

John smith, roger
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vastly different views
of...



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NATIVE AMERICANS Introduction This paper looks how differently John Smith, Roger Williams, and Mary Rowlandson present vastly different views of Native Americans and tries to account for the difference in views. This is based on their various experiences upon contact with the Native Americans.

Body

The report on Virginia, "The General History of Virginia" by William Simons for John Smith, 1624, shows John's views on Native Americans. He describes them as ambivalent as he saw them as having both positive and negative characteristics. This difference in view is due to the fact that upon arrival to America, the Indians were hospitable to them by providing them with fruits and provision which showed their positive side. "Sixty or seventy of them, some black, some red, some white, some partly colored, came in a square order, singing and dancing out of the woods with their Okee" 43. While having these positive sides, Smith describe them as being barbaric shows the negative aspect of the natives. This view was due to the torture he received from the natives when they imprisoned him.

Robert William on the other hand describe native Indians as being industrious and rich for having the desire to trade with them instead of killing them. The difference in how Robert sees the Native Americans can be accounted for by the fact that he was a Christian minister who saw the natives as being equal to the white settlers. This can be seen through his vision of having peace and harmony between the Europeans and the settlers and the Natives who were fighting over land.

Mary Rawlandson describes natives Americans as noble savages. This difference in views is seen by the fact that she did not like their lifestyle

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especially during the early period of her captivity. However, with time she came to admire this for their ability to survive under harsh environments with very limited amounts of resources. In turn she also came to learn how to survive in the environment. This difference in views is also seen by the fact that the natives showed her nobility through appreciating that she was a religious woman and therefore, giving her permission to respect the Sabbath day. " When Sabbath came they bade me to work but I told them it was the Sabbath day and desire them to let me rest, and I would do more tomorrow" 237. Despite of this, she still considered them as the enemy for capturing holding her hostage that led to the death of her children.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it can be seen that the paper accounts the difference in views where John Smith considers them mainly as being barbaric for torturing him. Mary thinks of them as mainly being noble savages for capturing her but on the other hand having the ability to survive in hash conditions. Robert Williams considers them as being equals to them which can be accounted by the fact that he was a strong Christian who believed that everyone is equal.