Town Born

Wood shops, winemaking, and agriculture were all important aspects of early New England life. The settlers were primarily farmers who lived in small villages or towns. They worked hard to ensure the survival and prosperity of their communities. This was an era of strict religious values, and the Puritans believed that hard work was necessary to prove one's commitment to their faith.

In Town Born, Barry Levy shows that New England's distinctive and far more egalitarian order was due neither to the colonists' peasant origins nor to the Puritan ethic. Rather, he argues, the social and economic order of New England was shaped by the resources available to the settlers and the ways in which they chose to use them.

The settlers found the New World full of resources. With land readily available but labor in short supply, they began to experiment with new agricultural techniques and economic strategies. They developed new crops such as corn and potatoes, and they also began to experiment with new forms of land division and land tenure. This led to a more egalitarian social order, one in which labor earned respect, relative equity ruled, workers exercised political power despite doing the most arduous tasks, and the burdens of work were absorbed by citizens themselves.

The seventeenth century was a time of rapid change in all the other early modern British colonies. The settler societies established in Ireland, the Atlantic island colonies of Bermuda and the Bahamas, the West Indies, and the British colonies in North America were all undergoing significant changes. This was a time of ecological change, political upheaval, and cultural transformation. The settlers were constantly adapting to new environments and new challenges, and they were constantly striving to create a better future for themselves and their families.

In Town Born, Levy explores this process of social development and the formation of American culture. He challenges the central assumptions that have traditionally been used to explain the rise of American democracy. He argues that the key to understanding this process is to look at the everyday lives of the settlers, at the way they lived and worked, and at the way they thought about their lives. This is a story of change, of progress, and of the human spirit.

Pursuits of Happiness

Edmund S. Morgan 1977-09-01

The development of the American commons in the seventeenth century is the story of how the people of the New World created a new kind of society. They did this by developing a system of land division and land tenure that allowed them to have a stake in the land and to be able to pass it on to their children. This system of land division and land tenure was based on the idea that the land belonged to the people who worked it, and that it should be shared equally among all who worked it.

Morgan argues that this system of land division and land tenure was a key factor in the development of American democracy. It allowed the people of the New World to have a stake in the land and to be able to pass it on to their children. This gave them a sense of ownership and a sense of responsibility, and it helped to create a sense of community and a sense of purpose.

The development of the American commons was not easy, however. It was a long and complicated process. It was also a process that was shaped by a wide variety of factors, including the environmental conditions of the New World, the political and social conditions of the times, and the economic and technological changes that were taking place.

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The Town Born is a remarkable book, and it is one of the most important works on early American history. It is a book that will be read and studied for many years to come.