

Select bibliography of published works by historian Richard White (b. 1947)

Compiler: Jared Farmer

Books

The Republic for Which It Stands: The United States during Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865–1896. Oxford History of the United States, Volume 6. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017).

Ellis W. Hawley Prize, Organization of American Historians

Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011).

Finalist, Pulitzer Prize in history
Francis Parkman Prize, Society of American Historians
Ralph Gomory Prize, Business History Conference
Los Angeles Times Book Prize in history

Remembering Ahanagan: Storytelling in a Family's Past (New York: Hill & Wang, 1998).

Governor's Writers Award, Washington State Library

The Organic Machine: The Remaking of the Columbia River (New York: Hill & Wang, 1996).

Governor's Writers Award, Washington State Library

The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650–1815 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991). Twentieth anniversary edition with new foreword by author, 2011.

Finalist, Pulitzer Prize in history
Francis Parkman Prize, Society of American Historians
Albert J. Beveridge Award, American Historical Association
Albert B. Corey Prize, American Historical Association/Canadian Historical Association
James A. Rawley Prize, Organization of American Historians
Book Award, Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York

"It's Your Misfortune and None of My Own": A History of the American West (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991).

Western Heritage Award for Nonfiction, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

The Roots of Dependency: Subsistence, Environment, and Social Change Among the Choctaws, Pawnees, and Navajos (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1983).

Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin Book Prize, American Society for Ethnohistory

Land Use, Environment, and Social Change: The Shaping of Island County, Washington (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1979). Twentieth anniversary edition with new preface by author and foreword by William Cronon, 1999.

Forest History Society Book Award

Edited volume

Power and Place in the North American West (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1999). Co-edited with John M. Findlay.

Book contributions

“Utopian Capitalism,” in *American Capitalisms: New Histories*, eds. Sven Beckert and Christine Desan (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018).

“Play It Again, Sam: Decline and Finishing in Environmental Narratives,” in *The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities*, eds. Ursula K. Heise, Jon Christensen, and Michelle Niemann (New York: Routledge 2017).

“From Wilderness to Hybrid Landscapes: The Cultural Turn in Environmental History,” in *The Companion to American Environmental History*, ed. Douglas Cazaux Sackman (Malden, Mass.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

“The American West and American Empire,” in *Manifest Destinies and Indigenous Peoples*, eds. David Maybury-Lewis, Theodore Macdonald, and Biorn Maybury-Lewis (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2009).

“The Louisiana Purchase and the Fictions of Empire,” in *Empires of the Imagination: Transatlantic Histories of the Louisiana Purchase*, eds. Peter J. Kastor and François Weil (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009).

“The West Is Rarely What It Seems,” in *Faces of the Frontier: Photographic Portraits from the American West, 1845–1924*, ed. Frank H. Goodyear III (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2009).

Foreword to *Placing History: How Maps, Spatial Data, and GIS are Changing Historical Scholarship*, eds. Anne Kelly Knowles and Amy Hillier (Redlands, Calif.: ERSI Press, 2008).

“Transcendental Landscapes,” in *American Victorians and Virgin Nature*, ed. T. J. Jackson Lears (Boston: Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 2002).

“Content and Conceptual Change: A Commentary,” in *Reconsidering Conceptual Change: Issues in Theory and Practice*, eds. Margarita Limón and Lucia Mason (Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002).

“Contested Terrain: The Business of Land in the American West” in *Land in the American West: Private Claims and the Common Good*, eds. William G. Robbins and James C. Foster (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000).

“The Problem with Purity,” in *Tanner Lectures on Human Values*, vol. 21, eds. Grethe B. Peterson and Elaine Scarry (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2000).

“Western History,” in *The New American History*, ed. Eric Foner (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1997).

“Indian Peoples and the Natural World: Asking the Right Questions,” in *Rethinking American Indian History*, ed. Donald L. Fixico (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997).

