

The Portable Western Reader

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a collection of western stories poems essays and excerpts from more than seventy authors

the american west is as varied in its inhabitants as it is in its landforms yet what has come to stand for western writing is the myth of the wagon train and the lone gunman this authoritative anthology assembled poems essays stories and excerpts by ken kesey raymond carver larry mcmurtry ivan doig and many others which transcend the myth and explore the vast range of wetsern experience

this book is a survey of the movie western that covers its history from the early silent era to recent spins on the genre in

films such as *No Country for Old Men* there will be blood true grit and cowboys aliens the authors provide fresh perspectives on landmark films such as *Stagecoach* *Red River* *The Searchers* *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* and *The Wild Bunch* and they also pay tribute to many underappreciated westerns including *3 Bad Men* *The Wind* *The Big Trail* *Ruggles of Red Gap* *Northwest Passage* *The Westerner* *The Furies* *Jubal* and *Comanche Station* the book explores major phases of the western's development silent era oaters a production classics of the 1930s and early 1940s and the more psychologically complex presentations of the westerner that emerged in the post world war ii period they examine various forms of genre revival and genre revisionism that have recurred over the past half century culminating especially in the masterworks of clint eastwood central themes of the book include the inner life of the western hero the importance of the natural landscape the tension between myth and history the depiction of the native american and the juxtaposing of comedy and tragedy provided by publisher

this book considers the presence of the supernatural and gothic elements of the western on screen these dark and sinister undertones often exist in western narratives to draw attention to the ever present issue of death and its haunting resonance which characters encounter this book examines this through key historic moments in western film and its contemporary incarnations the book detects imposing correlations in themes and currents between the gothic and the western relating to existential crisis and a loss of faith in ideologies and institutions these themes represent the tensions between the old and the new the deranged insistence on civility and order in a chaotic landscape disillusionment and the shattering of faith in the natural order and even nature and order themselves the western just like the gothic tale reminds us that new frontiers are mired in the past and optimism and survival are hunted down and haunted by guilt ridden past and passed anxieties and traumas

this wide ranging book illuminates the importance of the western in american history it explores the interconnections between the western in both literature and film and the united states in the 20th century structured chronologically the book traces the evolution of the western as a uniquely american form the author argues that america's frontier past was quickly transformed into a set of symbols and myths an american meta narrative that came to underpin much of the american century he details how and why this process occurred the form and function of western myths and symbols the evolution of this mythology and its subversions and reconstructions throughout 20th century american history the book engages with the full range of historical literary and cinematic perspectives and texts from the founding western histories of theodore roosevelt and frederick jackson turner to the new western history of patricia nelson limerick and richard white

a companion to the american west is a rigorous illuminating introduction to the history of the american west twenty five

essays by expert scholars synthesize the best and most provocative work in the field and provide a comprehensive overview of themes and historiography covers the culture politics and environment of the american west through periods of migration settlement and modernization discusses native americans and their conflicts and integration with american settlers

a collection featuring the newest generation of western writers creating new visions of the american west

to this structural analysis he adds a new account of the genre s history and its relationship to the myths of the west which have played such an influential role in american history book jacket

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conventional literary representations of western american history repress the violent conquest central to u s westward expansion through images of open space autonomous individualism and masculine heroism in particular the genre of autobiography has traditionally reproduced autonomous transcendent and masculinist notions of selfhood this book analyzes new western autobiographical narratives that contest such colonial understandings of race gender and landscape through a comparative analysis of memoirs and multiform narratives by diverse euro american native american and chicana writers this study explores the ways in which new western writing both reproduces and transforms conventional representations of the american west through the lens of narrative form this book closely analyzes contemporary texts that

express contradictory historical visions and notions of selfhood even as they push the boundaries of autobiography the book's introduction provides a theoretical and historical overview of western american historiography and literary representations the book is then divided into four chapters three of which compare contradictory visions of western identity in texts by diverse euro american and native american authors from the late twentieth century the fourth chapter focuses on these issues in the work of a popular chicana author drawing upon a wide array of methodologies and perspectives narrating the american west offers valuable insights to students and scholars in a variety of fields including postcolonial theory ecocriticism the new western history native american studies american studies gender studies and autobiography theory

in this collection of letters diaries interviews and public writings from people who were in the right place at the right time david colbert gives us a history of the american west but not the one we usually encounter and expect dallas morning news spanning 500 years from the aztecs first encounter with spanish conquistadors to the explosion of technology in silicon valley today vivid episodes swirl together revealing patterns that link early kentuckians and asian immigrants mormons and black buffalo soldiers the first los angeles smog and an 1811 earthquake that reversed the mississippi's flow the trail of tears and the summer of love georgia o keefe at taos the origin of levi's and the eruption of culture in the contemporary northwest david colbert's kaleidoscope of the american experience invites readers to delve into any moment in the history of the west offering clear themes that will satisfy history buffs and enough entertaining surprises to delight the casual reader

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