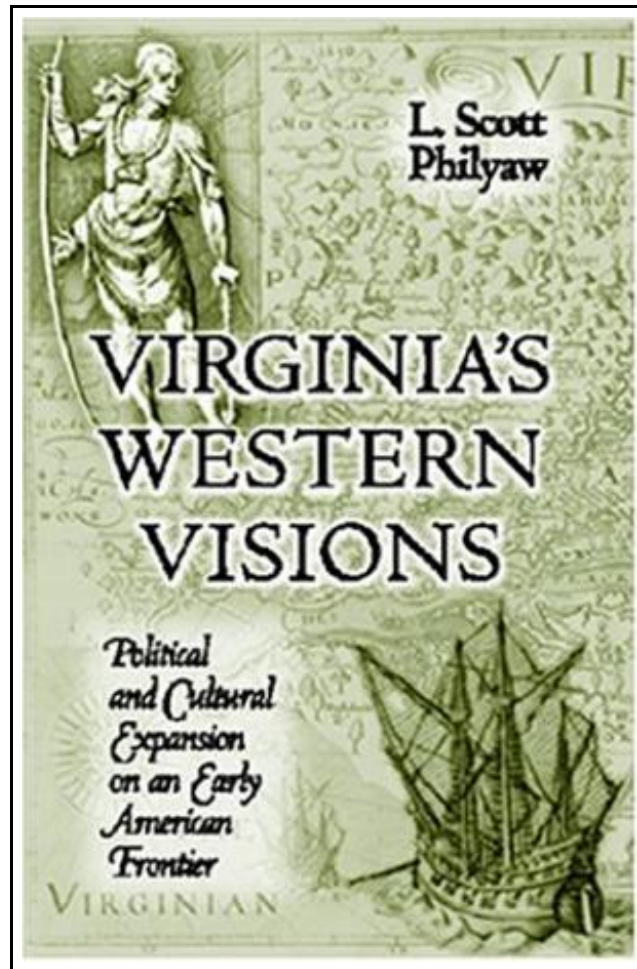


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University of Tennessee Press, United States, 2004. Hardback. Book Condition: New. New.. 236 x 145 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Once all the world was Virginia an exaggerated truism to be sure, but in the early eighteenth century, there seemed no limit on the Old Dominion s possibility for growth, particularly in the eyes of the state s Tidewater elite. Wealthy tobacco barons monopolized thousands of acres along Virginia s frontier, and early leadership, including William Byrd, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington, saw the generous possibilities in the expanse of lands to their west. In 1705 Virginia planter and historian Robert Beverly confidently foresaw the day when Virginia s settlements would reach the California Sea. In *Virginia s Western Visions*, L. Scott Philyaw examines the often tumultuous history of Virginia s westward expansion. Land, the foundation to tobacco cultivation and slavery, obsessed early Virginians. Land acquisition was also a necessary step in dispossessing Virginia s native inhabitants, replacing them with Europeans and Africans. The relationship between Virginia s Tidewater elite and the hinterland was never simple, however. The backcountry s economic potential was undeniable, as was the possibility for colonization; but elites feared the threat of Native American nations, and the western border was consistently a source of unrest. For many English colonists, the inland wilderness was terrifying, and Philyaw argues that attitudes toward the different peoples of the frontier Native Americans, French Catholic villagers, and German and Ulster-Scot immigrants shed light on the cultural and ethnic assumptions of the architects of the American republic. By the early nineteenth century, the optimism of the Revolutionary generation had faded. New western states competed with Virginia for markets, settlers, and investments, and wealthy planters began abandoning the Old Dominion, taking their portable slave wealth with them. As the War of...

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