The University of Nevada Press was established in 1961 and continues to produce books for a scholarly and general audience that preserve, study, and celebrate the history and culture of the American West. In addition to regional works, we publish books of global significance in fields such as environmental studies, Basque studies, mining, gaming, and urbanization. The Press also publishes select fiction and memoir.

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The captivating true adventure of the Death Valley Jayhawkers’ quest for gold

Grit and Gold
The Death Valley Jayhawkers of 1849

JEAN JOHNSON

“Jean Johnson draws together a variety of sources of information into a coherent account of the journey. She has also correlated written documents with on-the-ground observations over the route of travel of the young men. In the many years she has been working in this field, she has uncovered a great deal of previously unknown information.”
—Judy Palmer, emerita, Stanford University

No other western story is more famous than the Donner Party’s ill-fated journey through the Sierra Nevada. But three years later and several hundred miles south, another group faced a similar situation just as perilous. Scrupulously researched and documented, Grit and Gold tells the story of the Death Valley Jayhawkers of 1849 and the young men who traveled by wagon and foot from Illinois to the California gold rush. The Jayhawkers’ journey took them through the then uncharted and unnamed hottest, driest, lowest spot in the continent—now aptly known as Death Valley.

After leaving Salt Lake City to break a road south to the Pacific coast that would eliminate crossing the snowy Sierra Nevada, the party veered off the Old Spanish Trail in southern Utah to follow a mountaineer’s map portraying a bogus trail that claimed to cut months and hundreds of miles off their route to the gold country. With winter coming, however, they found themselves hopelessly lost in the mountains and dry valleys of southern Nevada and California. Abandoning everything but the shirts on their backs and the few oxen that became their pitiful meals, they turned their dreams of gold into hopes of survival.

Utilizing William Lorton’s 1849 diary of the trek from Illinois to southern Utah, the reminiscences of the Jayhawkers themselves, the keen memory of famed pioneer William Lewis Manly, and the almost daily diary of Sheldon Young, Johnson paints a lively but accurate portrait of guts, grit, and determination.

Jean Johnson is the coauthor of several books, including Escape from Death Valley. She has spent more than forty years researching the early history of Death Valley National Park, and served on the board of directors of the Death Valley ’49ers Inc.
“Flanigan sheds light on a key building block of what’s next in America—an ethnic community where a work ethic born of reconstruction in their homeland has combined with a reverence for education and access to capital forged amid a diaspora. The result has been a powerful effect across the United States.”

—Jerry Sullivan, editor, Los Angeles Business Journal

“Korean Americans like my parents left their country behind to pursue a dream...not just for themselves but for their children. This terrific book by Jim Flanigan lifts up our community’s dreams, as well as our challenges, and embeds them squarely into the story of America.”

—Sam Yoon, Executive Director, Council of Korean Americans
Internationally renowned and award-winning journalist delivers a sophisticated and in-depth portrait of Korean Americans in Los Angeles

The Korean-American Dream
Portraits of a Successful Immigrant Community

JAMES FLANIGAN

“A timely, compelling book about one of the most inspiring American immigrant success stories ever. Korean newcomers to our shores have contributed mightily to the economic vibrancy of every area—most especially Los Angeles—where they have put down roots.”

—Steve Forbes, Chairman & Editor-in-Chief, Forbes Media

Chairman Yang Ho Cho, head of Korean Air and Hanjin, talks of Los Angeles as a “microcosm of the United States—a land built of immigrants who want to do one thing: improve their lives.” In The Korean-American Dream, distinguished business journalist James Flanigan uncovers the struggles and contributions of the people who have made Los Angeles the largest Korean city outside of Seoul. This intimate account illustrates how Korean immigrants have preserved their culture and history while adapting to the American culture of e pluribus unum, the radical promise of “out of many, one.” Flanigan shows how Los Angeles emerged as a capital of the Asia-Pacific region.

At less than two million, Korean Americans are a relatively small group compared to new Americans from China, the Philippines, and India. But with energy and drive, they are building landmarks in New York as well as Los Angeles, lobbying for causes in Washington, founding businesses, heading universities and hospitals, and holding public office in all parts of the United States. Flanigan’s compelling narrative, told largely through personal interviews, provides a front-row seat to the economic, business, and cultural developments of the Korean American community. At a time of spirited debate about immigration, their energy and ambition serve as a ringing reminder of the promise of the American mosaic.

James Flanigan, a business columnist for more than fifty years, has covered national and international business and economics for the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, and other publications. Over nearly two decades with Forbes Magazine, he served as bureau chief in Washington, Los Angeles, London, and Houston, before becoming assistant managing editor in New York. His work has won numerous awards, including the Gerald Loeb Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism and the John Hancock Award for Excellence in Business Journalism. He currently lives in Southern California.

