

## Supplemental Reading... Your Launch Pad Book

The books in the following list are (almost all) *academic monographs* about cross-cultural encounters in the American West. They share most of the following characteristics: a deep study of one topic that carries its narrative arc throughout the entire book (i.e. not a collection of separate essays), written by people with history PhDs, published by university presses with rigorous peer review processes, and likely to have been reviewed in academic journals. In a monograph, the author will discuss historiography and theory early on (introduction or first chapter), situating her/himself in broader scholarly dialogue. The author will also draw upon both extensive secondary source research and her/his own primary source research. This research and historiography can be traced through the book's scholarly apparatus like footnotes, endnotes, bibliography, index, and acknowledgments. These books are likely to have influenced other writers and scholars coming after them; perhaps the author has since appeared as a featured "talking head" in a history documentary, or the book's findings have made it into general history textbooks, or they have shifted the way a museum presents its collection, or their work has changed what park rangers say at a national historic site, or scholars in other disciplines eagerly borrow their ideas. Academic monographs are the native language of the discipline of history.

Your capstone research paper, on a smaller scale, needs to share many of the same characteristics as an academic monograph. It, too, will need to conduct a deep study of one topic and sustain a single coherent argument/narrative over the entire work. It also demonstrates your academic credentials, is subject to peer review, and situates you within broader scholarly and historiographical dialogue. You, likewise, will be drawing upon both secondary and primary research, and supporting your findings with footnotes and bibliography.

To that end, I ask you to obtain and study one of the books on this list, and to use it as a launching point for your own paper. I've provided short blurbs about each one to get you started.

- By **OBTAIN** I mean these are not for sale in the bookstore, so you need to be proactive in getting yourself a copy. Some are available in the university library either as actual books or as full-text e-books. For the others, use ILL (Interlibrary Loan), the public library, or find a cheap used copy from an online seller. **DO THIS EARLY.**
- By **STUDY** I mean you read it closely, marking it up if you own the book, paying attention to content, structure, argument, and citations. You should also look up and read as many academic journal book reviews as possible. Was it controversial & if so, why? Has it gone through multiple editions? Has it won awards? Has the book been cited by other scholars (check "Web of Science" database)? Who is the author? Find out as much as you can. What else has s/he written? Is this a young starting-out academic or an established, seasoned professor? Does s/he have a web presence? A blog? A Twitter account?
- By **LAUNCHING POINT** I mean that you *employ and build upon* your chosen monograph in some way. Perhaps its narrative structure inspires you to shape your paper similarly. Perhaps its topic / content / argument becomes the basis for your research. Perhaps you take this author's work and apply its thesis in a new context. You might expand on a small point buried somewhere in the book. Maybe you concur with the author's findings when you study a related topic. If you disagree, your informed research could challenge the author's work on a specific point. You are *not imitating or reproducing*, but you are *in scholarly dialogue with* this book, and it needs to be included / cited in your final paper.

Thomas G. Andrews, *Killing for Coal: America's Deadliest Labor War* (Harvard University Press, 2008)

A gripping & award-winning book about the 1914 Ludlow Massacre and the “Great Coalfield War” in Colorado, in which dozens of people, including miners and their families, were killed by mining company guards following a coal strike. A truly stunning piece of historical writing on an episode you may not know about – but should. Andrews is a historian at CU Boulder.

*Good if interested in:* immigration, social history, labor history, protests, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, industry / business history, environmental history

Colin G. Calloway, *One Vast Winter Count: The Native American West Before Lewis & Clark* (University of Nebraska Press, 2003)

A grand, engagingly written 400+ page synthetic work that traces the history of Native peoples of the American West from deep pre-history to the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Calloway (history professor and chair of Native American studies program at Dartmouth) blends ethnohistory, archaeology/anthropology, colonial history, and frontier history. Draws on a wide range of oral and archival sources from across the West, and offers a glimpse of the indigenous world before it was overrun by the great migrations of Anglo-Americans, Europeans and Asians.

*Good if interested in:* Native Americans, 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, colonial/early US history, ethnohistory, synthesis

Rachel Calof and J. Sanford Rikoon, *Rachel Calof's Story: A Jewish Homesteader on the Northern Plains* (Indiana University Press, 1995).

Unlike most immigrant homesteaders, many of whom came as established families from Scandinavia, Rachel Calof arrived in North Dakota alone at age 18 for an arranged Jewish marriage. Her vivid personal account of the first 10 years of her married life is an unvarnished personal history of the hardships and deprivations of homesteading on the northern plains, and will surely complicate your understanding of what “settling the West” actually meant. Note: this one is technically not a monograph; rather, it reprints and provides scholarly commentary on one woman’s journal.

*Good if interested in:* women’s history, late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century, rural history, social history, immigration, autobiography

David Grua, *Surviving Wounded Knee: The Lakotas and the Politics of Memory* (Oxford University Press, 2016)

Not just another account of the 1890 Wounded Knee massacre, Grua’s book picks up the story *after* the battle, tracing the efforts of survivors to tell their own versions and their continuing fight to be accurately represented in history. Grua (a historian at the Joseph Smith Papers Project) explores the complicated politics of official recognition and memorialization at the massacre site over many decades; his work has larger implications for how the nation collectively remembers some of its least heroic moments in time, and whose version of history becomes authoritative over time.

