



The Powhatan Landscape: An Archaeological History of the Algonquian Chesapeake (Society and Ecology in Island and Coastal Archeology)

Martin D. Gallivan

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“A well-written, fresh, and engaging interpretation of two millennia of Virginia Algonquian landscape history, presenting new data and new ideas—a must read.”—Stephen Potter, author of *Commoners, Tribute, and Chiefs: The Development of Algonquian Culture in the Potomac Valley*

“Theoretically innovative, richly empirical, and superbly written, this book demonstrates the potential for combining ‘new’ finds in the field with reconsiderations of ‘old’ sites and collections, and it makes a compelling case for an archaeology that involves Native American perspectives and participation.”—Christopher B. Rodning, coeditor of *Fort San Juan and the Limits of Empire: Colonialism and Household Practice at the Berry Site*

As Native American history is primarily studied through the lens of European contact, the story of Virginia’s Powhatans has traditionally focused on the English arrival in the Chesapeake. This has left a deeper indigenous history largely unexplored—a longer narrative beginning with the Algonquians’ construction of places, communities, and the connections in between.

The Powhatan Landscape breaks new ground by tracing Native placemaking in the Chesapeake from the Algonquian arrival to the Powhatan’s clashes with the English. Martin Gallivan details how Virginia Algonquians constructed riverine communities alongside fishing grounds and collective burials and later within horticultural towns. Ceremonial spaces, including earthwork enclosures within the center place of Werowocomoco, gathered people for centuries prior to 1607. Even after the violent ruptures of the colonial era, Native people returned to riverine towns for pilgrimages commemorating the enduring power of place.

For today’s American Indian communities in the Chesapeake, this reexamination of landscape and history represents a powerful basis from which to contest narratives and policies that have previously denied their existence.

A volume in the series *Society and Ecology in Island and Coastal Archaeology*, edited by Victor D. Thompson

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