

Civilizing The Great Plains

[#Great Plains settlement](#) [#American frontier history](#) [#civilizing the West](#) [#pioneer life Great Plains](#) [#homesteading era](#)

Explore the pivotal historical process of civilizing the Great Plains, a monumental undertaking that transformed the American frontier. This content delves into the Great Plains settlement era, detailing the challenges faced by pioneer life and the significant impacts of homesteading on the landscape and its diverse inhabitants.

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Civilizing the Great Plains

"The Great Plains looked attractive to newcomers to America in the 1800s as they grabbed at offers of homesteads. What they experienced were perils, not only from Native American tribes intrinsic to the Plains, but from killer dust storms, cruel winters, and lost crops. Those homesteads in the Great Plains that once were the sites of battles and sandstorms gave way to the hard work and persistence of pioneer families, to blossom into great fields of grain and lush pastures. The hardy, brave farmers and ranchers held on until they turned the dry earth into the breadbasket of the world. Read about families who grew up there and can tell about it first-hand."--Back cover

The Great Plains, Second Edition

Published in Cooperation with the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Southern Methodist University This iconic description of the interaction between the vast central plains of the continent and the white Americans who moved there in the mid-nineteenth century has endured as one of the most influential, widely known, and controversial works in western history since its first publication in 1931. Arguing that "the Great Plains environment . . . constitutes a geographic unity whose influences have been so powerful as to put a characteristic mark upon everything that survives within its borders," Walter Prescott Webb identifies the revolver, barbed wire, and the windmill as technological adaptations that facilitated Anglo conquest of the arid, treeless region. Webb draws on history, anthropology, geography, demographics, climatology, and economics in arguing that the 98th Meridian constitutes an institutional fault line at which "practically every institution that was carried across it was either broken and remade or else greatly altered." This new edition of one of the foundational works of western American history features an introduction by Great Plains historian Andrew R. Graybill and a new index and updated design.

The Great Plains

A study of the changes initiated into the systems and culture of the plain dwellers

Goodlands

"Amer-European settlement of the Great Plains transformed bountiful Native soil into pasture and cropland, distorting the prairie ecosystem as it was understood and used by the peoples who originally populated the land. Settlers justified this transformation with the unexamined premise of deficiency, according to which the Great Plains region was inadequate in flora and fauna and the region lacking in modern civilization. Drawing on history, sociology, art, and economic theory, Frances W. Kaye counters the argument of deficiency, pointing out that, in its original ecological state, no region can possibly be incomplete. Goodlands examines the settlers' misguided theory, discussing the ideas that shaped its implementation, the forces that resisted it, and Indigenous ideologies about what it meant to make good use of the land. By suggesting methods for redeveloping the Great Plains that are founded on native cultural values, Goodlands serves the region in the context of a changing globe."--Publisher's website.

The Dream Seekers

In *The Dream Seekers*, Lee Irwin demonstrates the central importance of visionary dreams as sources of empowerment and innovation in Plains Indian religion. Irwin draws on 350 visionary dreams from published and unpublished sources that span 150 years to describe the shared features of cosmology for twenty-three groups of Plains Indians. This comprehensive work is not a recital but an understandable exploration of the religious world of Plains Indians. The different means of acquiring visions that are described include the spontaneous vision experience common among Plains Indian women and means such as stress, illness, social conflict, and mourning used by both men and women to obtain visions. Irwin describes the various stages of the structured male vision quest as well as the central issues of unsuccessful or abandoned quests, threshold experiences during a vision, and the means by which religious empowerment is attained and transferred.

The Great Frontier

First published in 1951, Walter Prescott Webb's provocative and controversial work redefining the frontier has become one of the classics of Western history.

