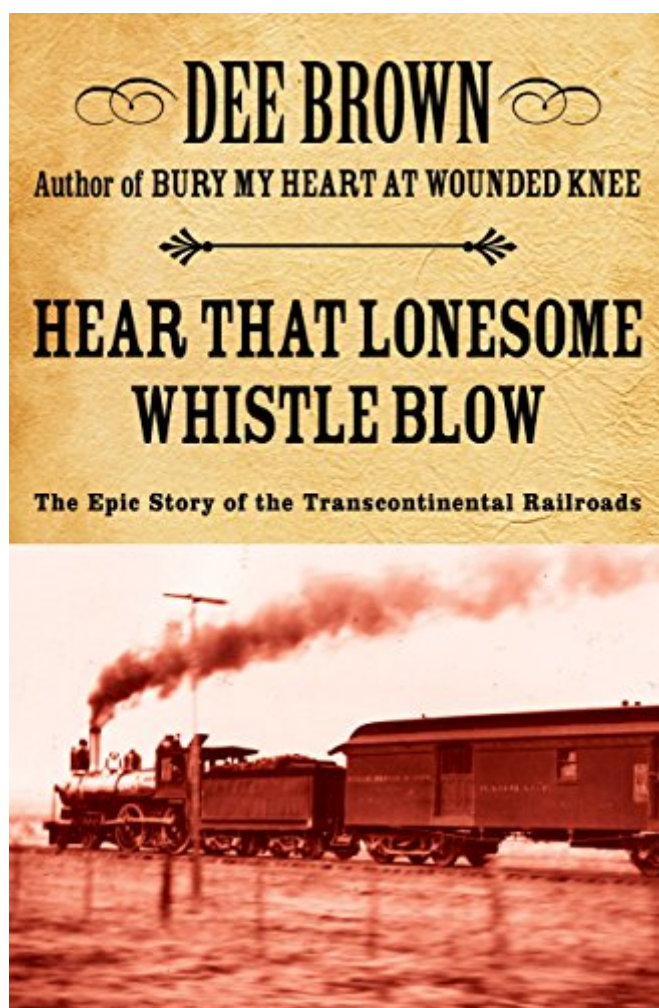


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Hear That Lonesome Whistle Blow: The Epic Story Of The Transcontinental Railroads



Synopsis

A fascinating and atmospheric history of the transcontinental railroad—the nineteenth century’s greatest and most relentless feat of national expansion. Hear that Lonesome Whistle Blow unspools the history of the beginnings of the American railroad system. By the mid-nineteenth century, settlers in Missouri and California were separated by a vast landscape that dwarfed and isolated them, conquerable only by “the demonic power of the Iron Horse and its bands of iron track.” Although the building of the great railroad is commonly known as a story of romance, adventure, and progress, it also has a dark side, as profiteers decimated American Indian tribes, exploited workers, and destroyed ecosystems. Despite this, by the turn of the twentieth century, five major railroads would span the continent. This account vividly illustrates the railroad builders’ breathtaking skill, ambition, and ingenuity. . Brown compellingly tells a high-stakes tale, an exhilarating history that still holds lessons for today. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Dee Brown including rare photos from the author’s personal collection.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dee Brown tells the fascinating story of railroads in the United States. There is lots of information about the incredible challenges of the construction of our rail system. There is interesting information about the stiff resistance to railroads by riverboat companies who wanted to retain a sort of monopoly on transportation. There are also lots of uncomfortable details about the "robber barons", and governmental corruption (at the highest levels!) that helped these scoundrels bilk the American public to the extent that still today the financial heirs of these robber barons control the corridors that the public funded. Sadly the Kindle edition of the book is plagued with typos that seem to step from a scanning/OCR process that was not followed by adequate proof reading. A shame, because it is so much easier to carry multiple books around on an Adroid Tablet when traveling than the print editions. Well, although several of these typos caused perplexing confusion, most could be overcome. Buy this book and read it!

I am a history buff and I enjoyed reading this book. It was easy to read and entertaining but also presented all of the historical details of the development of America's rail network as it expanded from the Mid West to the Pacific Coast. Clearly the author spent an incredible amount of time and energy researching the background behind all of the "mini stories" that woven together make up this epic tale of railway building. The book is nicely structured and one chapter flows nicely into the next. This is a fine book for anyone interested in history of the development of railway transportation in the US or anyone interested in US history in general.

I thought I was purchasing a book about the transcontinental railroad and I was less than 1/3 of the way through with this book and the story of the transcontinental railroad was complete. The remainder of the book was a history of the railroads throughout the US and how the railroads, with the help of politicians, were able to hoodwink the public into paying for the railroads over and over again and give away a good portion of this country in the process. It was still a good book and I learned quite a lot about the railroad industry I did not know.

I enjoyed this book, but the illustrations were almost all at such a low pixel resolution and so tiny that blowing them up simply turned them into a messy, blurry, highly pixellated mess. This meant that most of the illustrations were useless.

A must read for anyone who loves railroads and knows what CB&Q stands for. You will learn how

tychons earned their wealth through insider trading.

An interesting story, I knew nothing about, of the development of the transcontinental railroads.

Very good history emphasizing the effect on native Americans, but still extolling the great accomplishment.

A story of a great engineering feat for its period, also a story of rampant graft, robber barons and their cronies who got it done.

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