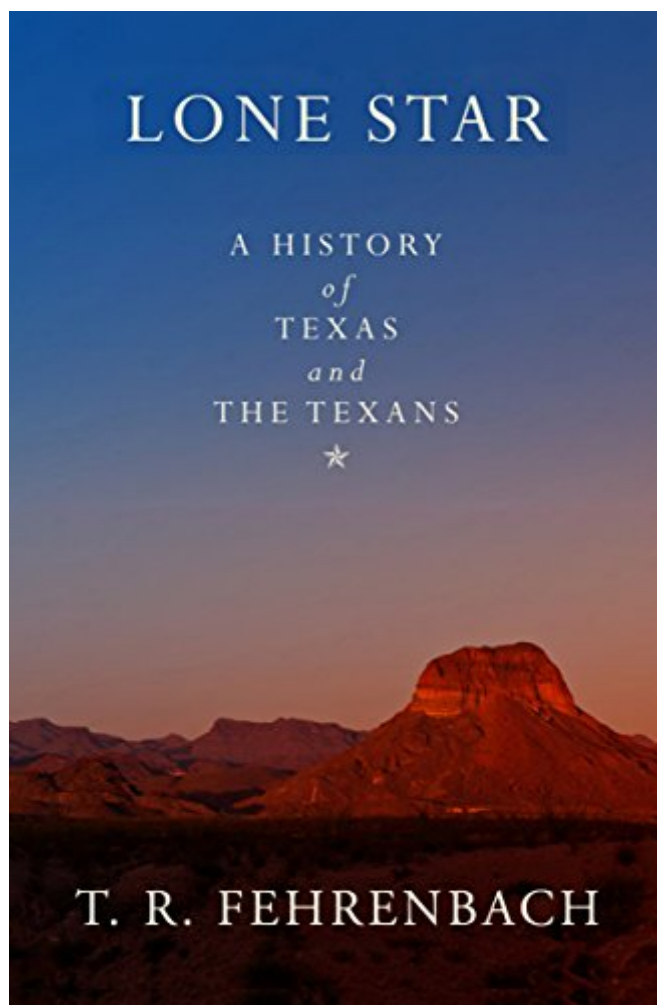


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Lone Star: A History Of Texas And The Texans



Synopsis

The definitive account of the incomparable Lone Star state by the author of *Fire & Blood: A History of Mexico*. T. R. Fehrenbach is a native Texan, military historian and the author of several important books about the region, but none as significant as this work, arguably the best single volume about Texas ever published. His account of America's most turbulent state offers a view that only an insider could capture. From the native tribes who lived there to the Spanish and French soldiers who wrested the territory for themselves, then to the dramatic ascension of the republic of Texas and the saga of the Civil War years. Fehrenbach describes the changes that disturbed the state as it forged its unique character. Most compelling is the one quality that would remain forever unchanged through centuries of upheaval: the courage of the men and women who struggled to realize their dreams in The Lone Star State.

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Customer Reviews

The first 90% of this book comprises one of the most detailed and thorough histories of Texas from it's earliest days through annexation, the Civil War and its aftermath to the post-World War II period.

It is in my opinion fascinating reading. The final ten percent, though the author strives to make it interesting, is pure political history - as though that's all that's left. If you're interested in the who-screws-who of modern politics, even that may be of interest to you. But - that first 90% is OUTSTANDING.

Want to read the most real history of Texas that can be read? Buy this book. The "Texas History" books that are in the schools today are "history rewritten", not real history. This is a classic that every school age Texan should read; buy it for your kids and make them read it. It will serve them well in their future lives.

In my opinion, this book is THE one to read if you want a comprehensive history of Texas, and Fehrenbach has a wonderful writing style with plenty of wry wit thrown in. Very interesting, not dry or boring at all. I highly recommend this for all lovers of Texas, and anyone else who values the history of the country. I originally was looking for a book that would give me a history of the Alamo, and after reading reviews of many books on the subject, settled on this one....and I got so much more than I even realized I wanted. I also knew this was a great book when (after I bought this) I saw an old copy of it in my father-in-law's library...his family has been in Texas for generations and they are all Texas buffs...in fact, my husband minored in Texas history at UT. So if they valued this book, it's worth having.

I would give Lone Star ten stars if offered such a ranking. This is an excellent and very thorough history, not just of Texas, but of the whole American westward expansion, as vanguarded by the Scots-Irish. Fehrenbach is not only a thorough historian, but an excellent story-teller with an engaging and pungent style. No Fan of Larry McMurtry and his Lonesome Dove novels should pass this book by. The true tales that Fehrenbach tells, along with their colorful characters, are as good as any of McMurtry's frontier novels,,and probably are the bases for them.

I enjoyed it very much! I am knocking off one star, because it really could use some maps. He likes to describe where things took place, but the reader has no reference without a map. However, my biggest complaint is that at 700 plus pages it is just too darn short. I want another volume. I felt like the 20th century was very rushed. More on the depression, civil rights/ segregation, L.B.J. / and Labybird, not to mention the Kennedy assassination. I want more, more, more!!

It is different of what I expected. It is not exactly a history text format, but a combination of stories and with a touch of pro-Texas culture, which became the culture of the "wild west". But all in all, it is very good in developing the origins of the mind and motives of the original Anglo-Celtic settlers who defied all impediments to their settlements, including raids by hostile Indians, the already established Mexican government, whose Army was eventually defeated by the settlers in what is now San Antonio. The outlining of the developing of the Texas Rangers and their role in winning Texas is also very interesting as described by the author. Their spirit of fighting Rangers was always to win, using the newly invented "six shooter", and ignoring established European traditions of rules of engagement, made them a terror to the Indians and Mexican bandits. The role of the discovery of the "Cumberland Gap" as the beginning of the settlement of the west is also, I believe, an important point of how and why the east could easily now travel west. A good read, specially now that Texas is getting so much political attention.

A logical structure with developed perspectives which remain clearly focused. The depth of insights is entertaining and thoughtful. The nuance of a "Texan" is slowly and carefully morphed into a defined idealistic concept. Should be required reading for serious Texas history buffs! (And non-believers.)

This book was very thoroughly researched and well-written; it necessarily must be and is quite long. It is a good source for those interested in this subject. Texas has played an important role in Washington for many decades and the book discusses the reasons for this. Although I have a very high overall regard for this work, I thought it sometimes went off on "rabbit" trails of minutia that added little to the history. Also once the time-line entered the 20th century it seemed to speed up and perhaps gloss over the development of Texas cities, the modern economy of Texas, and the transformation of Texas from a solid blue state to nearly all red. I should add that these subjects are dealt with, but not in as much detail as was presented in earlier parts of the book. Specifically, little is reported about the City of Houston, which has been the largest city in Texas for decades. Houston is also the 4th largest city in the United States, as well as being the second largest port on the East Coast (the Gulf of Mexico being counted as part of the East Coast for record keeping purposes). The Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex also received skimpy treatment. I wondered as I read this part of the book, "How did Houston become such a dynamic and prosperous city?" The same thought was presented for the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. This might be the subject for a later book devoted primarily to this subject, as I'm confident it would be fascinating for those interested in

history and economics of a region which are very much a part of history. These points are relatively minor as the overall book is surely going to be considered as a landmark work, and rightfully so. Highly recommended.

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