstream, is nevertheless mired in myth and misinformation. The details of early New England colonization, Native American relations and conflict are not commonly known. In that respect, I found this work to be well worth the time. The history is roughly evenly divided between the struggles faced by the early Pilgrims and Puritans and the conflict which ensued, culminating in King Philip's War, named after the relatively minor local sachem that sparked the rebellion. Not surprisingly, the author paints the Native American tribes as sympathetic figures, and in many cases rightly so. However, it is likely easy for him to do so in his heated study, well sated by a good meal, safe and secure in his person and possessions. The early American settlers were not so lucky. It is a common misconception to view the local inhabitants as a homogenous, cohesive unit, when in fact they were split between dozens of tribes, some friendly, others not so much. As the story reveals, many Native Americans switched their loyalties repeatedly, making trust a major issue. It is beyond dispute that the American settlers and their subsequent generations badly mistreated the Native Americans, however it is naïve to suggest that, given greater understanding and empathy,

the two sides might have peacefully coexisted. The clash of cultures, lifestyles and beliefs, coupled with the increasing flood of new immigrants made the ultimate result inevitable. All in all, a good accurate history lesson on a topic, though familiar in the broadest sense, not so much as it relates to the details. And as we all know, the Devil is in the details.

The book was quite interesting. It certainly varies from what I learned in grade school back in the '50s. The clash of cultures combined with the human tendencies on both sides brings closer to reality what happened back in the early Plymouth colony and the other Massachusetts and surrounding colonies. It is certainly worth a read. You don't have to be a history buff to enjoy it.

Nathaniel Philbrick's "Mayflower" is a wonderful rendering of the founding of the Plymouth Colony and its first half century. The book traces the founding event in 1620 to disaffection by a set of English Puritans. They moved to the Netherlands and sought to assure passage to the New World. The ship that they used for this adventure was, of course, the Mayflower. The book traces the difficult voyage of 102 passengers over two months. Living conditions were nasty. We meet some of the central characters early in this book: Miles Standish, the soldier; William Bradford; Edward Winslow, among others. Finally, the Mayflower gets to the New World and the ship looked for a proper landing area. After a number of adventures, they settled on what we now call Plymouth. The landing took place later in the year, so that conditions were challenging. Early on, the colonists benefited from a delicate relationship with the Native Americans led by Massasoit, who figured that his weakened tribe (depleted by illness) might gain by allying with the English to protect themselves from other Native American nations. Too, we meet Squanto, another Native American who worked with the colonists. The first part of the book spends much time describing how the colony stabilized and began to grow. The volume also discusses the relationship of Plymouth with the other colonies being developed in New England. The book also discusses in detail the tragic King Philip's War. After Massasoit's death, one of his sons, Philip, began war against the colonists in New England (not just Plymouth). It was a violent war, with much death and destruction among colonists and Native Americans' alike. The author notes that Plymouth Colony lost about 8% of its males in the war. This compares to about 4-5% death rate in the Civil War and about 1% in World War II. The death rate from war among Native Americans was 10%. The end result (page 345): "Fifty-six years after the sailing of the Mayflower, the Pilgrims' children had not only defeated the Pokanokets in a devastating war, they had taken conscious, methodical measures to purge the land of its people." All in all, this book brings to life the challenges facing those who came over on the Mayflower. And it

tells the ongoing story of the colonists for a half century after the landing at Plymouth. A very good read and a well recommended work.

So much more to this story than I ever knew before. Great easy to read interesting story of our beginnings

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