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Ruminations on the practical and existential challenges of living an environmentally aware life

Out of the Woods
Seeing Nature in the Everyday

JULIA CORBETT

“This exceptional, eclectic book is the brave future of nature writing.”
—Richard Louv, author of The Nature Principle and Last Child in the Woods

Have you ever wondered about society’s desire to cultivate the perfect lawn, why we view some animals as “good” and some as “bad,” or even thought about the bits of nature inside everyday items—toothbrushes, cell phones, and coffee mugs? In this fresh and introspective collection of essays, Julia Corbett examines nature in our lives with all of its ironies and contradictions by seamlessly integrating personal narratives with morsels of highly digestible science and research. Each story delves into an overlooked aspect of our relationship with nature—insects, garbage, backyards, noise, open doors, animals, and language—and how we cover our tracks.

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Out of the Woods leads to surprising insights into the products, practices, and phrases we take for granted in our everyday encounters with nature and encourages us all to consider how we might revalue or reimagine our relationships with nature in our everyday lives.

Julia Corbett is the author of two books and a professor in the Department of Communication and the Environmental Humanities Graduate Program at the University of Utah, in Salt Lake City. Her environmental nonfiction essays have been published in venues such as Orion, High Country News, and Camas. Corbett has also served as a newspaper reporter, park ranger, naturalist, natural resources information officer, and deputy press secretary. She summers in the mountains of western Wyoming in her cabin.

Of related interest
Where the Sky Touched the Earth • Let There Be Night
A dynamic study of Nevada government and politics from its inception down to the present day

The Sagebrush State, Fifth Edition
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MICHAEL W. BOWERS

“This is a volume that would be a worthwhile addition to the bookshelf of anyone looking for a reliable reference work on Nevada government and politics.”
—Western Historical Quarterly

“This concise work explains how Nevada government actually works and how the area’s history has shaped its political culture.”
—Journal of the West

Nevada’s politics are in large measure the result of its turbulent history and harsh environment. Michael W. Bowers’s concise volume explains the dynamics of the political formation process, which is strikingly unique among the fifty states. Even today, Nevada is unlike the other states in its politics and culture: economically right, yet libertarian and home to widespread gaming and a 24/7 lifestyle. It has a high percentage of federally owned lands and one of the highest rates of urbanism in the United States, yet is often dominated by rural legislators.

This comprehensive and insightful explanation discusses how Nevada’s history has shaped its political culture, and how its government operates today. The Sagebrush State serves as a highly readable and accessible text for the study of Nevada’s political history and constitution, which is a graduation requirement at the state’s colleges and universities. The fifth edition is updated through 2017 and includes the full text of the state constitution with extensive annotations of all amendments to the original 1864 document.

Michael W. Bowers is professor of political science and public law, and former Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Executive Vice President and Provost, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the author of The Nevada Constitution: A Reference Guide and numerous academic articles on politics and law.
A significant examination of the key mining professionals who transformed the US-Mexico borderlands

Mining the Borderlands

Industry, Capital, and the Emergence of Engineers in the Southwest Territories, 1855-1910

SARAH E. M. GROSSMAN

“Grossman’s account of the professionalization of the mining engineer is a fascinating addition to the existing literature on the professionalization of work cultures in late nineteenth-century America... The book is well researched and well written and will be a worthy addition to the history of mining, the history of the American West, and the history of economic enterprise, especially as the latter pertains to risk assessment.”

—Carlos Schwantes, University of Missouri-St. Louis, coauthor of The West the Railroads Made

At the turn of the twentieth century, the US-Mexico border was home to some of the largest and most technologically advanced industrial copper mines. This despite being geographically, culturally, and financially far removed from traditional urban centers of power. Mining the Borderlands argues that this was only possible because of the emergence of mining engineers—a distinct technocratic class of professionals who connected capital, labor, and expertise.

Mining engineers moved easily between remote mining camps and the upscale parlors of East Coast investors. Working as labor managers and technical experts, they were involved in the daily negotiations that brought private US capital to the southwestern border. The success of the massive capital-intensive mining ventures in the region depended on their ability to construct varied networks and serve as intermediaries to groups that rarely coincided. This didn't just lead to bigger and more efficient mines, but served as part of the ongoing project of American territorial and economic expansion, explaining how American economic hegemony was established in a border region peripheral to the federal governments of both Washington, DC, and Mexico City.

Sarah E. M. Grossman is the editor of the Southeast Asia Program Publications imprint at Cornell University Press in Ithaca, NY. She received her PhD in US history from the University of New Mexico.
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Whether you are an amateur explorer or a winter adventure enthusiast, this comprehensive guidebook has everything you need to explore the winter playgrounds surrounding Lake Tahoe.

