



Florida: A Short History (Columbus Quincentenary)

By Michael Gannon

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"An exciting voyage through Florida's past. . . . Almost every page could make you say, I didn't know that!"Tampa Tribune

"Gannon's love for Florida comes through in a marvelous narrative style [that] doesn't bog down in dates and reams of facts that historians find interesting, but others don't."--Miami Herald

"First rate . . . desperately needed . . . entertaining . . . fun!"--Orlando Sentinel

"Gannon is a lifelong student of the history of his state, an acclaimed teacher, a masterful and tireless raconteur, and a superb stylist. Florida: A Short History showcases each of these strengths and talents and contains the latest archaeological and historical scholarship."--Florida Historical Quarterly

As if Ponce de León, who happened on the peninsula in 1513, returned today to demand a quick reckoning ("Tell me what happened after I was there, but leave out the boring parts!"), Michael Gannon recounts the longest recorded history of any state in the nation in twenty-seven brisk, fully illustrated chapters.

From indigenous tribes who lived along spring-fed streams to environmentalists who labor to "Save Our Rivers," from the first conquistadors whose broad black ships astonished the natives to the 123,000 refugees whose unexpected immigration stunned South Floridians in 1980, the story of the state is as rich and distinctive as the story of America.

And it's older than most people think. As Gannon writes, "By the time the Pilgrims came ashore at Plymouth, St. Augustine was up for urban renewal. It was a town with fort, church, seminary, six-bed hospital, fish market, and about 120 shops and houses. Because La Florida stretched north from the Keys to Newfoundland and west to Texas, St. Augustine could claim to be the capital of much of what is now the United States."

Gannon tells his fast-marching saga in chronological fashion. Starting with the

wilderness of the ancient earth, he fills the landscape with Indians, colonists, pioneers, entrepreneurs, politicians, and the panorama of Florida today--“the broad superhighways that wind past horse farms, retirement communities, international airports, launch pads, futuristic attractions, and come to rest, finally, amidst the gleaming towers of Oz?like cities.” This revised edition concludes with a look into the twenty-first century, including “in-migration,” restoration of the Everglades, education, the work force, and the infamous 2000 presidential election.

Michael Gannon is distinguished service professor emeritus of history at the University of Florida. Among other honors, he has received the first Arthur W. Thompson Prize from the Florida Historical Society and the decoration Knight Commander of the Order of Isabel la Católica from King Juan Carlos I of Spain. He is the author of the best-selling Operation Drumbeat and editor of The New History of Florida.

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Florida: A Short History (Columbus Quincentenary) By Michael Gannon Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #257833 in Books
- Published on: 2003-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.18" h x .51" w x 6.04" l, .73 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

This is a welcome mini-successor to Charlton Tebeau's out-of-print *A History of Florida*. Gannon (history, Univ. of Florida) has updated coverage of the state's long history to include minorities, women, and environmental concerns through the year of Hurricane Andrew, focusing more on social than political history. The book contains some minor factual errors: the town of Cedar Key is misspelled several times as Cedar Keys, which is an offshore wildlife refuge; Gannon laments the exclusionary policies of the Universities of Miami and Florida, which in the 1940s excluded blacks from sports teams, while ignoring the opportunities then afforded African Americans at A&M College, which produced renowned athletes Willie Gallimore and Althea Gibson. Despite these slips, Gannon's work belongs on all library shelves.

- *Susan Hamburger, Alderman Lib., Univ. of Virginia Lib., Charlottesville*

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Review

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About the Author

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mildred Parker:

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always try to and must have the free time or they will get great deal of stress from both way of life and work. So , if we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not only a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative throughout spending your spare time, the actual book you have read will be *Florida: A Short History (Columbus Quincentenary)*.

Alan Coleman:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this *Florida: A Short History (Columbus Quincentenary)* publication written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written inside good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still uncertainty *Florida: A Short*

History (Columbus Quincentenary) as good book not simply by the cover but also from the content. This is one publication that can break don't judge book by its protect, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Keri Yokum:

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Mary Stone:

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