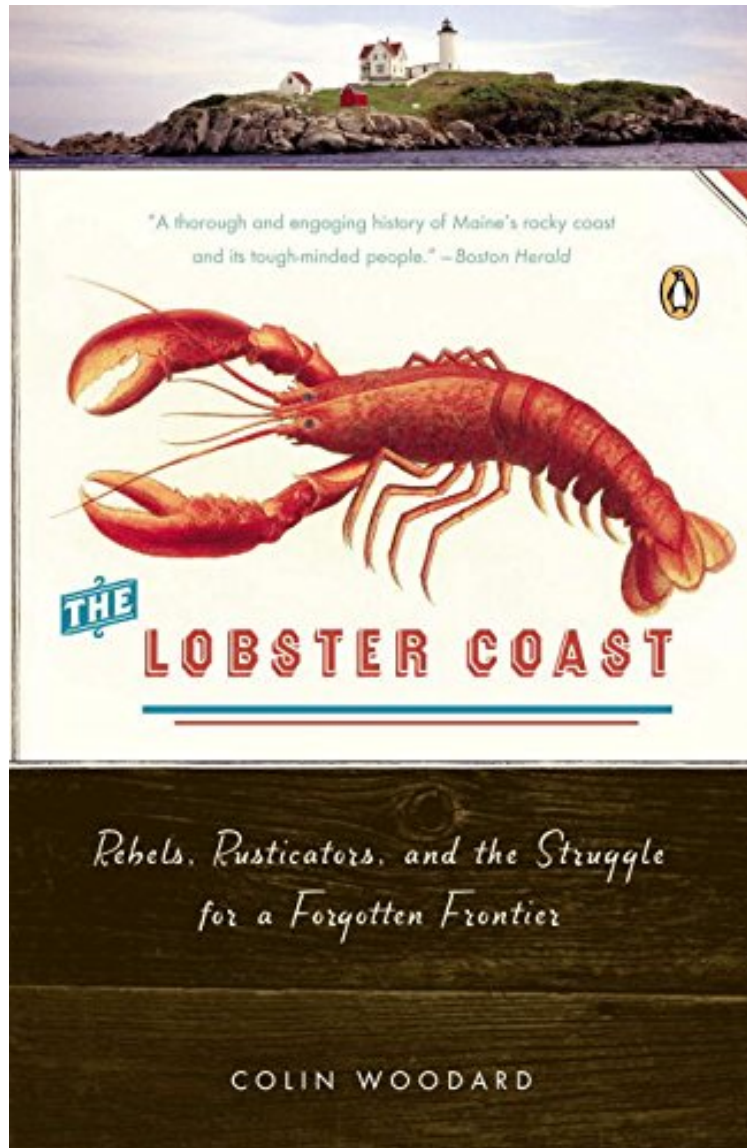


(Download ebook) The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier

# The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier

Colin Woodard

ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#63286 in Books Colin Woodard 2005-04-26 2005-04-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.38 x .82 x 5.431, .74 #File Name: 0143035347384 pages The Lobster Coast Rebels Rusticators and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier | File size: 48.Mb