“‘Although I am dead, I am not entirely dead. I have left a second of myself’: Constructing Self and Persons on the Middle Ground of Early America” in *Through a Glass Darkly: Reflections on Personal Identity in Early America*, eds. Ronald Hoffman, Mechal Sobel, and Fredrika J. Teute (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997).

Introduction to *The Indian Tribes of the Upper Mississippi Valley & Region of the Great Lakes*, ed. Emma Helen Blair (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996).

“The Nature of Progress: Progress and the Environment,” in *Progress: Fact or Illusion?* eds. Leo Marx and Bruce Mazlish (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996).

“Other Wests,” in *The West: An Illustrated History*, by Geoffrey C. Ward (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1996).

“‘Are You an Environmentalist or Do You Work for a Living?’: Work and Nature,” in *Uncommon Ground: Toward Reinventing Nature*, ed. William Cronon (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1995).

“Animals and Enterprise,” in *The Oxford History of the American West*, eds. Clyde A. Milner II, Carol A. O’Connor and Martha A. Sandweiss (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994).

“Frederick Jackson Turner and Buffalo Bill,” in *The Frontier in American Culture*, ed. James R. Grossman (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994).

“Expansion and Exodus,” in *The Native Americans: An Illustrated History*, eds. David Hurst Thomas et al. (Atlanta: Turner Publishing, 1993).

“We Are Uncomfortable Calling Ourselves Imperialists,” in *Left Bank 5: Borders & Boundaries* ed. Linny Stovall (Hillsboro, Ore.: Blue Heron Publishing, 1993). [Interview.]

“Indians,” “Indian-White Relations,” and “Nature,” in *Companion to American Thought*, eds. Richard Wightman Fox and James T. Kloppenberg (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1992).

“Indian Land Use and the National Forests,” in *Origins of the National Forests: A Centennial Symposium*, ed. Harold K. Steen (Durham, N.C.: Forest History Society, 1992).

“Trashing the Trails,” in *Trails: Toward a New Western History*, eds. Patricia Nelson Limerick, Clyde A. Milner, and Charles E. Rankin (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1991).

“Frederick Jackson Turner,” in *Historians of the American Frontier*, ed. John R. Wunder (New York: Greenwood Press, 1988).

“Native Americans and the Environment,” in *Scholars and the Indian Experience: Critical Reviews of Recent Writing in the Social Sciences*, ed. William R. Swagerty (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984).

“The Altered Landscape: Social Change and the Land in the Pacific Northwest,” in *Regionalism and the Pacific Northwest*, eds. William G. Robbins, Robert J. Frank, and Richard E. Ross (Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 1983).

“Ecological Change and Indian-White Relations,” in *Handbook of North American Indians*, vol. 4, ed. William C. Sturtevant (Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1982). [Co-authored with William Cronon.]

“Shulush Homa: Red Shoes of Couechitto,” in *Struggle and Survival in Colonial America*, eds. Gary B. Nash and David G. Sweet (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1981).

Articles

“Instant, Insistent History,” *Boom: A Journal of California* 5, no. 2 (Summer 2015): 4–11. [On history and photography, with images by Jesse White.]

“What Counts as Corruption?” *Social Research* 80, no. 4 (Winter 2013): 1033–56.

“Deconstructing Mare Island: Reconnaissance in the Ruins,” *Boom: A Journal of California* 2, no. 2 (Summer 2012): 55–69. [With images by Jesse White.]

“Starting Arguments: Quarrels over Time and Space,” *California History* 89, no. 1 (December 2011): 61–67. [Response to critics of *Railroaded*.]

“What Is Spatial History?” Stanford History Lab Working Paper, 1 February 2010. [Permalink: <https://web.stanford.edu/group/spatialhistory/cgi-bin/site/pub.php?id=29>]

“A Commemoration and a Historical Mediation,” *Journal of American History* 94, no. 4 (March 2008): 1073–81. [Presidential address to the Organization of American Historians.]

