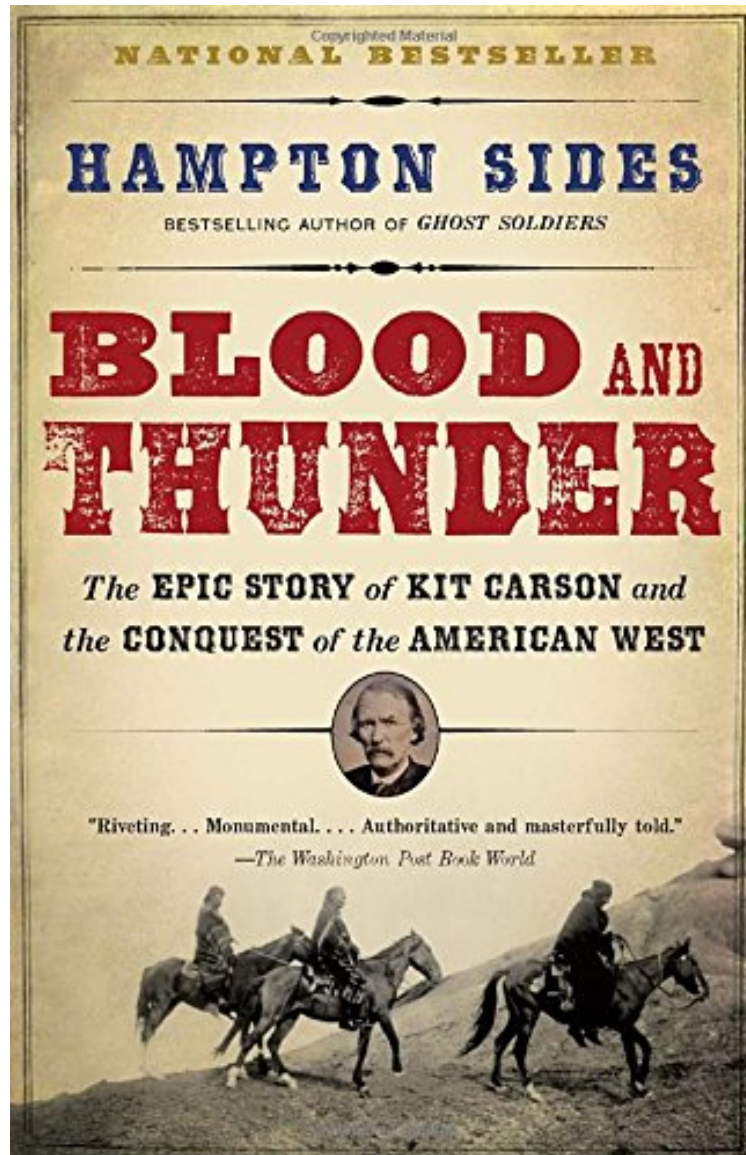


Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West

Hampton Sides

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#8703 in Books Hampton Sides 2007-10-09 2007-10-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x 1.30 x 5.201, 1.38 #File Name: 1400031109624 pages paperback wild west history published in 2006 made in USA | File size: 78.Mb

Hampton Sides : Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Real WestBy Nathan SchauerThis is so much more than a history of Kit Carson. This isn't a history of innocent Native Americans being victimized by evil white people. This is a complicated portrait of a man who both lived like a Native American, married and had children with a Native American and ruthlessly slaughtered Native Americans. This is the story of the real West, not a romanticized version of Indians or the Americans who settled the West.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very good history of the American WestBy CKEHampton Sides has written a very solid account of the wild American West. While Kit Carson is the primary focus I would hardly call this a biography - in fact, it appears to be more of a true period history with Kit Carson weaving in and out of the narrative. Oddly, this is my main complaint - parts of Kit Carson's most interesting adventures were only touched upon. I am amazed that Sides did not include more one Carson's travel with Fremont. For an excellent account of these adventures I would highly recommend A Newer World : Kit Carson John C Fremont And The Claiming Of The American West and Pathfinder: John Charles Fremont and the Course of American Empire as excellent companion books. While I am a bit baffled at the omission of the John Fremont/ Kit Carson adventures it really is my only complaint. Otherwise, Hampton Sides has written a fair and compelling account that speaks to harshness and brutality of the American West. Sides paints a vivid account of the settler/indian skirmishes that plagued the 1800's. Sides shows that both parties had its villains and its peacemakers. Kit Carson is portrayed as 2 parts indian killer and 3 part peacemaker. "Blood and Thunder" centers on the life of Kit Carson, however the Navajo indians play much more than a secondary role. Sides tells a history of the Navajos that is rarely seen in popular writing. We see that they have flawed characters and utter inability to understand the culture that was thrust on them. The histories of the Navajos and Kit Carson collide when he is forced to embrace a scorched earth policy that drove the Navajos into submission. Sides has an engaging writing style and while parts get bogged down in detail "Blood and Thunder" typically reads quickly. I also enjoyed the amount of effort that was put into research - while it is true that most of the sources are secondary Sides did an excellent job compiling the facts into a free-flowing narrative.If you enjoyed "Blood and Thunder" I would also highly recommendA Newer World : Kit Carson John C Fremont And The Claiming Of The American WestThe Age of Gold: The California Gold Rush and the New American Dream (My personal favorite)Pathfinder: John Charles Fremont and the Course of American Empire All three books tell stories that are equally unbelievable and gives you a new respect for the early western pioneers.Overall 4 1/2 stars rounded to 51 of 1 people found the following review helpful. KIT CARSON, SYMBOL OF THE OLD WESTBy Denny RyanBlood and Thunder incorporates the life of Kit Carson in the struggle of forces beyond control. The Westward Movement of pioneers looking for land, encouraged by government forces, devastated Indian Tribes who lost not only the land which had sustained them for generations, but removed the very animals which were their source of food, clothing shelter and sustenance. The author presents Kit Carson as a man who understood the loss of the land and a people incapable of affecting forces beyond their control.

