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How Cities Won the West: Four Centuries of Urban Change in Western North America (review)

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bibliography and discography that help guide the reader to additional sources of information.

All in all, this is a well-researched, well-written, and beautifully designed book that will be enjoyed by almost anyone interested in Texas music history.

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GARY HARTMAN

How Cities Won the West: Four Centuries of Urban Change in Western North America. By Carl Abbott. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008. Pp. 358. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliographic note, index. ISBN 9780826333124, \$34.95 cloth).

By invoking the intentionally provocative phrase “Won the West,” Carl Abbott’s title alerts readers of two important themes outlined in his story: the centrality and, indeed, “triumph” of cities on the western landscape and the author’s desire to situate cities at the heart of historical debates on the American West. Regarding the latter point, his book is as much a history of the North American West as it is a history of cities within it—a relationship inextricably linked. Abbott also traces the changes western cities experienced from their earliest frontier stage to their present-day status as centers for global innovation. The cities of the West evolved from a dependent, almost child-like relationship with the East to themselves being the mature parent, stimulating economic, social, and intellectual change in North America and the world. In short, Abbott asserts, “We *can* say that the cities of western North America have come into their own” (275).

Abbott identifies his study as “Four Centuries of Urban Change”; however, given the paucity of urban development in the West before the nineteenth century, he appropriately focuses on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The book is broken into two distinct periods of transition: 1840–1940, and the West since 1940. After brief mention of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century trade and mission sites like Sitka, Santa Fe, and San Antonio, the narrative quickly moves to a discussion of gateway centers, such as St Louis, Omaha, Dallas, and Winnipeg (on the eastern boundary) and Honolulu, San Francisco, Portland, Vancouver, Seattle, and San Diego (on the Pacific rim). It is worth noting that Abbott incorporates the urban development of western Canada into his study, arguing that western Canadian cities followed a similar macro-historical process to that of their United States counterparts—a shared trajectory that includes exploration, trade, missionary efforts, resource extraction, and town development. Whether it is the launch of Lewis and Clark’s expedition from St. Louis, the Mormon exodus to the shores of the Great Salt Lake, the rush for gold through San Francisco, labor unrest in Cripple Creek, or the Kaiser shipyards in California, scholars of the American West will find familiar subject matter in Abbott’s study. In this respect, the author masterfully weaves the history of western North America through the lens of urban development. Urban studies themes also figure prominently in the book, including civic boosterism, the “city beautiful” movement, tourism, neoprogressivism, urban renewal, and grassroots civic activism represented by groups like the Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) in San Antonio.

In his telling of the history of western North American cities, Abbott breaks little new ground. Interestingly, there is not only inevitability to Abbott's urban West, but also the notion that western urban development is a positive good, despite sometimes negative social and environmental consequences. In terms of time and space, the book's innovation lays in its broad sweep and narrow scope, synthesizing copious city histories and larger western studies into a cohesive narrative. The author winds his story effortlessly through western urban history—from Larimer's swindle for the future site of Denver in 1858 to the Riverfront for People's rally for park areas along Portland's waterfront in 1969. Still, much goes unsaid. From the perspective of Texas history, there is little discussion of Spindletop and its early influence on urban development (especially Houston) and little credit is given to Texas cities for Progressive innovations in city government (like the Galveston Plan) or the role of Texans in the founding of La Raza Unida. Of course, these criticisms are typical of a bold synthesis: everyone wants a little more on their area of interest.

University of Texas–Pan American

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Pueblos, Spaniards, and the Kingdom of New Mexico. By John L. Kessell. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. Pp. 238. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. ISBN 9780806139692, \$24.95 cloth.)

In early 1998, as New Mexico prepared to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Spanish settlement, vandals or activists—depending on one's perspective—amputated the foot of a bronze statue honoring conquistador don Juan de Oñate. *The New York Times* reported that the Indian “commando group” responsible for the statue's maiming had issued a statement indicating “We took the liberty of removing Oñate's right foot on behalf of our brothers and sisters of Acoma Pueblo. We see no glory in celebrating Oñate's fourth centennial . . .” (*The New York Times*, February 9, 1998). The protest enacted upon this monument generated much discussion from northern New Mexico to El Paso as communities debated how best to honor the 400-year anniversary. The discourse reminded the public that late sixteenth-century events continued to have repercussions and meaning. Given this protracted and often heated discussion, it is in some ways surprising that until now, no single scholarly work has existed to which the general reader can turn for insights into this period in New Mexico's history. *Pueblos, Spaniards, and the Kingdom of New Mexico* remedies this by offering a concise, neat narrative history of seventeenth-century New Mexico.

Drawing from archaeology as well as history, this nicely illustrated, slim volume synthesizes the research on this period in New Mexico. While relying heavily on the field's standard texts, historian John Kessell also incorporates recent scholarship by James Brooks, Steven LeBlanc, Carroll Riley, and others to consider the many aspects of conquest, coexistence, and conflict. Conflicts that emerge are not only the obvious ones between Pueblos and Spaniards, but also those among Pueblos and between Franciscans and civil authorities, for example. The familiar competing motives—souls or profit—form the basis of tension between the blue-