

Autopia Cars And Culture

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the reach of the car today is almost universal and its effect on landscapes cityscapes cultures indeed on the very fabric of the modern world is profound cars have brought benefits to individuals in terms of mobility and expanded horizons but the cost has been very high in terms of damage to the environment and the consumption of precious resources despite the growing belief that a faustian price is now being paid for the freedom cars have bestowed on us we are none the less

manufacturing them in ever greater numbers autopia is the first book to explore the culture of the motor car in the widest possible sense featuring newly commissioned essays by writers critics historians artists and film makers as well as reprinting key texts it examines the effect of the car throughout the world including the usa western and eastern europe japan china cuba india and south africa in this book the car is treated neither as a technological fetish object nor as an instrument of danger instead it is examined as a hugely important determinant of 20th century culture neither wholly good nor an unmitigated disaster and certainly endlessly fascinating contributors include michael bracewell ziauddin sardar al rees martin pawley donald richie and peter hamilton key texts by marshall berman jane jacobs roland barthes marc auge and others

a succinct yet comprehensive history cars and culture highlights the technical changes that altered the appearance and performance of automobiles along with the myriad forces that have shaped the car's development

this is a multidisciplinary analysis of the relationship between the motor car and popular culture in the 20th century which brings together original essays by academics in the uk north america and australia the contributors write from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives including semiotics social history literary and film criticism and musicology three main themes are addressed the car as a cultural image its impact on leisure and entertainment and the cultural significance of the processes of manufacturing and selling cars

anyone who assumes that a car is simply a means to get from point a to point b or who even thinks that they know what a car is should read this book profoundly shaped by culture the car gives rise to a wide range of emotions from guilt about the environment in the uk to aboriginal concerns with car corpses to struggles to keep the creatures alive with everything but the proper spare parts in west africa cars and their landscapes prove central to human life from its most intimate to the widest sense of global crisis and are capable of inspiring epic passions from road rage in western europe to the struggles of cab driving in africa to the emergence of black identity in the us this book examines the essential humanity of the car which includes the jealousies gender differences fears and moralities that cars give rise to firmly grounded in detailed ethnographic and historical scholarship this is the first book to provide an informed sense of cars as one of the most familiar and significant forms of material culture

with the powerful rhythmic sounds of aboriginal english and kokatha language woven through the narrative mazin grace is the inspirational story of a feisty girl

who refuses to be told who she is determined to uncover the truth for herself growing up on the mission isn't easy for clever Grace Oldman when her classmates tease her for not having a father she doesn't know what to say Pappa Neddy says her dad is the Lord God in Heaven but that doesn't help when the mission kids call her a bastard as Grace slowly pieces together clues that might lead to answers she struggles to find a place in a community that rejects her for reasons she doesn't understand in this novel author Dylan Coleman fictionalizes her mother's childhood at the Koonibba Lutheran Mission in South Australia in the 1940s and 1950s

Jacksonville has long been a mecca for car enthusiasts and collectors due in part to the city's unique automotive history bystanders gazed in wonder as John Einig drove Florida's very first steam powered horseless carriage through the streets in 1889 Fred Gilbert opened the first automobile dealership in 1903 just before the city's first automobile parade and people were soon clamoring to buy cars of their own Claude Nolan whose local dealership has been in business for well over a century gained fame for racing his Cadillac against an airplane at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds NASCAR held races at the Jacksonville Speedway in the 50s and 60s author Dorothy K Fletcher explores the rich history and memories of car culture in the River City

Welcome to Cuba's automotive time capsule filled with classic cars the story of how Cuba came to be trapped in automotive time is a fascinating one for decades the island country had enjoyed healthy tourism trade and American outpost status and by the 1950s it had the highest per capita automotive purchasing of any Latin American country its middle class ensured an interesting variety of vehicles plying the roads but when Cuba fell to communist rebels in 1959 so ended the inflow of new cars since then trade embargo forced Cuba's car enthusiasts to develop a unique and insular culture one marked by great creativity such as keeping a car alive with no opportunity to acquire replacement parts customizing a car with no access to aftermarket parts drag racing with no drag strip in many ways Cuba is an automotive time warp where the newest car is a 1959 Chevy or perhaps one of the Soviet Ladas Cuba's car culture offers an inside look at a unique car culture populated with cars that have been cut off from the world so long that they've morphed into something else in the spirit of automotive survival authors Tom Cotter and Bill Warner founder of the Amelia Island Concours take readers of Cuba's car culture on a whirlwind tour of all things automotive beginning with Cuba's pre-Castro car and racing history and bringing us up to today's lost collector cars street racing and the challenges of keeping decades old cars on the road the book is illustrated throughout with rare historical photos as well as contemporary photos of Cuba's current car scene for anyone who enjoys classic cars from old

chevy bel airs to studebakers to ford fairlanes a cruise around cuba will make you feel like a kid in a candy store

the automobile and american culture edited by david l lewis and laurence goldstein offers a sweeping exploration of the automobile s impact on american society integrating both scholarly and popular approaches this landmark anthology brings together essays memoirs fiction poetry and graphics to describe the profound and multifaceted impact of one of the twentieth century s most fascinating inventions on american life now in its revised and expanded form the collection provides an even closer look at the past present and future of america s automobile revolution with contributions from acclaimed writers artists musicians and scholars this volume examines the automobile s influence on every corner of american society the city and the farm fashion and art domestic life popular culture youth gender sexuality and the evolving american psyche iconic figures such as chuck berry carl sandburg and bruce springsteen appear alongside incisive academic analysis underscoring the car s central place in both creative imagination and lived experience organized thematically the automobile and american culture explores how the automobile not only transformed the physical landscape and economy but also became a powerful cultural symbol one both praised and critiqued as it shaped the nation s identity values and dreams from the industry s michigan roots to roadside americana and critiques of modern car culture this anthology stands as the definitive reference for anyone seeking to understand the enduring love affair between americans and their cars and the way this relationship continues to influence society today

in the tradition of her landmark coffee table book roadside america the automobile and the american dream renowned automotive visionary and award winning photographer lucinda lewis wows lovers of classic automobiles and popular culture with her photographic tribute to one of the world s most iconic automobiles the chevrolet bel air this pictorial essay of the chevrolet bel air car model is a must have book for anyone who appreciates classic american cars lewis has selected some of her favorite photographs from the vintage bel air series in their natural habitat the highways and byways of america the result car culture classics chevrolet bel air is a visual feast of chrome laden bel air s and their artistically designed accessories and automotive design features set against the backdrop of roadside america with its gleaming neon drenched 20th century architecture influenced by the rise of the automobile you will never look at a chevrolet bel air the same way again

love them or hate them most of us have an opinion about cars if not the cars

themselves then it's driver competence and behaviour that can offend us and then there's modification alloy wheels custom audio systems and bespoke paint jobs for some changing the look feel and sound of a car says something about themselves but for others such enhancements signify a lack of taste or even criminality in subtle and complex ways cars transmit and modify our identities behind the wheel as a symbol of independence and freedom the car projects status class taste and significantly embeds racialisation using fascinating research from drivers including first person accounts as well as exploring hip hop music and car related tv shows alam unpicks the ways in which identity is rehearsed enhanced interpreted

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