The Making of a History

Walter Prescott Webb became one of the best known interpreters of the American West following the publication of *The Great Plains* in 1931. That book remained one of the outstanding studies of the region for decades and attracted considerable attention over the years for its unusual emphasis on the impact of geographic factors on the process of settlement. Using manuscript sources, some of which had not previously been available, Gregory M. Tobin has traced the elements that went into the planning and writing of *The Great Plains* and that account for its distinctive approach to the writing of a regional history. Tobin emphasizes two aspects of Webb's life that molded the historian's outlook: his early family life and community connections in West Texas and his admiration for the ideas of scholar Lindley Miller Keasbey. Webb reacted strongly against the assumption that the only cultural values of any real worth emanated from the urban and sophisticated East; he was determined to write the history of his own people in a way that would reveal the scale of their anonymous contribution to American civilization. By reverting to Keasbey's stress on the relationship between natural environment and social institutions, Webb broadened his study to take in what he believed to be a distinct geographic environment. The result was *The Great Plains*, an assertion of individual and regional identity by a man with a personal stake in establishing the image of a distinctive Plains civilization. Although *The Making of a History* is not a full biography of Walter Prescott Webb, it is the first biographically oriented study of a man regarded as one of the twentieth century's major western historians. It places his development within the framework of his intellectual and social setting and, in a sense, subjects his career to the same type of scrutiny that he advocated as the basis of the study of evolving cultures.

Plains of the Great West

Originally published in 1877, this book provides a comprehensive account of the Great Plains region of the United States, including its geology, flora and fauna, and the various tribes of Native Americans who lived there. Dodge's firsthand observations and vivid descriptions make this a must-read for anyone interested in the history and ecology of the American West. This work has been selected by scholars

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Sketches of Frontier and Indian Life on the Upper Missouri and Great Plains

Sketches of frontier and Indian life on the upper Missouri and great plains is an unchanged, high-quality reprint of the original edition of 1895. Hansebooks is editor of the literature on different topic areas such as research and science, travel and expeditions, cooking and nutrition, medicine, and other genres. As a publisher we focus on the preservation of historical literature. Many works of historical writers and scientists are available today as antiques only. Hansebooks newly publishes these books and contributes to the preservation of literature which has become rare and historical knowledge for the future.

The Great Plains

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GRT PLAINS THE ROMANCE OF WEST

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Pathfinders Of The Great Plains

A thrilling tale of adventure across the vast expanse of the Great Plains of North America, as brave explorers and fearless pioneers blaze new trails in pursuit of their dreams and fortunes. From the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River, this is the story of the men who risked everything to conquer this

untamed wilderness. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the "public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

The Plains of the Great West and Their Inhabitants

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The Touch of Civilization

The Touch of Civilization is a comparative history of the United States and Russia during their efforts to colonize and assimilate two indigenous groups of people within their national borders: the Sioux of the Great Plains and the Kazakhs of the Eurasian Steppe. In the revealing juxtaposition of these two cases author Steven Sabol elucidates previously unexplored connections between the state building and colonizing projects these powers pursued in the nineteenth century. This critical examination of internal colonization—a form of contiguous continental expansion, imperialism, and colonialism that incorporated indigenous lands and peoples—draws a corollary between the westward-moving American pioneer and the eastward-moving Russian peasant. Sabol examines how and why perceptions of the Sioux and Kazakhs as ostensibly uncivilized peoples and the Northern Plains and the Kazakh Steppe as “uninhabited” regions that ought to be settled reinforced American and Russian government sedentarization policies and land allotment programs. In addition, he illustrates how both countries encountered problems and conflicts with local populations while pursuing their national missions of colonization, comparing the various forms of Sioux and Kazakh martial, political, social, and cultural resistance evident throughout the nineteenth century. Presenting a nuanced, in-depth history and contextualizing US and Russian colonialism in a global framework, The Touch of Civilization will be of significant value to students and scholars of Russian history, American and Native American history, and the history of colonization.

