

WESTERN RESEARCH, SOUTHWEST HISTORY AND SOUTHERN COLORADO BIBLIOGRAPHY (Annotated)
By Charlene Garcia Simms, Genealogy and Special Collections Librarian, PCCLD



The following books are some of the best written about the history west of the Mississippi, that include the southwest and southern Colorado. The dates of original publication are older but most of them have new editions. Many are classics and award winners. We will have them for check-out at Rawlings library after we reopen and, meanwhile, they may be purchased through the Internet.

WESTERN RESEARCH:

Beck, Warren A. and Haase, Ynez. ***Historical Atlas of the American West***. Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1989. - Besides the expected general maps of geography, rainfall, crops, fauna, etc. this atlas contains fascinating surprises which make it an extremely useful reference tool—maps for locating Indian tribe reservations, and California rancherias; explorers' trails; Spanish and Mexican land grants in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and, Texas; cattle and sheep drives; wagon roads and railroads; Mexican and Civil War battle sites; even the dispersal for the horse among the native tribes and the spread of the Ghost Dance phenomenon.

Cohen, Paul E. ***Mapping the West, America's Westward Movement 1524-1890***. New York: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc. 2002. – A stunning collection of the finest maps ever made of the American West, chronicling the cartographic history of the western United States from 1524-1890. Included are maps made by Lewis and Clark, Robert E. Lee, and C.T. Beauregard.

Horgan, Paul. ***Great River, The Rio Grande in North American History***. Hanover: Wesleyan University Press, 1954. - Volume I: Indians and Spain; Volume II: Mexico and the United States. – Winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and Bancroft Prize for History, Great River is an epic history of four civilizations— Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo-American that peopled the Southwest through ten centuries. Horgan describes the Rio Grande, its role in human history and the overlapping cultures that have grown up alongside it.

Weber, David J. ***The Spanish Frontier in North America***. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1992. – This prize-winning book is the definitive history of the Spanish Colonial period in North America. The book describes not only the Spaniards' impact on the lives, institutions, and environments of Native Americans but also the effect of native North Americans on the societies and culture of Spanish settlers from Florida to California.

SOUTHWEST HISTORY

Beck, Warren A. and Haase, Ynez D. ***Historical Atlas of New Mexico***. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969. – In this atlas, a historian and a cartographer collaborate to depict specific aspects of the state's geography and events of its history, the narrative illustrated by maps. The history blends three cultures, Indian, Hispanic and Anglo.

Bolton, Herbert E. ***Coronado, Knight of Pueblo and Plains***. Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico, 1949. – This classic of Southwestern history is the epic account of Coronado's sixteenth-century entrada to the North American frontier of the Spanish Empire. Leaving Mexico City in 1540 with some three-

hundred Spaniards and a large body of Indian allies, Coronado and his men, the first Europeans to explore what are now Arizona and New Mexico, continued into the buffalo-covered plains of Texas and into Oklahoma and Kansas. Bolton, one of the greatest Borderlands historian, personally followed the path of the Coronado expedition.

Garcia-Simms, Charlene, Sanchez-Tucker, Maria, Herrera, Jeffrey. *Images of America, Pueblo*. South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2017. - At the confluence of the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek, Native Americans were the first to inhabit Pueblo and its surroundings. Pueblo means "village" and was founded in the early 1800s by people from New Mexico with Spanish and Native American roots along with trappers, traders and merchants from the eastern United States.

Hafen, Leroy R. and Hafen Ann W. *Old Spanish Trail, Santa Fe to Los Angeles*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1954. - The Spanish Trail is known as the crookedest, most arduous pack mule route in the history of America. It linked two of Spain's colonial outposts. From Santa Fe, the trail arched northwest, avoiding the Grand Canyon country and Indian tribes, cutting through a spur of the Rocky Mountains, fording the Colorado and Great rivers, and dipped over the rim of the Great Basin into the desert leading to Los Angeles.

Kessell, John L. Kiva, Cross and Crown. *The Pecos Indians and New Mexico 1530-1840*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1987. - The Pecos Indian Pueblo was one of the largest and most powerful of the Pueblo city-states that lay at the crossroads of Indian trading routes, Spanish expeditions, and the Santa Fe Trail. The history of people and events at Pecos comes alive.

Noel, Thomas J., Mahoney, Paul F., and Stevens, Richard F. *Historical Atlas of Colorado*. Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1994. - This unique historical atlas will help the reader understand quickly Colorado's geography and its fascinating past—from the prehistoric Indian culture to the modern metropolises, from the Spanish and French to "Manifest Destiny," to modern ski resorts.

