

(Mobile ebook) The Frontier in American Culture: An Exhibition at the Newberry Library, August 26, 1994-January 7, 1995

## **The Frontier in American Culture: An Exhibition at the Newberry Library, August 26, 1994-January 7, 1995**

*Richard White, Patricia Nelson Limerick, James R. Grossman*

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**Richard White, Patricia Nelson Limerick, James R. Grossman : The Frontier in American Culture: An Exhibition at the Newberry Library, August 26, 1994-January 7, 1995** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Frontier in American Culture: An Exhibition at the Newberry Library, August 26, 1994-January 7, 1995:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Myth vs Reality: understanding the American Frontier mythologyBy FrankAmerican frontier mythology is critical if you want to understand American culture. Separating myth from historical fact is often difficult for those of us who grew up in an urban culture. During the 1950s - 1960s westerns were the staple of film-making and television. In some ways the power of those images is reflected in our 21st century political landscape.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, enjoyable, well writtenBy NHThe two essays in this thin volume are delightfully well written, insightful, and entertaining. In particular, Limerick's enthusiasm and wit are a testament to the often-forgotten fact that there is such a thing as enjoyable academic writing for both author and audience.Highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Wyoming WoodsmanWell written.

Log cabins and wagon trains, cowboys and Indians, Buffalo Bill and General Custer. These and other frontier images

pervade our lives, from fiction to films to advertising, where they attach themselves to products from pancake syrup to cologne, blue jeans to banks. The authors explore here the USA's pre-occupation with this uniquely American image. Richard White examines the two most enduring stories of the frontier, both told in Chicago in 1893, the year of the Columbian Exposition. One was Frederick Jackson Turner's remarkably influential lecture, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"; the other took place in William "Buffalo Bill" Cody's flamboyant extravaganza, "The Wild West". Turner recounted the peaceful settlement of an empty continent, a tale that placed Indians at the margins. Cody's story put Indians - and bloody battles - at centre stage, and culminated with the Battle of the Little Bighorn, popularly known as "Custer's Last Stand." Seemingly contradictory, these two stories together reveal a complicated national identity. Patricia Limerick shows how the stories took on a life of their own in the 20th century and were then reshaped by additional voices - those of Indians, Mexicans, African-Americans, and others, whose versions revisit the question of what it means to be an American.

From Publishers Weekly White and Limerick analyze some of the most pervasive images of the American West, many of which are represented in a show of the same name at Chicago's Newberry Library this fall. In his contribution "Frederick Jackson Turner and Buffalo Bill," White compares Turner, the distinguished historian who first contended that the notion of the frontier was the driving force of American history and culture, and Buffalo Bill Cody, the Wild West performer, who both appeared in Chicago in 1893. It's hard to believe the two are representing the same terrain: Turner's presentation emphasized settlers idyllically filling a near-empty continent with a few peripheral Indians, while Buffalo Bill's re-enactments were of bloody conflicts with murderous natives. Limerick's "Adventures of the Frontier in the Twentieth Century" is incisive and often wry-as is only appropriate for an historian who begins her catalogue of Western images at Disney's Frontierland. Limerick goes on to examine the shameless use of frontier/pioneer images in everything from politics to advertising. At the turn of the century, the frontier was defined as that point at which people were scarce, or as White states, "where white people were scarce"-with Limerick adding, "where white people got scared because they were scarce." Both scholars look at how the frontier influenced interactions between whites and Native Americans, Hispanics, Asians and African Americans, ultimately creating a real melting pot that, maintains Limerick, made the idea of the frontier a "cultural glue" holding Americans together. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Inside Flap "In this beautifully illustrated volume, two of the nation's leading western historians offer brilliant and provocative insight into why the frontier has had such a longstanding and problematic hold on American national thought. Their book is a pleasure both to read and to look at and deserves a wide audience." William Cronon, Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History, University of Wisconsin, Madison "The authors . . . demonstrate a keen awareness of the critical and complex relationship between history and legend in the American West and its consequences for modern Americans. Finely crafted with scholarship and good humor, their thoughtful and provocative ruminations lend fresh insight into the shaping and propagation of America's frontier legacy." B. Byron Price, National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center