Out Where the West Begins, Volume 2

In 1790, it was not a given that the young United States, bruised and healing from its struggle for independence and populated by fewer than 4 million inhabitants, would even survive, much less flourish. But the great adventure that came next—the exploration and settlement of the lands lying

to the west and stretching to the Pacific Ocean—would build a nation where only a patchwork of eastern seaboard colonies had existed before. The first book in this series, *Out Where the West Begins: Profiles, Visions, & Strategies of Early Western Business Leaders*, profiled fifty individuals who made significant contributions to the economic development of a young nation. This second volume follows the saga of more than one hundred influential men and women—political and military leaders, religious thinkers, civil rights proponents, suffragettes, African American pioneers, writers and artists, explorers and surveyors, architects, inventors, innovators, medical professionals, and conservationists—who together wove the story of early western frontier America. The engaging account of their lives forms a unique tapestry of human experience. In the words of the author, “Understanding our distinctive past helps us better comprehend who we are now and who we wish to become.”

The Nature of the Place

Central to that cumulative focus is the constant, immensely fruitful clash between the myths of the Great Plains - myths represented by such phrases as the Garden of the World, the Great American Desert, the Closed Frontier, Manifest Destiny, and the Safety Valve - and the infinitely more complex history of the region. Quantic is always aware of how that clash, while most productive of literature, has made a final, definitive vision of the Great Plains impossible.

MYTHS & LEGENDS OF THE GRT PLA

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The Contested Plains

Deftly retracing a pivotal chapter in one of America's most dramatic stories, Elliott West chronicles the struggles, triumphs and defeats of both Indians and whites as they pursued their clashing dreams of greatness in the heart of the continent.

Civilizing the Wilderness

Eleven essays explore the dichotomy of "civilizing" and "wilderness" in 1850s Euro-British North America.

Pathfinders of the Great Plains; a Chronicle of La Vérendrye and His Sons

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Great Plains Quarterly

Narrates the historical evolution of the Great Plains, citing the Indians, explorers, settlers, cattlemen, and contemporary inhabitants who have fashioned the region's heritage.

The Last West

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Civilizing the Harbour Plains: Mid Third Millennium State Formation at Tell Leilan

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Pathfinders of the Great Plains

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My Life On the Plains. Or Personal Experiences With Indians

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Indians of the High Plains

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PATHFINDERS OF THE GRT PLAINS

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Pathfinders of the Great Plains

The subject of this fascinating book is the rise, flourishing, and decline of the heliotropic myth, the centuries-old belief that all history is a succession of great civilizations developing, like the movement of the sun, from the East to the West. America is in this vision the last empire, indeed, the fulfillment of history. Esteemed historian Jan Willem Schulte Nordholt draws on works of world poetry and other sources in describing the importance of the heliotropic myth and shows how the expectation of a final completion of history gave meaning and coherence to our civilization and how the mythic yearning for a better world drove our ancestors to distant lands ever farther westward. Now in the twentieth century, with all western horizons gone and the realities of societal life - even in America - not so utopian, we no longer dare to believe in the values of the West and prefer to live instead with an extraordinarily tolerant cultural relativism. With the approach of the new millennium - once predicted by the heliotropic myth to be a time of brilliant living - Schulte Nordholt's work not only offers a perspective that will enhance all areas of study in American and world history, but provokes a fresh desire for the real meaning of human history.

My Life on the Plains Or, Personal Experiences With Indians

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The Myth of the West

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My Life on the Plains. Or, Personal Experiences with Indians

In this fascinating in-depth study, Arlene Rosen highlights the unique and varied ways that different societies respond to their changing environments, going against the commonly held notion of simple climatic determinism. Social responses to climate change are the result of human perceptions of nature and their environment. From the Terminal Pleistocene through to the Late Holocene, Rosen describes various communities' responses to climate change, further exploring the intriguing connections between climate and society. A must-read for archaeologists, geographers, students, and historians!

My Life on the Plains. Or Personal Experiences with Indians

The Influence of the Horse in the Development of Plains Culture