Colin Woodard : The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Maine's Strong Sense Of Place By Franklin the Mouse Mr. Woodard's book is an excellent overview of Maine's history along the coast. The author explains the numerous attempts of Europeans trying to make a go of it on its rocky shores and harsh winters during the 1600s (It wasn't like a visit to Disney World's Epcot, that's for sure.) and the evolution of the state up to current day issues. The book, however, stays true to its title and focuses on the Maine coast. It does make a few passing references to inland Maine but, I guess, that is a book for someone else to write. I was born and raised along the Maine/Canadian border which is heavily composed of citizens with French ancestry. There are many qualities we share with Mainers who live on the coast but there are also differences. Mainers have a well-deserved reputation of being thrifty, realists, infused with a strong work ethic, and suspicious of "outsiders". Mr. Woodard does a very good job explaining how we developed into such people. 'The Lobster Coast' was an absorbing work right from the first page. It begins with the author visiting Monhegan Island for a few days and getting a taste of the island's unique fishing culture. It becomes the springboard for addressing how the current Maine coast all came to be. It involves Mr. Woodard addressing such topics as the early settler attempts; the geological formation of its coast and the Gulf of Maine; the myths surrounding Plymouth Rock pilgrims being the first settlers; the Native American cultures and how they were eventually driven off their land; how Massachusetts land barons continually tried to exploit the immigrants to Maine for their own gain; the development of the fishing trade and other industries such as granite, lumber, canneries, and selling ice; the effects of suburban sprawl; the decimation of the fishing stocks; the creation of Acadia National Park and how Maine became a popular tourist destination. Of course, the primary focus is on the lobster industry. Mr. Woodard writes about the biological characteristics of the lobster, how the industry is managed, and what is being done to maintain it as a vital Maine business. The book includes a handful of small black-and-white maps for clarification. Growing up in a very rural Aroostook County paper mill town, then moving and living for the last 40 years in southern Maine near the coast has given me a better understanding that there is no one TRUE kind of Mainer. The best that can be said is there is a large overriding mindset but Maine is made up of various unique cultures which frequently clash with one another. Many rural citizens with a long history of living in the state disparage the Portland area including everyone on down to the New Hampshire coast as not "true" Mainers. This is pure BS. It's simply people who cherish their local areas culture and are having difficulty in the rapid changes occurring around them. I can empathize with their anxiety but, as Mr. Woodard states change is unavoidable and the best we can do is try to manage the directions it will go. The author has written a topnotch entertaining history of Maine's fabulous coast.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. an engaging social history and ecology study By Jason G The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier is a very well written synthesis of coastal Maine's cultural and political history, land and sea ecology and ultimately of the choices this coastal area is facing going forward. Colin Woodard, a Maine native, with a deep appreciation for this region on the fringe of the northeast center's of population, writes with engaging detail of the challenges of living on Maine's coast, while showing how the long term residents have a deep sense of rootedness of place. A good half of this 300 page work is an overview of Maine's history from the beginning of European colonization to the present day. While relatively short, this overview, with vivid told details, shows how the residents of these shores, from natives, to colonizers to those facing the brunt of closing paper mills and fish processing plants, have faced being overrun by outside influencers. Reading this, you can certainly understand why Maine is so much different and out of the orbit of the rest of the northeast, and see why a spirit of self determination has become part of the character of those who live in this rich, but hard land. Woodard writes with great detail to show the importance of ecology and the interconnectedness of how people relate to resources and each other. For instance, his accounts of how modern, suburban housing subdivisions and retail centers work counter to productive uses of labor and the traditional ways of life is important. Also, his work shows how scientists who study the ecology of lobsters, the collapse of the cod and haddock fish stocks and how understanding the role of harvesting and nurturing sea life is more than a function of data, but is in every way of ecology and understanding how multiple systems depend on each other. Repeatedly, the Lobster Coast shows a tension of living. This tension is best described as one that works on how individuals work together, but struggle against hard circumstances, while often working against outside influences that simply want to extract resources in ways that ultimately harm the land and people more than it can replenish. While a social and cultural history of the edge of the northeastern USA, this work also can show how many regions struggle to make a living in the midst of post industrial, global capitalism. The Lobster Coast was written in the years before the 2008 Financial Crisis, so the elements that stretched so many have only accelerated in Maine since then, and the suburbanization of the Maine coast has continued in fits and starts, and more mills have shut for good. As history that connects how many different elements create a culture that still works to maintain an identity, this is a very engaging read and well worth the time to think through.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. History the way it ought to be written By GWHI have purchased and read just about every one of Colin Woodard's books, and this one is among my very favorites. He has a way of combining present day Maine with historical Maine; Maine seen through his eyes, the eyes of those he interviews, and words written down centuries ago. They all flow together seamlessly, creating a fluid history of this amazing state. Perhaps it is because generations of my father's family have been born, lived and died in the Pine Tree state. Maybe it is because I have fished and set lobster traps commercially in New

England, and have seen the boom and collapse of the industry: the boom due to plentiful stocks of cod and other groundfish, and the collapse due to over fishing and poor fisheries management. It might be in part because I know many of the places of which he speaks. In the end, I think it is all of these, and maybe none of these. Colin Woodard is simply the best writer of U.S. history I have read. If you are looking for names and dates, you will find many here. If you are recalling history as written in school textbooks, you are in for a very happy surprise. His history books read like novels, but they are better. Unlike James Michener's historical novels, however, all the information cited in Mr. Woodard's books is true. The people and the events are real. They happened, and many continue to happen to this day. You will come away from reading this book with a hunger for more information. Maybe, if you haven't visited coastal Maine, you will decide to do so. And if you do visit Maine, or perhaps even live there, you will gain new insights into the forces, both natural and man made, that shaped this great state.

“A thorough and engaging history of Maine’s rocky coast and its tough-minded people.”—Boston Herald “[A] well-researched and well-written cultural and ecological history of stubborn perseverance.”—USA Today For more than four hundred years the people of coastal Maine have clung to their rocky, wind-swept lands, resisting outsiders’ attempts to control them while harvesting the astonishing bounty of the Gulf of Maine. Today’s independent, self-sufficient lobstermen belong to the communities imbued with a European sense of ties between land and people, but threatened by the forces of homogenization spreading up the eastern seaboard. In the tradition of William Warner’s *Beautiful Swimmers*, veteran journalist Colin Woodard (author of *American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good*) traces the history of the rugged fishing communities that dot the coast of Maine and the prized crustacean that has long provided their livelihood. Through forgotten wars and rebellions, and with a deep tradition of resistance to interference by people “from away,” Maine’s lobstermen have defended an earlier vision of America while defying the “tragedy of the commons”—the notion that people always overexploit their shared property. Instead, these icons of American individualism represent a rare example of true communal values and collaboration through grit, courage, and hard-won wisdom.

