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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

with more than forty selections including essays short stories poetry excerpts from novels and diaries and a complete play this authoritative and adventuresome collection shows why the west has occupied such a prominent place in the national consciousness and reveals that western writers may currently be mapping out a significant development in american thought

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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the outgrowth of two symposiums sponsored by the university of utah college of law s wallace stegner center for land resources and the environment ack

essays on authors of american western literature suggesting the enormous diversity of north america s western peoples visions and possibilities these writers share a common awe of the immensity of the west while also exhibiting a wide range of individual cultural and ethical literary responses to the nature and meaning of the western experience includes discussion of the transformation of the west after world war ii and the cultural shock of the late 1960s

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