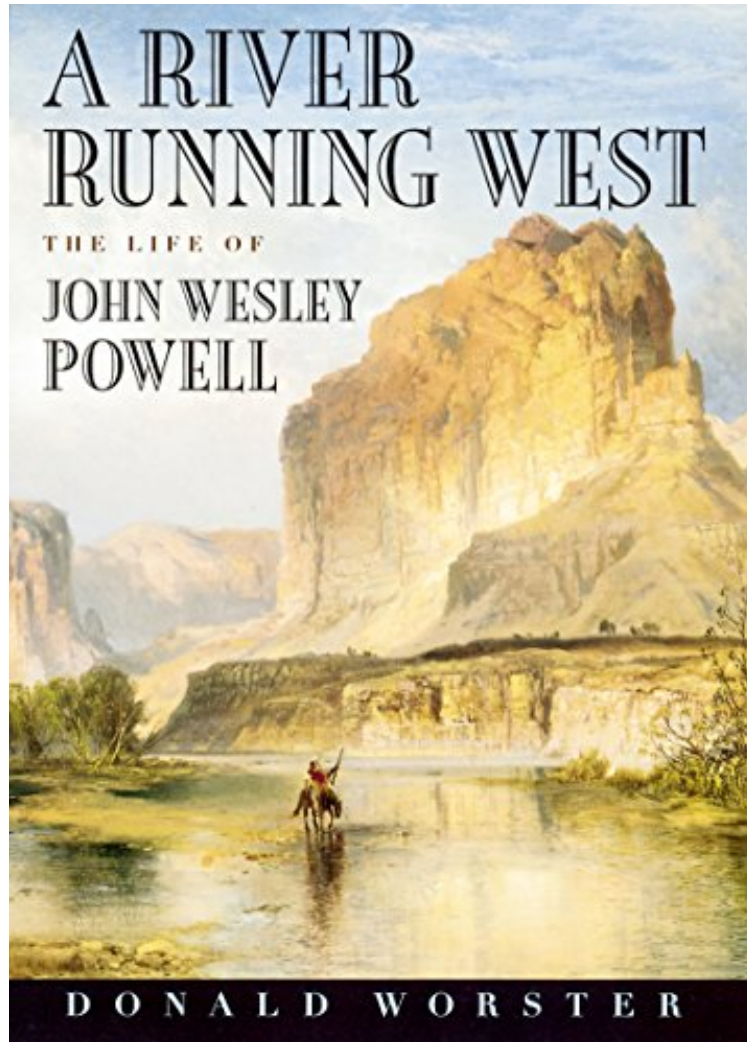


(Ebook pdf) A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell

A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell

Donald Worster

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#774672 in eBooks 2002-11-28 2002-11-28 File Name: B004TFXR4I | File size: 60.Mb

Donald Worster : A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Worth the read.By JustmeAwesome book. I bought it to read while I spent a week at Lake Powell. Altogether it made for an awesome combination. The book was much thicker than I anticipated, but I saw that as a good thing. I bought a used copy, but you really couldn't see any reason to think it wasn't new.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent adventure storyBy Jim SullivanThis was an excellent account of Wesley Powell's dangerous exploration of the Colorado River. We navigated the length of the river using nothing more than wooden canoes. He also did a survey of the rainfall of the semi-arid and arid areas of the west. His surveys and his exploration of the west shed a lot of light on how early explorers lived and how dangerous were his trips. His did all of this with just one good arm!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Father

of the West By Ned Tillman Fascinating book and fascinating man. Opens up the west and the late 19th century in a way that helps us make sense of our history. Puts perspective on the politics of today.

