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## History of the Lincoln County War by Maurice Garland Fulton and Robert M. Mullin (review)

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in order to advance her skills in a high school typing course, helps to prove the value of "oral tradition." The book based on that typescript will be of value to both the serious historian and the "buff," because it employs a simple, straight-forward style as it deals with the romance and adventure of life in the Old Southwest.

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A. STANLEY TRICKETT

*History of the Lincoln County War.* By Maurice Garland Fulton. Edited by Robert M. Mullin. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1968. Pp. 433. Introduction, illustrations, maps, index. \$8.50.)

For more than four decades, through the media of folklore, oral tradition, and motion pictures, the turmoil which erupted in the 1870's in Lincoln County, Territory of New Mexico, has been depicted as a dramatic collision of strong-willed personalities, the most notable of whom was William Bonney, alias Billy the Kid. Even historical literature, with the exception of specialized studies, often presented romanticized versions of that controversial event. For these reasons the publication of Maurice Garland Fulton's *History of the Lincoln County War* has answered the need for a definitive, objective account of the turbulence in southeastern New Mexico which had national and international repercussions.

In a readable, flowing style Fulton reconstructed the Lincoln County War as a bitter confrontation between one faction of early arrivals (the Murphy-Dolan-Riley organization), who virtually monopolized the pastoral-commercial outlets in the area, and a group of later settlers (the Tunstall-McSween-Chisum alliance), whose presence seriously challenged the security and control of the first party. Aligned with the dominant clique was the so-called "Santa Fe Ring," a motley assortment of Republican officeholders including the territorial governor and the U.S. district attorney, which had acquired vested interests in Lincoln County. The involvement of the territorial press, as reflected in its biased accounts, clearly demonstrates the validity of Fulton's thesis that economic-political considerations transcended the confines of the Rio Pecos Valley.

As the fighting increased, with casualties on both sides, the combatants became identified as the McSween faction and the Dolan crowd. Apart from the fact that Colonel Fulton presented as accurate

a picture of the contenders as the documentary evidence permits, there is no doubt that he was sympathetic to Alexander McSween and his supporters, perhaps because this group was the underdog in the power struggle. Even so, in sifting through voluminous court proceedings, newspapers, and interviews, Fulton set forth a balanced view of events by ascribing credit and blame to both parties.

It is difficult to find fault with what obviously is an important addition to the ever-expanding historical literature of the Southwest. But the book contains one annoying feature: the absence of footnotes and of a bibliography. However, Robert Mullin, who edited the manuscript and wrote the introduction, explains that Fulton (who died in 1955) had a penchant for discussing the credibility of source materials in the main body of the text. For these shortcomings, one cannot take Mullin to task harshly, because the service that he rendered in supervising the publication of the Fulton papers greatly outweighs the omissions.

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*Arizona Territory, 1863-1912: A Political History.* By Jay J. Wagoner. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1970. Pp. x + 587. Illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index. \$12.00.)

Almost forty-nine years of territorial history are compressed in this hefty and immensely informative volume on frontier Arizona. Essentially a political history, as the subtitle indicates, the straightforward narrative is developed by means of a detailed examination of each administration of the territory's sixteen governors, and the author includes separate chapters for Nathan Oakes Murphy's two terms. Individual chapters are devoted to such important or distinctive subjects as the Civil War in Arizona, the so-called "federal ring," the Apache problem, and the once-celebrated Arizona Rangers. Practically every colorful episode in Arizona territorial history is integrated in a study that also provides extended discussion of the long, frustrating statehood movement, conservation programs launched in the territory, and the operation of the territorial system in Arizona. The book is a result of careful research in the territorial records and official correspondence at the National Archives and Library