From Publishers Weekly In this lucid cultural history of Maine, journalist Woodard tells the story of the rugged people who inhabit the state's coastal fishing communities, beginning with the Scotch-Irish, Germans and migrants from southern New England who from the early 17th to the early 19th centuries struggled to make a living in an inhospitable environment while trying to fend off Indians, religious zealots, wealthy Bostonian land grabbers and "rusticators" (vacationers who spawned unwanted development). Maine's economy prospered for a while after it seceded from Massachusetts and became a state in 1820, but between 1860 and 1900 everything collapsed except for lobstering, which the fishermen managed to protect with effective conservation practices. Lobsters became, and remain, the basis of the state's fishing industry. The author was born and raised in Maine, and well understands the pride, independence and ability to work together for the good of the community—(traditions derived from the early settlers, he says), which helped the fishermen preserve a resource that is essential to their livelihood. But, he points out, other factors are now at play, for the state is being overrun by suburbanites who don't understand or respect this tradition. Woodard tries to maintain hope that the old spirit of independence will save the state's distinctive character, but he can't help ending on a discouraging note, wondering whether Maine will soon be just one more suburb in the great East Coast megalopolis. Woodard (*Ocean's End*) covers a lot of ground in his informative book, and he never fails to make the story engaging. Maps not seen by PW. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Woodard synthesizes the history and ponders the future of Maine, land of lobsters and L. L. Bean. His text both begins and concludes with Monhegan Island, an interesting place where one of the earliest English colonizers anchored and whose inhabitants today cater to tourists in the summer and to lobstermen in the winter. It's a microcosm of wider themes in Maine history. Woodard ably develops them, showing off the state as a climatically difficult place to prosper that consistently over its history has existed in a quasi-colonial relationship with outside economic interests. Thus, the present-day suburbanization of the coast succeeds earlier forms of influence emanating from Massachusetts, such as the land-grasping magnates of the late 1700s known as the "Great Proprietors" or the city-escaping pioneers of vacationing of the mid-1800s. The author of *Ocean's End* (2000), a report on environmental degradation, Woodard also delivers hands-on details about the practice and culture of lobstering, a thriving exception to the collapse of the Gulf of Maine fishery. A fond but concerned portrait of the author's native state. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved “A thorough and engaging history of Maine’s rocky coast and its tough-minded people.” —Boston Herald “Delves deeply and reflectively into the history of the coast of Maine and its people.” —The Boston Globe “[A] well-researched and well-written cultural and ecological history of stubborn perseverance.” —USA Today “Lively. . . . Woodard uses the fishermen of Monhegan Island as the focus for a broad historical sweep, ranging from the settlers who arrived in Maine a decade before the Mayflower landed at Plymouth, to onslaughts from Indian tribes, raids by the French and an influx of ‘rusticators’ who put the state on the map as an idyllic holiday destination. The author suggests that Maine's isolated lobster-fishing communities continue to embody Jefferson’s Utopian vision of America—‘an egalitarian republic of small, self-

sufficient producers, where democracy is practiced directly by the citizens, and aristocratic privilege is unrecognized or unknown.” —The Economist “A beautifully considered history . . . Woodard’s admiration for lobster culture is stirring . . . [Mainers’] feisty pluck remains undiminished in the face of obstacles.” —Newsday “Woodard doesn’t disguise his pique with the forces at work. Maine is worth fighting for—as is any village with distinctly etched local character and community.” —The Christian Science Monitor “Thought-provoking . . . Woodard is a talented writer, a skilled journalist. . . . lively reading for history buffs . . . an important book for any Maine lover’s bookshelf.” —Bangor Daily News “Meticulous . . . For those who received the sanitized version of American history in elementary school, the truth comes as a bit of a shock.” —The Ottawa “A feast . . . Woodard uses the lobster to tell the whole history of Maine.” —Working Waterfront “Highly engaging, intelligent.” —Down East “A stellar informal history . . . The Lobster Coast is a cautionary tale, superbly told, riveting and deserving of much attention. It is a primer for land use, conservation, and the effects of bad politics.” —The Kingston Observer (Massachusetts) “Fascinating . . . horrifying account of political intrigue and bloody battles between French and English, Indians and English, colonists and just about everybody else, all of which, for better or for worse, shaped the Down East Yankee character . . . I’d make The Lobster Coast required reading.” —Bar Harbor Times “A rocketing speed-boat ride through Maine’s history—with an underlying engine hum of ecological awareness and concern.” —Maine Harbors “The Lobster Coast tells the lobster’s tale in satisfying depth and breadth. . . . Woodard writes about his native state and its ungainly mascot with grace and authority, shining a clear light through the mystery and lore that have long surrounded both.” —Northern Sky News “Lucid...engaging.” —Publishers Weekly “A triumph.” —Bookpage