If the word "hero" still belonged in the historian's lexicon, it would certainly be applied to John Wesley Powell. Intrepid explorer, careful scientist, talented writer, and dedicated conservationist, Powell led the expedition that put the Colorado River on American maps and revealed the Grand Canyon to the world. Now comes the first biography of this towering figure in almost fifty years--a book that captures his life in all its heroism, idealism, and ambivalent, ambiguous humanity. In *A River Running West*, Donald Worster, one of our leading Western historians, tells the story of Powell's great adventures and describes his historical significance with compelling clarity and skill. Worster paints a vivid portrait of how this man emerged from the early nineteenth-century world of immigrants, fervent religion, and rough-and-tumble rural culture, and barely survived the Civil War battle at Shiloh. The heart of Worster's biography is Powell's epic journey down the Colorado in 1869, a tale of harrowing experiences, lethal accidents, and breathtaking discoveries. After years in the region collecting rocks and fossils and learning to speak the local Native American languages, Powell returned to Washington as an eloquent advocate for the West, one of America's first and most influential conservationists. But in the end, he fell victim to a clique of Western politicians who pushed for unfettered economic development, relegating the aging explorer to a quiet life of anthropological contemplation. John Wesley Powell embodied the energy, optimism, and westward impulse of the young United States. *A River Running West* is a gorgeously written, magisterial account of this great American explorer and environmental pioneer, a true story of undaunted courage in the American West.

From *Library Journal* John Wesley Powell (1834-1902) is best remembered for leading the first expedition down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in 1869. However, he should more accurately be recalled for directing the survey that mapped the region around the canyon and for establishing and directing the Bureau of American Ethnology in the Smithsonian Institution, which put the study of Native Americans on a scientific footing. Drawing on a large number of archival and published sources, Worster (history, Univ. of Kansas; *Dust Bowl*) traces Powell's life from his frontier childhood through his years in Washington directing both the Bureau and the Geological Survey. The author delineates the influences that led Powell to the West in the first place and shows how he fit into the intellectual milieu of the late 19th century. This thorough and detailed biography is highly recommended for academic and larger public libraries. D Stephen H. Peters, Northern Michigan Univ. Lib., Marquette Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Worster's life-of covers every detail of Powell's peregrinations and writings, fitting them into the great matters that occupied his life. A fascination with nature inspired Powell's self-education in geology and archaeology; as a young man, he lost an arm in the Battle of Shiloh, and following the Civil War, he gained fame as the explorer of the final unmapped stretches of the Colorado River. Thus wearing the laurels as the contemporary authority on all things western, including water rights and the regulation of relations with Native Americans, Powell, boosted by the political patronage of James Garfield, reached the top of the then-tiny federal bureaucracy of the 1880s, as chief of both the U.S. Geological Survey and the Smithsonian's Bureau of Ethnology. In all, an event-crowded and courageous career, yet Powell the personality is much the fainter element here, through no fault of Worster's, whose subject was disinclined toward self-reflection. The dangerous adventure of Powell's Colorado River runs of 1869 and 1871-72 carries most of the water here and parlays Worster's opus into a stalwart position in western historiography. Gilbert Taylor Copyright copy; American Library Association. All rights reserved "This thorough and engaging biography is suitable for all levels."--Choice "It's a case of man and mountain matching one another: Donald Worster is one of the finest American historians of his generation, and John Wesley Powell one of the most impressive Americans of his time. This book is very accessible, very thorough, and very welcome."--Larry McMurtry, author of *Lonesome Dove*, *Crazy Horse*, and *Roads* "Another sublime contribution to the historical literature of the American West from Worster.... A top-drawer biography, at once scholarly and popular, generous in its intelligence, rich in context and anecdote."--Kirkus s "Worster gathers together more material on Powell than that contained in both previous biographies combined, and the result is a more complex and richly detailed picture of a man he sees as an exemplary 19th-century American.... This splendid, vivid and prodigiously researched biography brings Powell back to life."--John Vernon, *The New York Times Book* "In this superb book, Worster backs up his claims about the depth and breadth of Powell's vision as 'one of the leading interpreters of the West, an influential voice on its land and water issues as well as its treatment of indigenous peoples.' Worster captures Powell's rich life and the life of a nation struggling to come to grips with its vast resources."--Audubon