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From the winner of both the Bancroft and the Pulitzer Prize

THE DIVIDED GROUND



Indians, Settlers, and
the Northern Borderland
of the American Revolution
by Alan Taylor



IN 1761, at a boarding school in New England, a young Mohawk Indian named Joseph Brant first met Samuel Kirkland, the son of a colonial clergyman. It was the beginning of a 50-year relationship that redefined the place of Indians in North America. Initially, close friends, Brant and Kirkland became bitter foes. As a missionary and an agent, Kirkland served American expansion by promoting the conversion and dispossession of Indians, while Brant defended an Indian borderland allied with the British in Canada. This is a gripping account of how that embattled “middle ground” ultimately came to be divided between the British Empire and the American republic.

**“A rich, sprawling history
...told by a master of the trade,”**

says *Publishers Weekly*.

“One of Taylor’s great insights is that historians have taken at face value what European settlers said about the ‘preemption rights’ by which colonists and imperial governments claimed Indian territory. Taylor recovers Indians’ reactions to those ‘rights.’ Many Indian leaders, recognizing that they couldn’t reverse European settlement, tried to at least dictate how that settlement would unfold—they wished to lease, rather than sell, their land, and they hoped to pick their neighbors.

“Giving narrative shape to the depressing and potentially unwieldy saga is the tale of the relationship between Joseph Brant, who exploited his ability to shift ‘between European gentility and Indian culture’, and Samuel Kirkland, a pious Calvinist who was both an evangelist and government agent among the Indians. This complex history told by a master of the trade will repay close reading.”

**“Powerful and poignant...Never again will readers of
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as just another line on the map.”**

—STEPHEN ARON, author of *American Confluence*

**“Illuminating and even-handed...
A grand tale of mutual need and mutual suspicion.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews*

ALAN TAYLOR is a professor of history at the University of California at Davis and a contributing writer at *The New Republic*. He is the author of *Liberty Men and Great Proprietors*, *American Colonies*, and *William Cooper’s Town*, which won the Bancroft and Pulitzer Prizes for American History.

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