professional discourse. Second, it is axiomatic that exploring the past cultures of non-Western peoples who have occupied this continent for thousands of years necessitates an interdisciplinary approach. While most of the contributors are highly respected members of their academic guild, they simply do not have a command of the voluminous anthropological, archaeological, and other literatures. The absence of essays from representatives of these other disciplines is perhaps the book's greatest weakness.

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The nine wide-ranging essays published here were originally papers presented in 1994 at a conference in St. Louis sponsored principally by the Missouri Historical Society and prompted by Merrill D. Peterson, the dean of Jeffersonian scholars and the person to whom the volume is dedicated. James P. Ronda points out that Jefferson described St. Louis as “the center of our western operations.” Although Jefferson himself never ventured beyond the Appalachian Mountains, “Monticello faces West,” reports Ronda in his helpful introduction, “and we expect its builder to be somehow western as well” (p. xii). In fact, even before the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 first brought a trans-Mississippi West to the United States, Jefferson's vision of the country's republican destiny presupposed that white Americans on the Atlantic seaboard would, for generations to come, have easy access to fresh lands beyond the Alleghenies. Because land ownership seemed to him the surest foundation for the independence and civic virtue that undergirded a healthy republican polity, Jefferson “never doubted that the rural West was the ultimate guarantor of republican virtue” (p. xvi).

Readers interested in the manifold tensions between this Jefferson vision and the actual course of western history will find much of value here. For example, anthropologist Anthony F. C. Wallace devotes considerable attention to President Jefferson's correspondence with William Henry Harrison when Harrison was governor of the Indiana Territory and superintendent of Indian Affairs for lands north of the Ohio and emphasizes that Jefferson's dealings with Native American tribes revealed “the ruthlessness of a benevolent zealot who would do virtually anything to ensure that his new, free
American republic survived and grew" (p. 39). Peter Onuf provides arguably the best analysis available of Jefferson's tortured response to the Missouri controversy of 1819–1820 over the westward expansion of slavery and black Americans. Environmental policy analyst Robert Gottlieb, though he makes nary a reference to the Sage of Monticello, highlights the irony of the mid-twentieth-century transformation of the trans-Mississippi West into "evolving, intersecting empires" (p. 77) dominated by metropolitan-military-industrial complexes like Denver, San Diego, and Seattle. As Patricia Nelson Limerick asserts in the concluding essay, "the second most complicated aspect of applying Jeffersonian thought to the contemporary West, second after the issue of race, is the issue of the gap, and even the hostility, between the rural West and the urban West" (p. 189).

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Although "Manifest Destiny" is a phrase used to describe American expansion in the thirty years before the Civil War, the movement dates back to the beginning of the colonial era. The first territorial expansionists were the first British settlers who planted their feet on the shores of Virginia in 1607. Territorial claims played a central role in all four of the Anglo-French colonial wars in North America (1689–1763). Within twenty years of the British triumph in 1763, the United States had become the principal arbiter of the New World.

Even though the United States emerged from the revolution with very generous boundaries, the nation's appetite for territory was far from sated. In a remarkable half century (1803–1853), the United States more than tripled its size. Nor did this expansionist impulse die out with the Civil War. Casting its gaze overseas, the United States in the Gilded Age established an empire that stretched from Alaska to Puerto Rico in the New World and from Hawaii to the Philippines in the Pacific. Depending on one's perspective, American expansion was either the product of a great folk movement that realized Jefferson's noble vision of an Empire for Liberty, or the story of a ruthless and aggressive people who tried to buy what they wanted and took what they could not buy, running roughshod over the rights of all who got in the way.

In Filibusters and Expansionists Frank Lawrence Owsley, Jr., and Gene A. Smith examine American expansion into the Gulf Coast region in the first two decades of the nineteenth century. The three