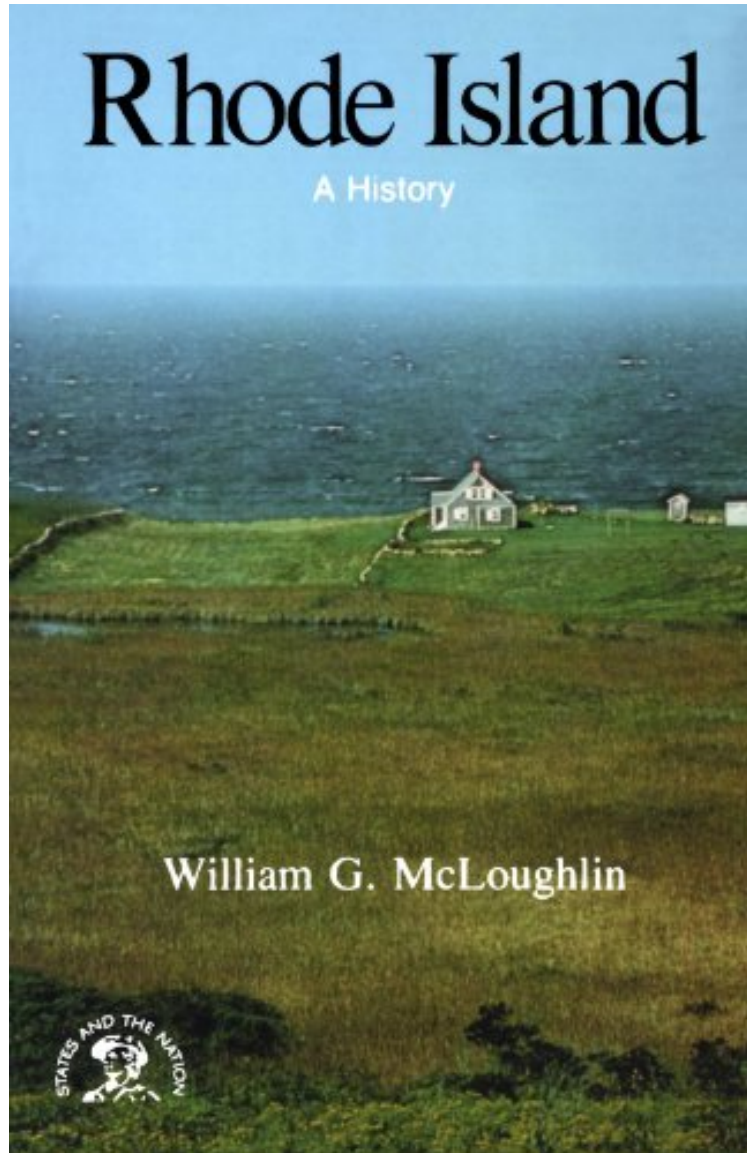


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Rhode Island: A History (States the Nation)

William McLoughlin

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William McLoughlin : Rhode Island: A History (States the Nation) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rhode Island: A History (States the Nation):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Detailed history written with passion and precisionBy BattleshipThis book is a must-read for people interesting in Rhode Island history. I earned a degree in history at Providence College

and I developed a keen interest in the Ocean State. McLoughlin was a Brown University scholar who wrote a lively and interesting history of the region. The author demonstrated detailed knowledge of the religious happenings of the state. He gave a lot of coverage to the life and activities of Roger Williams. Rhode Island residents were known for being non-conformists and independent minded people. The state was derisively referred to as "Rogue's Island" by puritanical leaders from neighboring Massachusetts. The author gave detailed coverage of "Dorr's War," a unique time in Rhode Island history where a rival legislature formed in the state between 1842 and 1844. There were not a lot of actual fatalities, but some blood was shed in sporadic skirmishes. This was a fascinating era in Rhode Island history. McLoughlin covered the Gilded Age era and the prominence of pseudo-aristocratic families like the Browns. The state was more conservative and business-oriented in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The author described how the state transformed into a bastion of Democratic politics. T.F. Green was an enthusiastic supporter of the New Deal. Claiborne Pell was instrumental in educational reforms. John O. Pastore became a Great Society liberal icon. This is a well-written and informative book. The book is a bit dated and only covers events into the late 1970's and early 1980's. Still, the book is an essential resource for those who are interested in the key events in Rhode Island history. This is an outstanding book written with passion and precision from a historical master. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read and broad understanding. By Dean An excellent trip into the reality of Rhode Island from the very first settlers - with no holds barred. Particularly good in light of what has been said to be present day "unfairness" in our election processes - included in the stories of how business developed are vivid descriptions of how elections were manipulated with "rules" of who could and who could not vote and how those rules changed to maintain control. Some things never change. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Cecil R. Cole It is a very good coverage of the history of RI.

With a Historical Guide prepared by the editors of the American Association for State and Local History. High atop the Rhode Island capitol in Providence, a bronze likeness of "The Independent Man" keeps watch over a state that historically has put the ideal of individual liberty before all others. Like many ideals, this one was freighted with many meanings. As the colony grew in the seventeenth century, the belief in religious liberty and freedom of conscience espoused by its founder, Roger Williams, led to the development of political liberty and practical democracy. In the eighteenth century, that dedication to individualism made Rhode Islanders into businessmen of the first order, willing to take the big risk in hope of a bigger reward. Their land being poor in natural resources, Rhode Islanders turned to trade; accumulating wealth from traffic in rum and slaves, they built in Newport and Providence small but elegant copies of Georgian England, and worried more about taxes and currency than about religion. When they felt poorly served by British policies, they became ready revolutionaries and led in the founding of a new nation. After the Civil War, their children took individual liberty to mean economic laissez-faire, ushering in the state's golden age when Rhode Island senator Nelson Aldrich became known as the "general manager" of the United States. Through countless changes in the twentieth century, the ideal still survives and asks old questions of new generations of Rhode Islanders from many ethnic backgrounds: How best to reconcile the rights of minorities with the rule of the majority, and how best to secure the individual liberty and economic opportunity that Roger Williams and Moses Brown would have understood so well?

From the Back Cover High atop the Rhode Island capitol in Providence, a bronze likeness of "The Independent Man" keeps watch over a state that historically has put the ideal of individual liberty before all others. Like many ideals, this one was freighted with many meanings. As the colony grew in the seventeenth century, the belief in religious liberty and freedom of conscience espoused by its founder, Roger Williams, led to the development of political liberty and practical democracy. About the Author William G. McLoughlin, prize-winning historian at Brown University, has lived and worked in Rhode Island for many years. He has written and edited a dozen books, including *New England Dissent: The Baptists and the Separation of Church and State*, which was awarded the Melchior Prize.