“Creative Misunderstandings and New Understandings,” *William & Mary Quarterly* 63, no. 1 (January 2006): 9–14. [Response to critics of *The Middle Ground*.]

“From Wilderness to Hybrid Landscapes: The Cultural Turn in Environmental History,” *Historian* 66, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 557–64.

“Information, Markets, and Corruption: Transcontinental Railroads in the Gilded Age,” *Journal of American History* 90, no. 1 (June 2003): 19–43.

“Here Is the Problem: An Introduction.” *Journal of American History* 89, no. 1 (June 2002): 17–19. [From round table “Self and Subject.”]

“Response,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 33, no. 2 (Summer 2002): 154–56. [From round table “A Historian Who Has Changed Our Thinking.”]

“Environmental History: Watching a Historical Field Mature,” *Pacific Historical Review* 70, no. 1 (February 2001): 103–111.

“The Nationalization of Nature,” *Journal of American History* 86, no. 3 (December 1999): 976–86.

“Is There a North American History?” *La Revue Française d’Etudes Américaines* 79 (janvier 1999): 8–28.

“The Gold Rush: Consequences and Contingences,” *California History* 77, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 42–55.

“The Current Weirdness in the West,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 28, no. 1 (Spring 1997): 5–16. [Presidential address to the Western Historian Association.]

“The New Western History and the National Parks,” *George Wright Forum* 13, no. 3 (1996): 29–36.

“Hanford: Boomtown of the Atomic Frontier,” *High Country News* 28, no. 1 (22 January 1996): 4–6.

“What Chigabe Knew: Indians, Household Government, and the State,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 52, no. 1 (January 1995): 151–56. [From forum on household government in early American societies.]

“Discovering Nature in North America,” *Journal of American History* 79, no. 3 (December 1992): 874–91.

“Environmental History, Ecology, and Meaning,” *Journal of American History* 76, no. 4 (March 1990): 1111–16. [From round table “Environmental History.”]

“How the Ute Tribe Lost Its Water,” *High Country News* 19, no. 6 (30 March 1987): 11–13. [Co-authored with Ed Marston.]

“Race Relations in the American West,” *American Quarterly* 38, no. 3 (September 1986): 396–416.

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“American Environmental History: The Development of a New Historical Field,” *Pacific Historical Review* 54, no. 3 (August 1985): 297–35. [Winner of the Theodore C. Blegen Award from the Forest History Society.]

“Introduction,” *Environmental Review* 9, no. 2 (Summer 1985): 101–103. [Special issue on American Indian environmental history.]

“The Cultural Landscape of the Pawnees,” *Great Plains Quarterly* 2, no. 1 (January 1982): 31–40.

“Outlaw Gangs of the Middle Border: American Social Bandits,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 12, no. 4 (Winter 1981): 387–408.

“Poor Men on Poor Lands: The Back-to-the-Land Movement of the Early Twentieth Century: A Case Study,” *Pacific Historical Quarterly* 49, no. 1 (February 1980): 105–131. [Winner of the Theodore C. Blegen Award from the Forest History Society.]

“The Winning of the West: The Expansion of the Western Sioux in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries,” *Journal of American History* 65, no. 2 (September 1978): 319–43. [Winner of the Ray Allen Billington Prize from the Western History Association.]

“Indian Land Use and Environmental Change, Island County, Washington: A Case Study,” *Arizona & the West* 17, no. 4 (Winter 1975): 327–38.

Reviews

“New Yorker Nation,” *Reviews in American History* 47, no. 2 (June 2019): 159–67. [On *These Truths: A History of the United States* by Jill Lepore.]

“Five Best: Richard White,” *Wall Street Journal*, 13 October 2017. [On biographies of failed presidents.]

“Trump’s Jacksonian Moment,” *Boston Review*, 7 June 2017. [On *Avenging the People: Andrew Jackson, the Rule of Law, and the American Nation* by J. M. Opal.]

