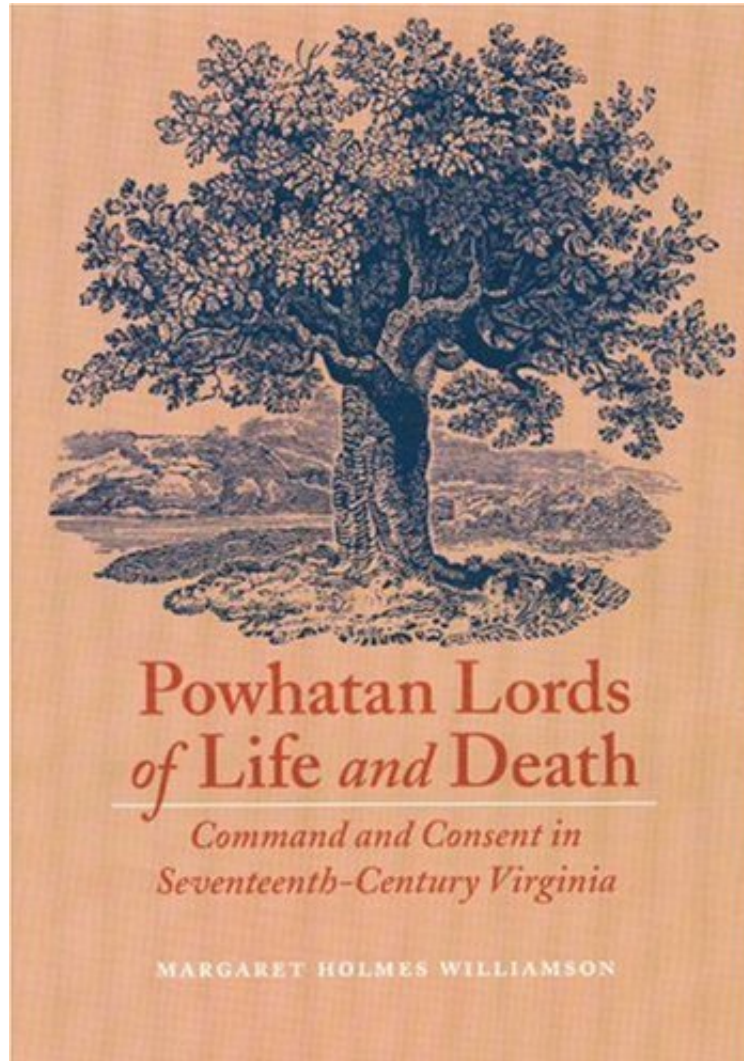


Powhatan Lords of Life and Death: Command and Consent in Seventeenth-Century Virginia

Margaret Huber

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Margaret Huber : Powhatan Lords of Life and Death: Command and Consent in Seventeenth-Century Virginia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Powhatan Lords of Life and Death: Command and Consent in Seventeenth-Century Virginia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy Herren FloydVery well researched, but more for sociologists than the general public.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Full Disclosure to follow.By J. Reid WilliamsonI am not an anthropologist, but I do love history and Virginia. This book gives me a window on a

world my ancestors were part of for a time, in a way that is clear and understandable, with thorough discussion of the important issues of the Powhatan world. Although I found the first chapter very challenging (it's more anthro, less history), once past it, the book read like a dream. As a non-anthropologist, I was mesmerized. But full disclosure requires that I admit to partisanship when I say this is the best book on Powhatan perhaps since Robert Beverley. I'm related to both of those authors, the more recent one being my sister.

A richly textured portrait of the famous Native leader Powhatan and his realm emerges in this revisionist study. For decades the English colonists at and around Jamestown lived in the shadow of a powerful confederation of Native American communities led by Powhatan. That realm encompassed the Tidewater area of Virginia from the James River to the Potomac River. For many years Powhatan skillfully staved off threats from other Native peoples and from European colonists. Despite the prominence of Powhatan during the early colonial years, our knowledge of him and life in his realm is filtered nearly completely through the eyewitness accounts of Europeans.

"Powhatan Lords of Life and Death is required reading for those interested in the Powhatans or early Virginia and offers an example of careful and creative analysis of difficult sources that should provide a model for anyone interested in understanding Indian societies through European materials." April Lee Hatfield, *Journal of Southern History*