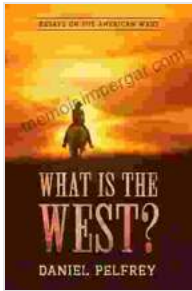


What Is The West?



What is the West?: Essays on the American West

by Daniel Pelfrey

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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Uncover the Intriguing History and Legacy of Western Civilization

Prepare to embark on an enlightening intellectual adventure that will transport you through time and civilizations. 'What Is The West?' is an essential guide for anyone seeking to unravel the complexities, contradictions, and enduring legacy of Western culture.

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Explore the ancient roots of Western civilization, tracing its origins from Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece. Discover how the ideas, values, and institutions of these ancient societies laid the groundwork for the development of a unique and influential global force.

American West basic information

Plains Indians: nomadic hunter gatherers, reliant on horse and buffalo for all resources. 3 hunts a year. Warriors did hunting, women processed the kill. Used for food, clothes and shelter. Women highly valued, cooked, made clothes and tips. Men were judged as warriors and hunters. No schools, no currency, polygamy common. Organised into bands run by a chief. Medicine man important to band, spirituality central to society, with lands sacred, dances for buffalo, scalp, rain, and sun. Visions created their names, e.g. Sitting Bull. **1824 bureau of Indian affairs** to manage them. **1830 Indian removal act** established an Indian Territory and permanent frontier, leading to first resettlement and 'trail of tears'. **1851 Indian appropriations act** set up reservations to protect Indians from settlers.

Migration: **1836 Oregon Trail** opened, allowing fast track for settlers. 1845 concept of manifest destiny popular suggesting God wanted America to be one country and plains to be settled. **1845-48 Mexican American war** gave USA vast areas of Mexico, e.g. Texas, New Mexico and Utah. **1846 Oregon treaty** agreed with GB agreed to re draw boundary with Canada gave USA more land. Experiences of the Opium party, leading to cannibalism from surviving 44 of 87 migrants. **1846-7 Mormon migration**, beginning with Joseph Smith and the book of Mormon. Moved from Ohio to Missouri because they were blamed for loss of money in banking collapse. Then moved to Illinois as anti-slavery and pro British. Arguments over Polygamy and presidential campaign. Smith murdered and replaced by Brigham Young, 16,000 Mormons move to Utah. Pioneer bands set up winter quarters, built trail and bridges, planted crops and built settlements. Settlement of Salt Lake City, agreed plots, communal water supplies and irrigation, self-sufficient in food but not made goods. Missionaries to encourage more to join them. **1849 California gold rush:** population of California went from 15,000 to 250,000. Violence of mining towns like Aurora, with 15000 men and 300 women, prostitutes, no school, gambling and saloons, gunfights e.g. Downey V Dolan and Daly, chosen as Marshall shooting Johnson. Early farmers had issues with lack of water, building materials, fuel, snakes, poor healthcare, fires, buffalo and Indian attacks. **1851 fort Laramie treaty** gave Indians reservations and subsidies, allowed railroads, trails and forts. Indian agents set up on reservations. Split between negotiators and exterminators. **1857-58 Mormon war**, with Mountain Meadow Massacre. Mormons defending against US army. Ended with non-Mormon governr in Utah. **1879 exodus movement** saw government of thousands of ex slaves to Kansas to enable sharecropping and the KKK. 1893 Oklahoma land rush started as Indian reservations were opened up to settlers to stake a claim, 50000 settlers crossed into the area in a month

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"An indispensable guide to understanding the intricate tapestry of Western civilization. 'What Is The West?' masterfully distills the pivotal moments, ideas, and individuals that have shaped our world."

- Professor John Smith, Harvard University

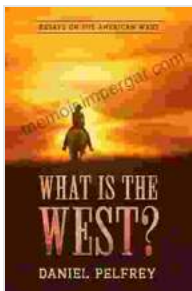
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- Jane Doe, Author and Historian

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