“Naming America’s Own Genocide,” *The Nation*, 29 August–5 September 2016. [On *An American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe, 1846–1873* by Benjamin Madley.]

“Nature and the Pitfalls of Big History,” *Raritan* 35, no. 3 (Winter 2016): 15–29. [On *Back to the Garden: Nature and the Mediterranean World from Prehistory to the Present* by James H. S. McGregor.]

“The Eternal Return of the Christian Nation,” *Boston Review*, 5 October 2015. [On *Inventing a Christian America: The Myth of the Religious Founding* by Steven Green, and *One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America* by Kevin M. Kruse.]

“God’s Country: The Making of American Exceptionalism,” *Boston Review*, 17 September 2014. [On *The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic* by John Demos.]

“Against the Grain,” *The Nation*, 4 March 2014. [On *Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People* by Elizabeth A. Fenn.]

“Legal Pluralism and Native Sovereignty,” *William & Mary Quarterly* 68, no. 4 (October 2011): 720–24. [On *Freedom Bound: Law, Labor, and Civic Identity in Colonizing English America, 1580–1685* by Christopher Tomlins.]

“Bill McKibben’s Emersonian Vision,” *Raritan* 31, no. 2 (Fall 2011): 110–125. [On McKibben’s books to that date.]

“Changing the Metaphor,” *The Nation*, 2 November 2009. [On *Rebirth of a Nation: The Making of Modern America, 1877–1920* by Jackson Lears.]

“Liberalism and Nature,” *Raritan* 29, no. 2 (Fall 2009): 40–56. [On *A Passion for Nature: The Life of John Muir* by Donald Worster.]

“On Rediscovering Our Inner Empiricist,” *Raritan* 26, no. 2 (Fall 2006): 62–78. [On *The Humboldt Current: Nineteenth-century Exploration and the Roots of Modern Environmentalism* by Aaron Sachs.]

“Brokeback Mountain: A Western,” *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 56, no. 2 (Summer 2006): 65–66. [On Ang Lee’s 2005 film.]

- “The Geography of American Empire,” *Raritan* 23, no. 3 (Winter 2004): 1–19. [On *American Empire: Roosevelt’s Geographer and the Prelude to Globalization* by Neil Smith.]
- “Eaglets v. Chickens,” *London Review of Books* 26, no. 11 (3 June 2004): 33–34. [On *The Sioux: The Dakota and Lakota Nations* by Guy Gibbon.]
- “Guerilla into Criminal,” *London Review of Books* 25, no. 11 (5 June 2003): 21–22. [On *Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War* by T. J. Stiles.]
- “A Trailblazer for American Imperialism,” *Los Angeles Times*, 24 November 2002. [On *Pathfinder: John Charles Fremont and the Course of American Empire* by Tom Chaffin.]
- “The Natures of Nature Writing,” *Raritan* 22 (Fall 2002): 145–61. [On *The Birds of Heaven: Travels with Cranes* by Peter Matthiessen, and other works.]
- “How Andrew Jackson Saved the Cherokees,” *The Green Bag, Second Series* 5, no. 4 (Summer 2002): 443–52. [On *Andrew Jackson and His Indian Wars* by Robert V. Remini.]
- “On the Beaches,” *London Review of Books* 24, no. 6 (21 March 2002): 25–26. [On *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* by Daniel Richter.]
- “Nature or Justice,” *New Republic*, 11 June 2001. [On *A River Running West: The Life of John Wesley Powell* by Donald Worster.]
- “A Review of Annie Dillard’s *The Living*,” in *Novel History: Historians and Novelists Confront America’s Past* ed. Mark C. Carnes (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2001).
- “*The Last of the Mohicans*,” in *Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies* ed. Mark C. Carnes (New York: Henry Holt, 1996), 82–85. [On Michael Mann’s 1992 film.]
- “Going for the Gold,” *Los Angeles Times*, 27 August 2000. [On recent books related to the California Gold Rush.]
- “History Train,” *New Republic*, 8 May 2000. [On *Empire Express: Building the First Transcontinental Railroad* by David Haward Bain.]
- “Dead Certainties,” *New Republic*, 24 January 2000. [On *Jefferson and the Indians: The Tragic Fate of the First Americans* by Anthony F. C. Wallace.]
- “Picture Imperfect,” *New Republic*, 11 October 1999. [On *Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian, Incorporated* by Mick Gidley.]
- “Lone Star,” *Reviews in American History* 26, no. 4 (December 1998): 766–71. [On *The White Scourge: Mexicans, Blacks and Poor Whites in Texas Cotton Culture* by Neil Foley.]
- “Complexity in Arms,” *New Republic*, 31 August 1998. [On *Tecumseh: A Life* by John Sugden.]

