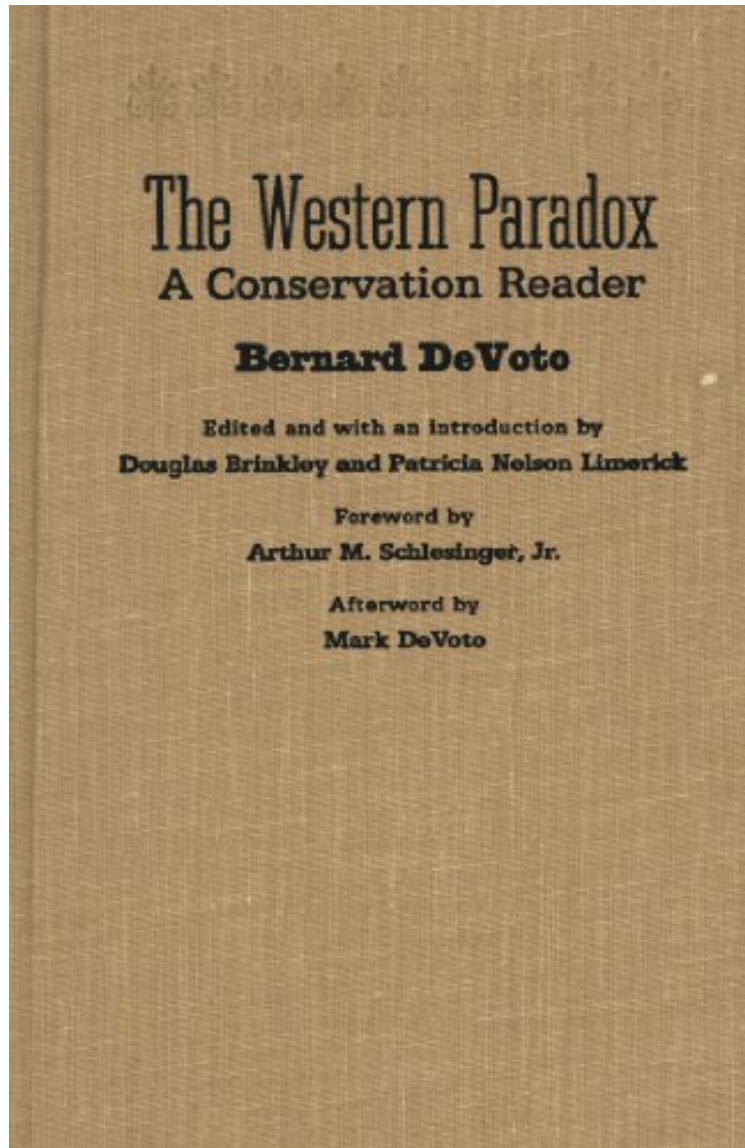


(Mobile ebook) The Western Paradox: A Conservation Reader (The Lamar Series in Western History)

The Western Paradox: A Conservation Reader (The Lamar Series in Western History)

Bernard DeVoto

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Bernard DeVoto : The Western Paradox: A Conservation Reader (The Lamar Series in Western History)
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Western Paradox:
A Conservation Reader (The Lamar Series in Western History):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A still-relevant view of the West from mid-centuryBy Arthur Digbee
Bernard DeVoto has a historian at Harvard, columnist at Harper's magazine, and winner of the Pulitzer prize

before his early death in 1955. This long book collects two groups of his writings, a selection of his Harper's essays and an unfinished manuscript on "The Western Paradox." The essays in the first group have all been published before. They were written to engage current events, and assume that the reader is also of that time (and mostly Eastern). As a result, the essays make allusions to people and events that may be forgotten now; certainly the emotional reactions that DeVoto assumes are no longer there. The collection leaves out some influential essays from DeVoto's "Easy Chair" column, notably "Let's Close the National Parks" and "Shall We Let Them Ruin Our National Parks?" on the Echo Park controversy in Dinosaur National Monument. If filled out with other essays, this part could easily have been a book of its own, and it's not clear why the editors combined the two groups of material into a single book. Most of the essays assume a kind of regional essentialism. DeVoto writes that "the West" thinks this, or does that, as if it were a unified whole. We tend not to do that any more, so it stuck out. His main themes are the role of eastern finance capital in extracting the profits from western development, the unfortunate role of stockmen in western politics, and the dysfunctional nature of the western mentality. The second part continues to develop these themes, in what DeVoto had intended to be a full-length book. It's unfinished, and the latter chapters are less polished than the first ones. DeVoto grounds the story much more fully in the landscape, telling of individual rivers, valleys, and ranges as well as the overall effects of rainfall gradients. Some of this is a bit tedious, as when he describes each of the region's major rivers in terms of its tributaries and their lengths. Born in Utah, DeVoto retained a deep love of the West until his death - - though he chose to live in the East. Much of the book remains relevant today, whether the topography or the still-unfortunate political influence of the rancher. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A classic By Mark A. Great reading...and needed for today's environmental issues 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By SallyKGreat!

Bernard DeVoto (1897-1955) was, according to the novelist Wallace Stegner, "a fighter for public causes, for conservation of our natural resources, for freedom of the press and freedom of thought." A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, DeVoto is best remembered for his trilogy, *The Year of Decision: 1846*, *Across the Wide Missouri*, and *The Course of Empire*. He also wrote a column for Harper's Magazine, in which he fulminated about his many concerns, particularly the exploitation and destruction of the American West. This volume brings together ten of DeVoto's acerbic and still timely essays on Western conservation issues, along with his unfinished conservationist manifesto, *Western Paradox*, which has never before been published. The book also includes a foreword by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., who was a student of DeVoto's at Harvard University, and a substantial introduction by Douglas Brinkley and Patricia Limerick, both of which shed light on DeVoto's work and legacy.

"[DeVoto's] insights, and passion are as relevant and urgent today as they were when he first put them on paper." -- Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., from the Foreword From the Publisher Yale Western Americana Series About the Author Douglas Brinkley is director of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies at the University of New Orleans. Patricia Nelson Limerick is professor of history at the University of Colorado.