*Good if interested in:* public history, historical memory, military history, Native Americans, early 20<sup>th</sup> century, federal government

David Gutierrez, *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity* (University of California Press, 1995)

A timely and important book about a group often vilified in the media today. Gutierrez (historian at University of California San Diego) tackles more than a century of continuous immigration from Mexico to the Southwestern United States, providing welcome historical perspective on a current issue. He explores the Mexican American civil rights movement and complicates the binary of “citizen or alien” that infuses popular discourse about Mexicans in America.

*Good if interested in:* Latin American / Chicano studies, immigration, social history, ethnicity, politics, citizenship, federal government, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century

Susan Lee Johnson, *Roaring Camp: The Social World of the California Gold Rush* (W. W. Norton, 2000)

An important book about the gold rush in the 1840s, exploring the dynamic social world of the Sierra Nevada foothills – Mexican, Chilean, Indian, French, Anglo, black, and Chinese. Johnson (history professor at University of Colorado Boulder) focuses on how the world of “the diggings” profoundly affected gender and identity. She also explores how the cultural memory of the gold rush took root, obscuring the “real story” in a wash of nostalgic myth.

*Good if interested in:* California, gender / sexuality, pre-Civil War, multicultural history, economic / business history

Erika Lee and Judy Yung, *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America* (Oxford University Press, 2010)

Doubtless you know a little about Ellis Island in New York, but you probably know less about Angel Island immigration station in San Francisco, a detention and interrogation facility for immigrants from Asia to the Western states between 1910 and 1940. The station was later used as a Japanese internment camp during WWII and then abandoned, so its history is only being uncovered and told relatively recently. The two authors, both of whom have ancestors who were detained at Angel Island, painstakingly reconstruct this important, and long-neglected, part of the story of American immigration and counter the dominant narrative of European immigration to the Atlantic coast.

*Good if interested in:* immigration, Asian history, California, citizenship, legal history, family history, biography, federal government

Patricia Limerick, *Legacy of Conquest* (W. W. Norton, 1987, rev. ed. 2006)

Truly a classic (maybe THE classic) revisionist Western history; it overturned nearly every received wisdom about the region and how to tell its history when it appeared in the late 1980s. Limerick (Director of Center on the American West at CU Boulder, and the Colorado State Historian) approaches Western history as built on economics and business (rather than vague values like freedom and independence), and integrates the region into the broader sweep of American history instead of perpetuating the false notion that the West developed uniquely apart from the rest of the nation. Utterly shreds the Turner thesis once and for all with the tools of the new social history.

*Good if interested in:* social, economic / business history, historiography, synthesis

Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water* (Penguin Books, 1993, also various earlier editions starting in 1986)

This book is more than a generation old, but in the context of climate change it seems more prophetic and relevant each passing year. Reisner (the late great environmental historian, writer and activist) considered water usage, water rights, federal land development, and the extreme environmental stresses people place on the fragile Western landscapes. In our era of sprawl and rapid urban growth in places like Vegas, L.A. and Phoenix which are fast becoming megalopolises, and if you've ever wondered how on earth THAT many people can live in the desert regions of the American Southwest – here's where to start.

*Good if interested in:* environmental history, economic / business history, urban history, federal government, 20<sup>th</sup> century

Tiya Miles, *The Ties that Bind: The Story of an Afro-Cherokee Family in Slavery and Freedom* (University of California Press, 2015)

An award-winning book by Miles (Professor of History and American Culture, University of Michigan) about a “quintessentially American family” – a Cherokee warrior and African enslaved woman who bore five of his children. Conveys how precarious were the lives of Native and African people in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century's whirlwind of slavery, colonialism, Indian removal, and racial discourses/practices. A careful and brave reconstruction of one family's life, demonstrating how much we can (and cannot) learn through historical methods.

*Good if interested in:* 19<sup>th</sup> century / early national period, race, family / marriage, Native Americans, African-American history, microhistory, biography

Yoshiko Uchida, *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family* (University of Washington Press, 1982, rev. ed. 2015)

Note: this one is technically an autobiography, not a monograph, but I'm including it because it's a classic of Asian American writing and a key primary source text of the Japanese American internment during World War II. Uchida and her family were relocated from Berkeley, California to the Tanforan and then Topaz internment camps. If you select this book, you'll need to do extra reading about it in scholarly literature; *Desert Exile* has been extensively written about and you should get a handle on the book's scholarly reception, not only its well-crafted autobiographical contents.

*Good if interested in:* immigration, multiculturalism, Asian history, World War II era, 20<sup>th</sup> century, federal government, legal history

Richard White, *It's Your Misfortune and None of my Own: A New History of the American West* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1991)

An important revisionist textbook of the American West – organized by topic (not chronology), emphasizing aspects of the region often overlooked, especially strong in 20<sup>th</sup> century history (up to the Reagan era, anyway) and history of politics & bureaucracy / government relations / economic development. White (an environmental historian at University of Washington) portrays a West not frozen in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but dynamic, multi-racial, highly commercialized, thoroughly modernized and often tragically short-sighted.

*Good if interested in:* political history, economic / business, urban history, environmental history, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, federal government, historiography, synthesis