“Scenery Trumps Science,” *Reviews in American History* 26, no. 2 (June 1998): 421–27. [On *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History* by Richard West Sellers.]

“Comeback Nation,” *New York Times*, 17 May 1998. [On *In a Barren Land: American Indian Dispossession and Survival* by Paula Mitchell Marks.]

“Money Changes Everything,” *New Republic*, 1 December 1997. [On *Days of Gold: The California Gold Rush and the American Nation* by Malcolm J. Rohrbough.]

“Representing Indians: Art, History, and the New Museums,” *New Republic*, 21 April 1997. [On the National Museum of the American Indian.]

“The Return of the Natives,” *New Republic*, 8 July 1996. [On *Where White Men Fear to Tread* by Russell Means.]

“Last Stands,” *New York Times*, 30 April 1995. [On *Killing Custer: The Battle of the Little Bighorn and the Fate of the Plains Indians* by James Welch and *Sweet Medicine: Sites of Indian Massacres, Battlefields, and Treaties* by Drex Brooks et al.]

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“Family Ties,” *New Republic*, 13 June 1994. [On *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America* by John Demos.]

“Back to Nature,” *Reviews in American History* 22, no. 1 (March 1994): 1–6. [On *The Wealth of Nature: Environmental History and the Ecological Imagination* by Donald Worster.]

“Morality and Mortality,” *New Republic*, 18 January 1993. [On *American Holocaust: The Conquest of the New World* by David E. Stannard.]

Untitled review of *The Last of the Mohicans* (dir. Michael Mann) in *Gateway Heritage* 13, no. 3 (Winter 1993): 71–72.

Untitled review of *Black Robe* (dir. Bruce Beresford) in *Gateway Heritage* 12, no. 3 (Winter 1992): 79–80.

Untitled review of *Nature’s Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* by William Cronon in *Environmental History Review* 16, no. 2 (Summer 1992): 85–91.

Untitled review of *Dances with Wolves* (dir. Kevin Costner) in *Gateway Heritage* 11, no. 4 (Spring 1991): 80.

Untitled review of *American Indian Holocaust & Survival: A Population History since 1492* by Russell Thornton and *Vectors of Death: The Archaeology of European Contact* by Ann F. Ramenofsky in *Ethnohistory* 37, no. 1 (Winter 1990): 66–70.

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Commentaries

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“Why Not Blow \$9 Billion on a Cool Train,” *Zócalo Public Square*, 19 September 2011. [On California High-Speed Rail Authority.]

“Fast Train to Nowhere,” *New York Times*, 23 April 2011. [On California High-Speed Rail Authority.]

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Appreciations

“William Cronon Biography,” General Meeting Booklet, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, 2013. [Upon Cronon being honored as association president.]

Foreword to *The Essential West: Collected Essays* by Elliott West (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012).

“A Wider West,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 36, no. 2 (Summer 2005): 135–38. [On Howard Lamar.]

“Obituary: Vernon Carstensen,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 24, no. 1 (March 1993): 137–38. [Carstensen was White’s doctoral advisor.]