



The Organization of American Culture, 1700-1900: Private Institutions, Elites, and the Origins of American Nationality

By Peter D. Hall

New York University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 336 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.5in. x 1.0in. Nationality, argues Peter Hall, did not follow directly from the colonists' declaration of independence from England, nor from the political union of the states under the Constitution of 1789. It was, rather, the product of organizations which socialized individuals to a national outlook. These institutions were the private corporations which Americans used after 1790 to carry on their central activities of production. The book is in three parts. In the first part the social and economic development of the American colonies is considered. In New England, population growth led to the breakdown of community - and the migration of people to both the cities and the frontier. New England's merchants and professionals tried to maintain community leadership in the context of capitalism and democracy and developed a remarkable dependence on private corporations and the eleemosynary trust, devices that enabled them to exert influence disproportionate to their numbers. Part two looks at the problem of order and authority after 1790. Tracing the role of such New England-influenced corporate institutions as colleges, religious bodies, professional societies, and businesses, Hall shows how their promoters sought to civilize...



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