



The American Western

By Stephen McVeigh

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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.

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Editorial Review

Review

The American Western places depictions of the West into the complex history and spectacular landscape of this emblematically American region. McVeigh's work lays claim to an impressive, interdisciplinary field of study. It should be read, taught, and appreciated.'

(Professor Eric Sandeen, University of Wyoming)

Thoughtful, lucid, and informed.

(CHOICE)

About the Author

Stephen McVeigh is Lecturer in the Department of American Studies at the University of Wales

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