Simmons, Marc. *The Last Conquistador, Juan De Onate and the Settling of the Far Southwest*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991. - In 1598 Don Juan de Onate led a formidable expedition of settlers, with wagons and livestock, on an epic march northward to the upper Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. There, he established the first European settlement west of the Mississippi, launching a significant chapter in early American History.

Spicer, Edward H. *Cycles of Conquest*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1962. - The impact of Spain, Mexico, and the United States on the Indians of the Southwest, 1533-1960.

Weber, David J. *The Mexican Frontier, 1821-1846, The American Southwest Under Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982. - A significant contribution in the fields of frontier, Mexican, and southwestern history. Combined with Dr. Weber's awesome command of the sources, he has created a book for scholars and laypersons alike. His even-handed treatment has corrected many misconceptions previously held about the people and events of the Mexican Southwest.

SOUTHERN COLORADO

Cobos, Ruben. *A Dictionary of New Mexico and Southern Colorado Spanish*. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1983. - Dr. Cobos' study deals with the variants in the Spanish language which was brought to New Mexico and Southern Colorado beginning in 1598. It was a Castilian Spanish which did

not evolve for 300 years. It had a specific dialect of old Spanish but within the words, interjected were, Calo (Gypsy), Ladino (Sephardic Jew), Arabic (Moorish) and Nahuatl (Aztec). He differentiates origin with each word. He includes sources, pronunciation and usage.

Martinez, Wilfred. O. ***Anza and Cuerno Verde, Decisive Battle***. Pueblo: El Escritorio Publishing and Research, 2001. – The Decisive battle between the Comanche Chief, Cuerno Verde, and Juan Batista de Anza, Governor of New Mexico, reads like a movie script. It occurred near the Greenhorn Mountains, approximately eighteen miles southwest of Pueblo, Colorado on September 2, 1779.

Martinez-Martinez, Deborah. ***Trade on the Taos Mountain Trail, 1598-1859***. Pueblo: Vanishing Horizons, 2010. – Martinez-Martinez makes geography, history and culture come alive by traveling the trade routes known to Native American nations, trappers and traders between the Taos Indian Pueblo, Taos, El Pueblo Trading Post and Bent's Fort. Meet the families of the frontier and learn about trade between the Native Americans, the Europeans, and the Americans.

Sanchez, Virginia. ***Forgotten Cucharenos of the Lower Valley***. Charleston, The History Press, 2010. – During the 1860s, Hispanos from Colorado's San Luis Valley moved their families east over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains into Huerfano County. Their story is important and almost a forgotten part of Colorado history, though their contributions are still felt throughout the area today. Sanchez brings Native Americans, Hispano and Anglo cultures to life.

Sandoval, David A. ***Spanish/Mexican Legacy of Latinos in Pueblo County***. Pueblo: Pueblo City-County Library District, 2012. Dr. Sandoval has covered the Spanish/Mexican influence in the region around Pueblo which was considered a Borderland. Pueblo, Sangre de Cristo, San Luis, Cuerno Verde, San Juan, Las Animas, all of these terms are Spanish, Even the name, Colorado, means, "red," while the name of the city and county, Pueblo, means "town," or "village. A mural to coincide with the book was painted by Denver artist, David Ocelotl Garcia and is hanging on the second floor of the Rawlings Library.

Sandoval, Joe A. ***Hearts of Gold, The Men and Women of Steel***. Pueblo: Self-Published, Joe A. Sandoval, 2008. – Sandoval talks about his life working in the CF&I Steel Mill, in Pueblo, Colorado, and his involvement in the United Steel Workers Union. Joe worked in the mill for 43 years.

Simmons, Virginia McConnell. ***San Luis Valley, Land of the Six-Armed Cross***. Boulder: Pruett Publishing Company, 1979. – From prehistoric peoples and historic Indians to early Spanish exploration, this book covers the geography and social history of the San Luis Valley.

Tushar, Olibama Lopez. ***The People of El Valle, A History of the Spanish Settlers in the San Luis Valley***. Pueblo: El Escritorio Publishing and Research, 2008. – Tushar reviews the early history of the Southwest with emphasis on the San Luis Valley. She describes the life of the early settlers including their homes, churches, schools, dress, occupations, holidays, wedding, leisure activities and Spanish folk tales, songs, proverbs and riddles, in La Plaza de los Manzanares, today known as Garcia.

Valdez de Pong, Dolores and Salazar de Valdez, Olivama. ***Life in Los Sauces***. Monte Vista: Adobe Village Press, 2005. – Life in Los Sauces is a detailed account of the lives of people who once lived in an isolated Spanish-speaking village of the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado during the first half of the 20th century. This book should be of special interest to those who have heritage connections to Los Sauces or want to learn about the culture of a small village.