Mike White is a full-time writer and former community college instructor, and is a featured speaker for outdoor and conservation organizations. He has authored numerous outdoor hiking guides, including 50 of the Best Strolls, Walks, and Hikes around Reno, 50 Classic Hikes in Nevada, and Best Backpacking Trips in California and Nevada.
An extensive exploration of the literary and cultural left in the American West

Left in the West

Literature, Culture, and Progressive Politics in the American West

Edited by GIOIA WOODS

“Left in the West offers a timely overview of the cultural production that emerged out of progressive social movements from the late nineteenth to the early twenty-first century. Weaving together social and literary history with biographies and theory about the cultural Left in the American West, the contributors create a complicated and diverse portrait of politically engaged critical work.”

—Susan Kollin, Montana State University, editor of A History of Western American Literature

Gioia Woods and her contributors bring together histories, biographies, close readings, and theories about the literary and cultural left in the American West. Left in the West expands our understanding of what constitutes the literary left in the United States by including writers, artists, and movements not typically considered within the traditional context of the literary left. In doing so, it provides a new understanding of the region’s place among global and political ideologies.

From the early nineteenth century to the present, a complex and varied body of literary and cultural production has emerged out of progressive social movements. While the literary left in the West shared many interests with other regional expressions—labor, class, anti-fascism, and anti-imperialism, the influence of Manifest Destiny—the distinct history of settler colonialism in western territories caused western leftists to develop concerns unique to the region.

Chapters in this volume cover artists and movements from suffragist writers to bohemian Californian photographers, civil rights activists to popular folk musicians, and Latinx memoirists to Native American experimental writers.

The unique consideration of the West as a sociopolitical region establishes a framework for political critique that moves beyond class consequences, anti-fascism, and civil liberties, and into distinct western concerns such as Native American sovereignty, environmental exploitation, and the legacies of settler colonialism.

Gioia Woods is professor of humanities at Northern Arizona University. She lives in Flagstaff, Arizona.
A comprehensive investigation into the growth of tribal gaming through the lens of settler colonialism

Cahuilla Nation Activism and the Tribal Casino Movement

THEODOR P. GORDON

“Cahuilla Nation Activism and the Tribal Casino Movement broadens the narrative about tribal gaming through its application of settler colonialism as an interpretive frame. This framework explicates why non-Natives misunderstand tribal sovereignty and tribal self-determination, and it illustrates methods Cahuilla activists past and present have employed to counter outdated assumptions about Native Americans. Gordon demonstrates that casino gaming represents only the most recent manifestation of Cahuilla cultural and political sovereignty and persistence, not the first, nor the last.”

—Laurie Arnold (Colville), Gonzaga University

In 1980, when the Cabazon Band first opened a small poker club on their Indian reservation in the isolated desert of California, they knew local authorities would challenge them. The Cabazon persisted and ultimately won, defeating the State of California in a landmark case before the Supreme Court. By fighting for their right to operate a poker club, the Cabazon secured the possibility for native nations across the United States to open casinos on their own reservations, spurring the growth of what is now a $30 billion industry.

Cahuilla Nation Activism and the Tribal Casino Movement tells the bigger story of how the Cahuilla nations—including the Cabazon—have used self-reliance and determination to maintain their culture and independence against threats past and present. From California’s first governor’s “war of extermination” against native peoples through today’s legal and political challenges, Gordon shows that successful responses have depended on the Cahuilla’s ability to challenge non-natives’ assumptions and misconceptions.

Theodor P. Gordon is a professor in the sociology department at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University. He lives in Saint Joseph, Minnesota.
“In a tour de force of scholarship, fine writing, and multifaceted format, Crush describes the process of how California introduced wine to America and how wine helped to create contemporary California. With verve and amplitude, Briscoe evokes the alchemy through which wine—as agriculture, as vintners’ art, as connoisseurship in dialogue with advanced and popular taste alike—helped define California as a regional civilization.”

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Crush
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JOHN BRISCOE

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From the first harvest and vintage, through four overwhelming catastrophes, to its amazing triumph in Paris, Crush chronicles how wine from California finally gained its global due.

John Briscoe is a poet, author, and lawyer. He has published several books, including The Lost Poems of Cangjie and Tadich Grill: The Story of San Francisco’s Oldest Restaurant, and numerous academic articles on law and history. He is a distinguished fellow at the Law of the Sea Institute, University of California, Berkeley. He has served for twenty-three years on the advisory board of the MFA program in creative writing at St. Mary’s College of California, and currently serves as vice president of the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, and as a board member of a number of other historical societies and organizations.
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