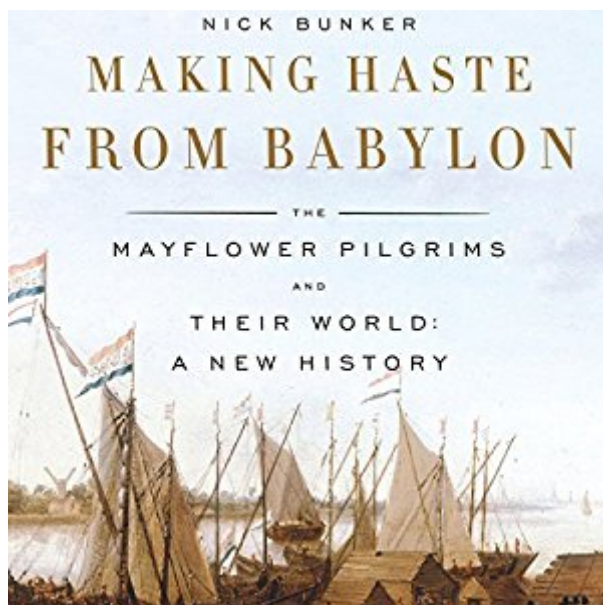


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Making Haste From Babylon



Synopsis

At the end of 1618, a blazing green star soared across the night sky over the northern hemisphere. From the Philippines to the Arctic, the comet became a sensation and a symbol, a warning of doom or a promise of salvation. Two years later, as the Pilgrims prepared to sail across the Atlantic on board the Mayflower, the atmosphere remained charged with fear and expectation. Men and women readied themselves for war, pestilence, or divine retribution. Against this background, and amid deep economic depression, the Pilgrims conceived their enterprise of exile. Within a decade, despite crisis and catastrophe, they built a thriving settlement at New Plymouth, based on beaver fur, corn, and cattle. In doing so, they laid the foundations for Massachusetts, New England, and a new nation. Using a wealth of new evidence from landscape, archaeology, and hundreds of overlooked or neglected documents, Nick Bunker gives a vivid and strikingly original account of the Mayflower project and the first decade of the Plymouth Colony. From mercantile London and the rural England of Queen Elizabeth I and King James I to the mountains and rivers of Maine, he weaves a rich narrative that combines religion, politics, money, science, and the sea. The Pilgrims were entrepreneurs as well as evangelicals, political radicals as well as Christian idealists. *Making Haste from Babylon* tells their story in unrivaled depth, from their roots in religious conflict and village strife at home to their final creation of a permanent foothold in America. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

I think we all knew that the arrival of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts was more than Puritans eking out an existence on Plymouth Rock, nearly starving the first year and celebrating w/ the neighbors when the harvest came in. For instance, no one ever explained how it was that Squanto was able to communicate w/ the Pilgrims. It turns out that he (real name Tisquantum) was captured by an English ship's master in 1614 and taken w/ some twenty-seven Native Americans back to England to be sold as slaves at Malaga, Spain. At Malaga, Spanish monks saved him and his fellow prisoners from slavery. He managed to make his way to England, learned English and found passage back to Massachusetts, arriving just before the Pilgrims. The fact that New England was well explored by English ships looking for cod to take back to England prior to 1620 wasn't covered in my lessons about the founding of an English colony. The fact that the backers who paid for the voyage of the Mayflower hoped to recoup their expenses by opening a lucrative fur trade also wasn't covered. The circumstances that led strict Dissenters who we know as Puritans to the New World is also a more interesting story than the problems w/ King James and temporary refuge in Holland. This book is an extremely well-researched and extremely well-written account of how it was that the Pilgrims came to the New World. It's much more interesting than I ever imagined. The details in this book and the incredible background in this book make it a superb addition to anyone's understanding. I guarantee that you will find out much that you never knew and the truth is much more interesting than the traditional Thanksgiving tale. I recommend this book highly.

I enjoy reading history. I ignored this book for several years after its publication. What could be new about Plymouth Rock? Well, plenty. Kudos to the author. He combed through the business records and shipping records in England and Europe, and re-traced the fur trading routes in what is now Maine and Massachusetts, to give an economic history of Plymouth colony. That sounds dull, but it is not. Prayer and a desire for land and freedom could not have led to the settling of New England--this book ties European commerce, and European wars, to the conditions that made risking the Atlantic crossing worth while for tens of thousands of English. Very informative and entertainingly written. Completely different from Nathaniel Philbrick's "Mayflower", which is a history of the New England settlers and the native inhabitants.

An interesting complex opinionated and very much researched description of the Pilgrims. It is particularly good at setting the complex background in England that gave rise to the pilgrims (Brownists as opposed to the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay.) Interesting in setting the economic reasons for the colonies success and describing the people who made it up. A much more nuanced

history of the Plymouth colony set in broader historical terms than many accounts. All in all well worth reading if you are interested in America in the colonial period.

This verbose, tedious, and often scattershot book attempts to fill in the gaps behind the Puritan, actually Separatist, establishment of a colony at Plymouth in 1620. The author digs deep into many archives, primarily English, to add dimensions to the lives of those connected with this event. Unfortunately, the net result is not entirely successful. Separatism can hardly be discounted as the underlying motivation for establishing a new community in the New World, but many English factors such as geography, locale, demographics, economics, domestic and international politics, etc came into play. The author leaves few stones unturned in the pursuit of the relevancy of these areas, at times to the point of testing the durability of the reader. The amount of detail is both the strength and the weakness of the book. The detail is at times enlightening or overwhelming, often at the same time. The author's approach is a bit uneven, roaming across time and place as his various themes take him. Also, perhaps surprisingly, the actual Plymouth colony becomes only a small part of the author's story.

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