A magnificent history of the American conquest of the West; "a story full of authority and color, truth and prophecy" (The New York Times Book Review).In the summer of 1846, the Army of the West marched through Santa Fe, en route to invade and occupy the Western territories claimed by Mexico. Fueled by the new ideology of Manifest Destiny, this land grab would lead to a decades-long battle between the United States and the Navajos, the fiercely resistant rulers of a huge swath of mountainous desert wilderness.At the center of this sweeping tale is Kit Carson, the trapper, scout, and soldier whose adventures made him a legend. Sides shows us how this illiterate mountain man understood and respected the Western tribes better than any other American, yet willingly followed orders that would ultimately devastate the Navajo nation. Rich in detail and spanning more than three decades, this is an essential addition to our understanding of how the West was really won.

From Publishers WeeklyAlthough delivering little in the way of new information, Sides, an Outside magazine editor-at-large and bestselling author (Ghost Soldiers), eloquently paints the landscape and history of the 19th-century Southwest, combining Larry McMurtry's lyricism with the historian's attachment to facts. Inevitably, Sides's main focus is the virtual decimation of the Navajo nation from the 1820s to the late 1860s. Sides depicts the complex role of whites in the subjugation of the Navajos through his portrait of Kit Carson an illiterate trapper, soldier and scout who knew the Native Americans intimately, married two of them and, without blinking, participated in the Indians' slaughter. Books about Carson have been numerous, but Sides is better than most Carson biographers in setting his exploits against a larger backdrop: the unstoppable idea of manifest destiny. Of course, as counterpoint to the progress of Carson and other whites, Sides details the fierce but doomed defense mounted by the Navajos over long decades. This culminated in their final, desperate "stand" during 1863 at Canyon de Chelly, more than a decade after a contingent of federal troops operating under a commander whose last name of "Washington" seems ironic in this context killed their great leader, Narbona. (Oct. 3) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Bookmarks MagazineHampton Sides's Blood and Thunder is more ambitious in its sweep than his acclaimed Ghost Wars (2001), a World War II history. His recounting of harsh frontier life and the violent clashes among the Navajo, the Spanish (Mexican), and the U.S. Army offers a gripping epic while enlivening

many of the era's remarkable figures, from soldiers to trappers, farmers, Indians, and pioneer women. Critics especially praised Sides's nuanced discussions of the Navajo and other Native American tribes, as well as his inclusion of maps that chart key routes and conquests. A few critics cited some factual errors, tangential discussions, and omissions of some key historical figures, but overall it's clear that "Sides knows how to tell a good story" (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel). Copyright 2004 Phillips Nelson Media, Inc. From Booklist

The American conquest and settlement of the Southwest and California were the opening salvos in the drive to fulfill our "manifest destiny" to dominate the continent. Sides, a magazine editor and historian who lives in New Mexico, has written an enthralling account that concentrates on the period that begins with the Mexican War and ends with the forced "roundup" of the Navajo at the Canyon de Chelly. This is not a straight narrative history. Rather, Sides advances this epic story by providing wonderful portraits of some of the key participants in the saga, including Stephen Kearny, John Fremont, the Navajo warrior Narbona, and Senator Thomas Hart Benton. But at the center of this chronicle is the famed mountain man, scout, and entrepreneur, Kit Carson. As portrayed by Sides, Carson was a study in contradictions. Illiterate but extremely intelligent, Carson respected Indians and took two Indian wives, but he could act as a cold-blooded killer when government policy required action against Indians. This work will be an excellent addition to collections on western history. Jay Freeman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved