

ration that resonated with the well-known stories of Columbus, Cook, and Mackenzie. Ronda then uses journals, correspondence, and maps to reconstruct what Lewis and Clark thought they were looking for and what they believed they found. In that process, the two travelers learned from other stories they encountered along the trail, such as those of the Native Americans. Ronda also examines the enduring significance of the stories Lewis and Clark told once their own travels were completed.

As Ronda reminds us, there were many who shared in the experience of Lewis and Clark's journey. He urges us to consider the words and views of the other men on the expedition as well as the reactions of Native Americans, such as the Clatsop people who had to deal with the demanding and unpredictable travelers as they wintered along the stormy Pacific Coast. Ronda concludes this slim volume with the observation that even as Lewis and Clark saw their expedition as a failure (since no easy route to the Pacific was found), its profound legacy outlasted the travelers themselves: the journey succeeded in stimulating a new North American imagination increasingly focused on the Pacific rather than the Atlantic world, and it spurred generations of later explorers and settlers.

Overall, Ronda's book succeeds superbly in giving westerners in the early twenty-first century insight into the process of "finding the West" of two centuries ago. While no one can relive that experience directly, Ronda suggests why it is still worthwhile to try to do so. This collection of essays should function as a splendid road map to that earlier West, a West that still lives in the words of Lewis and Clark, in the rich and varied landscapes they encountered, and in Ronda's own creative imagination.

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Jackson's Way: Andrew Jackson and the People of the Western Waters.

By John Buchanan. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2001. Pp. xiii, 434. Illustrations, maps, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$30.00.)

This book undertakes to place Andrew Jackson within the larger context of American expansion into the trans-Alleghany South and, in the process, to emphasize his military career. In contrast to the usually narrow biographical treatment, John Buchanan's book devotes attention to Indian relations and Jackson's performance on the battlefield. It ends with a close analysis of his victory over the British at New Orleans.

Buchanan has researched his subject carefully and tells his story forcefully, but most readers will find this book challenging. A previous familiarity with the material will be very helpful. When references are made to a girl named Rachel Donelson, for example, readers are expected to know that she is Jackson's future wife. Secondly, readers need to be somewhat patient, because Jackson does not appear in any substantial way until the seventh chapter. Furthermore, the author frequently offers painstaking detail that has no obvious connection to the book's main narrative. Although readers with a fascination for the subject or time period will find the detail vivid and telling, others may be overwhelmed. The author's "meanwhile back at the ranch. . ." style of narrative can be somewhat distracting.

The most original aspect of this book is its inclusion of material on southeastern Indians, preparing the way for telling the story of Jackson's first military success in waging war against the formidable Creeks. The author's treatment of the natives, however, is very traditional, and it is not really clear how the background knowledge contributes to a fresh understanding of Jackson's military actions. The effort to provide context is nonetheless welcome.

This book will appeal greatly to readers who enjoy traditional military history. In his most compelling chapters, Buchanan successfully presents closely detailed descriptions of Jackson's two major engagements, first against the Creeks and later against the British at New Orleans. Readers seeking a keener insight into Jackson's character, however, may be frustrated. Buchanan is much indebted to Robert Remini and other predecessors. Although he does a good job showing where scholars disagree and why, his portrait of Jackson remains essentially unchanged. This was a fiery, determined, and brave individual. The author does not attempt a more nuanced understanding. Although he acknowledges some of Jackson's limitations (following the lead of Remini and others), Buchanan's treatment tends toward the hagiographic. Jackson's rash choices to exceed his military authority on several major occasions are portrayed as merely examples of courage. Jackson, with his personal understanding of popular sentiment in the western settlements, undertook the dirty work of conquest that President Madison and others were too squeamish to authorize and take responsibility for.

The story of Jackson's rise to national prominence through military victory is important, because American voters have frequently promoted successful generals to the Presidency. This volume provides a useful service in highlighting the abilities that eventually made Andrew Jackson a viable candidate to lead the nation in the early nineteenth century.

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