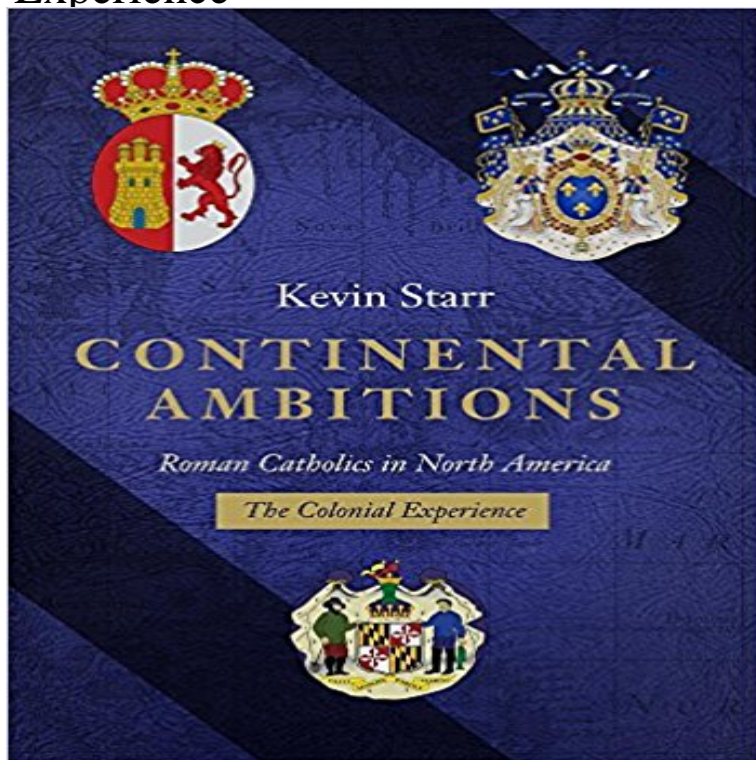


## Continental Ambitions: Roman Catholics in North America: the Colonial Experience



In *Continental Ambitions*, Kevin Starr has achieved a fast-paced evocation of three Roman Catholic civilizations—Spain, France, and Recusant England—as they explored, evangelized, and settled the North American continent. Roman Catholics in North America: *The Colonial Experience* represents the first time this story has been told in one volume. Showing the same narrative verve of Starr's award-winning *Americans* and the *California Dream* series, this riveting but sometimes painful narrative should reach a wide readership. Starr begins this work with the exploration and temporary settlement of North America by recently Christianized Scandinavians. He continues with the destruction of Caribbean peoples by New Spain, the struggle against this tragedy by the great Dominican Bartolome de las Casas, the Jesuit and Franciscan exploration and settlement of the Spanish Borderlands, and the strengths and weaknesses of the mission system. He then turns his attention to New France with its highly developed Catholic and Counter-Reformational cultures of Quebec and Montreal, its encounters with Native American peoples, and its advance southward to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico. The volume ends with the founding of Maryland as a proprietary colony for Roman Catholic Recusants and Anglicans alike, the rise of Philadelphia and southern Pennsylvania as centers of Catholic life, the Suppression of the Jesuits in 1773, and the return of John Carroll to Maryland the following year. Starr dramatizes the representative personalities and the events that illustrate the triumphs and tragedies, achievements and failures, of each of these societies in their explorations, treatment of Native Americans, and translations of religious and social value to new and challenging environments. His history is notable for its honesty and its synoptic success in comparing and

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