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# The Tar Heel State: A History Of North Carolina



## Synopsis

The most inclusive history of North Carolina to date. In the last three decades, North Carolina has witnessed a remarkable growth in population, economic development, and political importance, and it now ranks as the tenth most populous state in the Union. *The Tar Heel State: A History of North Carolina* constitutes the most comprehensive and inclusive single-volume chronicle of the state's storied past to date, culminating with an attentive look at recent events that have transformed North Carolina into a southern mega state. The first such volume in more than two decades, Milton Ready's work offers a distinctive view of the state's history that integrates tales of famous pioneers, statesmen, soldiers, farmers, captains of industry, and community leaders with more marginalized voices, including those of Native Americans, African Americans, and women. Ready gives readers a view of North Carolina that encompasses perspectives from the coast, tobacco road, the Piedmont, and the mountains. the early history of Cherokees, the rise of industrial mills, and the changes wrought by modern information-based technologies since 1970. Mixing spirited anecdotes and illustrative statistics, Ready describes the rich Native American culture found by John White in 1585, the chartered chaos of North Carolina's proprietary settlement, and the chronic distrust of government that grew out of settlement patterns and the colony's early political economy. He challenges the perception of relaxed intellectualism attributed to the Rip van Winkle state, the notion that slavery was a benign institution in North Carolina, and the commonly accepted interpretation of Reconstruction in the state. Ready also discusses how the suffrage movement pushed North Carolina into a hesitant twentieth-century progressivism. In perhaps his most significant contribution to North Carolina's historical record, Ready continues his narrative past the benchmark of World War II and into the twenty-first century. and parks, Ready recounts the events that have fueled North Carolina's accelerated development in recent years and the many challenges that have accompanied such rapid growth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In the most original popular history of North Carolina in decades, Milton Ready draws upon diverse perspectives to offer fresh insights on the major social, political, and cultural themes that have governed the development, over time and in recent years, of the Tar Heel State."

"In the first interpretive history of North Carolina in a generation, Milton Ready provides a skillful and well-written addition to the state's historical literature. Drawing upon recent scholarship, Ready widens the scope of North Carolina's past, and his chapters on the state's changing social and economic landscape since the 1970s chart the profound transformation of North Carolina in the twenty-first century."#x97;Jeffrey Crow, deputy secretary, North Carolina State Office of Archives and History, and coeditor of *Writing North Carolina History* "The Tar Heel State constitutes an eminently readable, fast-paced, and thorough survey of North Carolina's past. The volume not only pays due attention to the enormous impact of geology and geography on the development of the colony and state but it also proves stunningly inclusive. The roles and contributions of women, African Americans (bonded and free), and Native Americans are discussed at length. Ready also appreciates and incorporates the tribulations and advances of the twentieth century's wars, depression, civil rights, demographic diversity, and economic improvements;as he brings North Carolina into the current era."#x97;Alan D. Watson, professor of history, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and author of *Society in Colonial North Carolina* "In this engaging and provocative original history of North Carolina, Ready illuminates the experience of an unpretentious people shaped by a diverse and not altogether welcoming land and seascape. From the outset, individualistic men and women coped with internal conflict as they settled diffusely in farmsteads and small villages, establishing patterns that continue to prevail on the land, even as Tar Heels embrace urbanization and greater diversity today."#x97;Lindley S. Butler, coeditor of *The North Carolina Experience: An Interpretive and Documentary History* "Ready has written one of the most inclusive histories of North Carolina to date. He grasps the phenomenon of the North Carolina experience and brings the life of

marginalized groups out of the archives and into the public consciousness. The Tar Heel State is a scholarly and compelling story of the divergent experiences of the state's masses; full of interesting facts and details that are often absent in other studies on the same subject."

Joyce Blackwell, chair of the Department of History and Political Science, St. Augustine's College, and author of *No Peace without Freedom: Race and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1915-1975* "Informative and well-crafted, Ready's comprehensive one-volume history of North Carolina deserves a place on the shelf of every North Carolina library and home. It is essential reading for anyone who seeks to understand the history of North Carolina and will be of immense benefit to those interested in the roles African Americans have played throughout the history of the state." Olen Cole Jr., chair of the Department of History, North Carolina A&T State University

Arrived on time and is what was need for class.

This is a more recent history of North Carolina, and once I finish this account, I intend to read the 1989 edition by William Powell, considered by many to be the "historian of North Carolina." I look forward to comparing Powell's work to that of Ready. While I have found Ready's work to be quite readable and interesting, I sense much of the author's personal bias come through his writing. I understand it is well nigh impossible for any author of history to exclude his/her interpretive style from the historical account, but I have found Ready to insert what I consider a distinctive liberal (left-of-center) slant on his interpretation of historical events. It is, as if, he foists on historical characters the perspective of some 21st century politics. I have read the historical works of Doris Goodwin Kearns, and I have not found this to be the case. I have learned interesting information about NC and have enjoyed the read. I look forward to the Powell account of NC history and what I will learn from that read.

A well written, east to read History of N.C.. Ready provides enough detail, yet at the same time keeps the subject matter flowing.

Had to get this book for a class...packed full of info! (and it reads like a real book and not a "text book").

I am working towards getting my teaching license and this book was recommended for teaching NC

history. It is an excellent book!

The information included in this book was very informative and interesting to all who read it. It is a good composite of NC History.

Bought as a gift. Looks interesting. So much history and interesting data in it. Might borrow it so I can read it.

good book

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