

# German Immigration Settlement And Political Culture In Colonial America 1717

Germany has been a country known for its rich history and diverse culture. In the early 18th century, waves of German immigrants made their way to colonial America in search of better opportunities and a new life. One of the most significant waves of German immigration occurred in 1717, with settlers bringing with them not only their skills and work ethic but also a unique political culture that would contribute to the shaping of America's future.

## The Journey to America

In 1717, a large group of around 13,000 German immigrants set sail for America. These immigrants, known as the Palatines, were primarily from the southwestern region of Germany. They left their homeland due to political and religious persecution, as well as economic hardships. In search of a brighter future, they embarked on a treacherous journey across the Atlantic Ocean, enduring harsh conditions and cramped quarters.

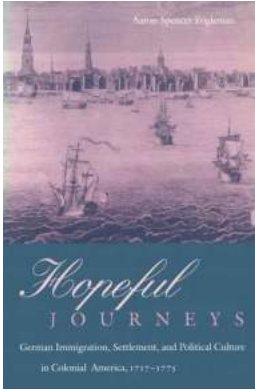
The journey took several months, and many did not survive due to diseases, malnutrition, and other hardships. However, those who made it to colonial America were determined to start afresh and build a better life for themselves and their families.

## Hopeful Journeys: German Immigration, Settlement, and Political Culture in Colonial America, 1717-1775 (Early American Studies)

by Aaron Spencer Fogleman (Illustrated Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 4869 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 272 pages



## Settlement in Colonial America

Upon arrival, the German immigrants settled in various regions of colonial America. The majority found their new home in Pennsylvania, attracted by promises of religious freedom, cheap land, and economic prosperity. Other settlements were established in New York, Virginia, and North Carolina, among other areas.

In Pennsylvania, German immigrants formed tight-knit communities and maintained their language, customs, and traditions. They established agricultural operations, skilled trades, and businesses, contributing to the economic growth of the colony. The Germans brought with them their expertise in farming, brewing, weaving, and other crafts, enriching the skills available in the young American society.

## Political Culture

The German immigrants brought not only their work ethic and skills but also a distinct political culture that had a lasting impact on colonial America. Coming from a region with a history of political turmoil and authoritarian rule, the Germans valued individual freedoms, participatory governance, and a sense of community.

German settlers actively engaged in local politics, participating in town meetings, and holding elected positions. This involvement in local governance influenced the development of democratic principles in the colonies. The Germans' emphasis on collective decision-making and consultation shaped the formation of representative institutions and the idea of popular sovereignty.

German immigrants also introduced the concept of public education to colonial America. They believed in the importance of universal education and established schools that taught not only religious instruction but also subjects such as mathematics, reading, and writing. This emphasis on education laid the foundation for the American public school system, which would later become a pillar of democracy.

## **Legacy**

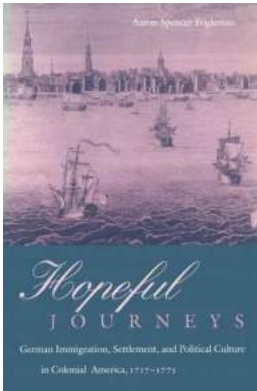
The German immigration of 1717 left a lasting legacy in colonial America. German settlers helped shape the economic, cultural, and political landscape of the colonies. Their contributions to agriculture, industry, and trade boosted the young economy. The preservation of their language, customs, and traditions added diversity to the colonial society.

The German influence on political culture played a crucial role in the eventual fight for independence and the establishment of the United States. Their commitment to individual freedoms, participatory governance, and public education laid the groundwork for the democratic principles that would define the nation.

## **In**

The German immigration settlement in colonial America in 1717 was a significant event that brought forth a unique political culture. The immigrants' journey,

settlement, and contributions to various aspects of colonial society shaped America's future. Their work ethic, skills, and democratic values continue to resonate to this day, making the German immigrants of 1717 an integral part of America's rich history.



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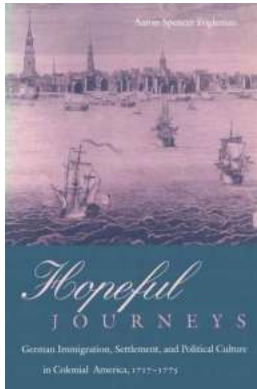
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In 1700, some 250,000 white and black inhabitants populated the thirteen American colonies, with the vast majority of whites either born in England or descended from English immigrants. By 1776, the non-Native American population had increased tenfold, and non-English Europeans and Africans dominated new immigration. Of all the European immigrant groups, the Germans may have been the largest.

Aaron Spencer Fogleman has written the first comprehensive history of this eighteenth-century German settlement of North America. Utilizing a vast body of published and archival sources, many of them never before made accessible outside of Germany, Fogleman emphasizes the importance of German

immigration to colonial America, the European context of the Germans' emigration, and the importance of networks to their success in America



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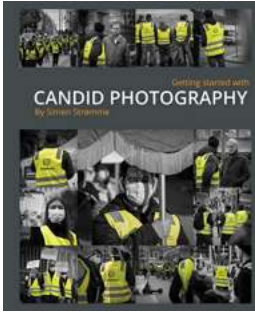
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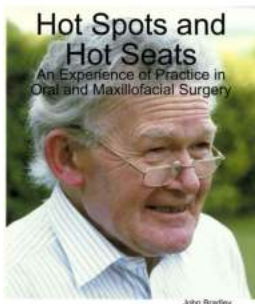
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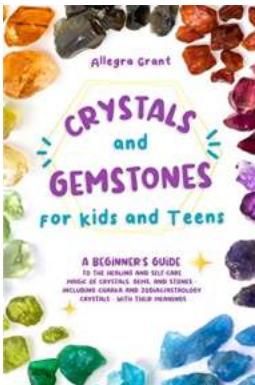
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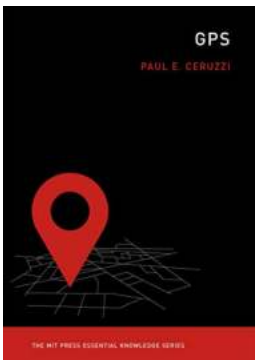
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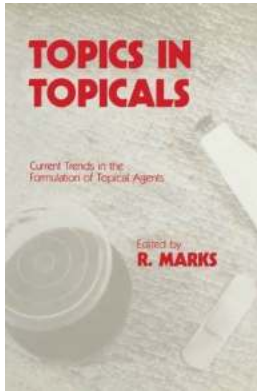
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