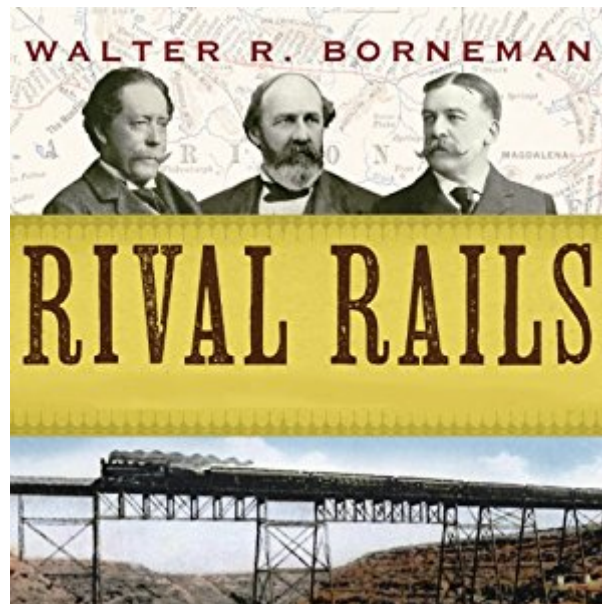


The book was found

Rival Rails: The Race To Build America's Greatest Transcontinental Railroad



Synopsis

The driving of the golden spike at Promontory Summit, which marked the completion of the country's first transcontinental railroad, was only the beginning of the race for railroad dominance. In the aftermath of this building feat, dozens of railroads, each with aggressive empire builders at their helms, raced one another for the ultimate prize of a southern transcontinental route that was generally free of snow, shorter in distance, and gentler in gradients. More than just a means of transportation, the railroads were a powerful mold, and the presence of a rail line had the power to make - or break - the fledgling towns and cities across the newborn American West. While much has been written about the building of the first transcontinental railroad, the bulk of the history of the railroads in the United States has been largely ignored. With a meticulous, loving eye, Walter Borneman picks up where most other histories leave off.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours and 5 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: September 28, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B0044X2U9S

Best Sellers Rank: #182 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Transportation #565 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Railroads #877 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Railroads

Customer Reviews

I became a fan of Walter Borneman (*Alaska, 1812, The French and Indian War, Polk*) after reading "1812," and have since then pre-ordered each of his books as they become available through . "Rival Rails" is another excellent, focused book from this established historian. While touching on a century of railroad expansion and development in the vast southwest territory between Kansas City and the West Coast, this latest book from Borneman focuses on a relatively brief period from the 1860s to the 1880s during which a network of thousands of miles of railroad was built westward from Chicago and Kansas City to the west coast, with the dramatic accompanying population shifts and development of agricultural, mining, and other resources of these vast new western lands.

Through these rail connections, Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and California were rapidly incorporated into the commercial, social, and political sphere of the greater United States. The arrival of the railroads dramatically transformed the West Coast. Once connected with Chicago, Los Angeles rapidly grew from a sleepy coastal town into one of America's great cities. This expansion of a network of railroads westward was complex in its engineering challenges as well as in its political-financial processes, as entrepreneurs like Huntington, Gould, and Crocker, east coast and European investors, Congress, and even state and federal courts were regularly involved. Many players (some successful, some not) were involved in this expansion, and keeping these sorted out was a bit challenging as the book progressed.

Until I read *Rival Rails*, I knew little about transcontinental railroads beyond the famous photograph at Promontory Summit, where the Union Pacific and Central Pacific met in 1869. As Walter Borneman points out, however, that ceremony did not in fact mark completion of the first transcontinental railroad. Gaps remained between Sacramento and Oakland and between Omaha and Council Bluffs. The latter required the Union Pacific to ferry passengers across the Missouri River until completion of a bridge some three years later. Transcontinental travel entirely by rail first became possible in August 1870, when the Kansas Pacific--one of the "rival rails" whose history Borneman recounts--reached Denver. *Rival Rails* is an engrossing history of the less well known southern transcontinental lines. Generally snow-free, they were, and are, significant components of the national transportation infrastructure between the west coast and the rest of the country. Their building is a complex story, and Borneman provides sufficient detail without overwhelming the reader. He describes the political, corporate, financial, legal, and engineering obstacles that had to be overcome and includes vivid portraits of the men who overcame them and who struggled against each other to build "America's greatest transcontinental railroad." The specialist can find additional details in the endnotes, some of which are quite extensive. As a part time Santa Fe fan, I was fascinated to read about the history of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe--even though it bypasses Santa Fe at Lamy--and was more than a little bit gratified that it rose to the "top of the heap" over its arch rival, the Southern Pacific.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Rival Rails: The Race to Build America's Greatest Transcontinental Railroad Nothing Like It In the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869 Ruby on Rails Tutorial: Learn Web Development with Rails (3rd Edition) (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) Learning Rails 5: Rails from the Outside In Ruby on Rails Tutorial: Learn Web Development with Rails (4th Edition)

(Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby Series) Ruby on Rails 3 Tutorial: Learn Rails by Example
(Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) Head First Rails: A Learner's Companion to Ruby on Rails
American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America Michael
Isaacson Songbook, Volume I (Transcontinental Music Folios) The Complete Jewish Songbook for
Children - Volume II (Transcontinental Music Folios) Rails 4 Test Prescriptions: Build a Healthy
Codebase Without Rival: Embrace Your Identity and Purpose in an Age of Confusion and
Comparison God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World Death's Rival: Jane
Yellowrock, Book 5 Without Rival: Incomparably Made, Uniquely Loved, Powerfully Purposed The
Rival Queens: Catherine de' Medici, Her Daughter Marguerite de Valois, and the Betrayal that
Ignited a Kingdom Pioneer Brides - Mail Order Bride 4 Book Box Set (Western Historical Romance):
The Rival Bride, Letters of Love, The Mail Order Husband, The Japanese Bride Today's Greatest
Pop & Rock Hits: The Biggest Hits! The Greatest Artists! (Easy Piano) (Today's Greatest Hits)
Can-Am 50th Anniversary: Flat Out with North America's Greatest Race Series 1966-74 Great
Colonial America Projects: You Can Build Yourself (Build It Yourself)

[Dmca](#)