

**AN OKLAHOMA I HAD NEVER SEEN  
BEFORE: ALTERNATIVE VIEWS OF  
OKLAHOMA HISTORY BY DAVIS D. JOYCE**



***"An Oklahoma  
I Had Never Seen  
Before"***

*ALTERNATIVE VIEWS OF OKLAHOMA HISTORY*

*Edited by Davis D. Joyce*

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## About the Author

Davis D. Joyce, Professor of History at East Central University, Ada , Oklahoma , served from 1994 to 1996 as Soros Professor of American Studies at Kossuth University in Hungary. He is the author of *Edward Channing and the Great Work and History and Historians: Some Essays*, editor of *A History of the United States by Edward Channing*, and coauthor of *United States History: A Brief Introduction for Hungarian Students* (with Tibor Glant) and *The Writing of American History*, also published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

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After taking Davis D. Joyce's course in Oklahoma history, a student once said, "I saw an Oklahoma I'd never seen before."

"This is a splendid collection of writings in the true spirit of a 'people's history'. It begins with a delightful, wry overlook at Oklahoma by George Milburn, and goes on to tell about the state in way rarely seen in traditional histories. There are accounts of progressivism, of socialism, of labor radicalism, of Indian resistance, of black struggle against segregation, of women's campaigns for abortion rights. It includes fascinating portraits of people, some famous, some obscure, who were engaged in these struggles. I hope this become a model for similar volumes on other states."—Howard Zinn, author of *People's History of the United States*.

Contents: "Oklahoma," George Milburn; "The Difficulty of Celebrating an Invasion," Jerald C. Walker; "Progressivism in Oklahoma Politics, 1900-1913: A Reinterpretation," Kenny L. Brown; "Kate Barnard, Progressivism, and the West," Suzanne J. Crawford and Lynn R. Musslewhite; "In Death You Shall not Wear It Either': The Persecution of Mennonite Pacifists in Oklahoma," Marvin E. Kroeker; "She Never Weakened: The Heroism of Freda Ameringer," John Thompson; "Wobblies in the Oilfields: The Suppression of the Industrial Workers of the World in Oklahoma," Nigel sellars; "The Road Once Taken: Socialist Medicine in Southwestern Oklahoma," Alana Hughes; "Woody Guthrie: The Oklahoma Years, 1912-1929," Harry Menig; "The New Deal Comes to Shawnee," Dale E.Soden; "The Social Gospel of Nicholas Comfort," Bob Cottrell; "Behold the Walls," Clara Luper; "The Case of the Deerslayer," Stan Steiner; "Black Oklahoma and Sense of place," Jimmie L. Franklin; "The Southern Influence on Oklahoma," Danney Goble; "The Creation of an Oklahoma Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights: A Personal/Historical Essay" Carole Jane Joyce; "Violence and Oppression of Women in Rural Oklahoma," Elizabeth D. Barlow; "Oklahoma's Gay Liberation Movement," Thomas E. Guild, Joan Luxenburg, and Keith Smith; "Even Among the Sooners, There Are More Important Things than Football," Alan Ehrenhalt.

In revealing an Oklahoma many have never seen, this book can remind Oklahoma citizens of changes yet to be made, show how to mark them, and (perhaps most important of all) inspire them to do the job.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

20 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Good Collection of Essays on Oklahoma

By Sara

This was a supplemental text to a section of Oklahoma history (not the one taught by Dr. Joyce though) I took last semester at college. The essays cover a wide variety of topics and are very thought provoking. One essay in particular debates the value of "celebrating" the Land Run of 1889. When I was in second grade, my elementary school commemorated the Land Run by holding a mock run and we were made to believe it was a fun, adventurous event. Now that I'm older and have learned more about the Run, I have great uncertainties about whether such a celebration should take place.

Goble's "Southern Influence on Oklahoma" was also intriguing. Political scientists and historians aren't sure how to classify Oklahoma because this state is a combination of Midwestern, Western and Southern. In his essay, Goble lists the many political and religious elements from the South that have shaped Oklahoma over the years. All things considered, this would be a great buy for anyone interested in Oklahoma history.

18 of 26 people found the following review helpful.

Informative essays about the "flip-side" history of Oklahoma

By Joe Owen

As the reviewer below was, I too was a student in Dr. Joyce's Oklahoma History class and this book was a required text for the course. After reading the essays of the book which deal with a more radical history of Oklahoma that is definitely not as well known in this state such as the Abortion Rights Movement, Gay Rights, the stealing of land from the Native Americans by White Men during the land rush of the 1880's-1890's, etc.,

Dr. Joyce has brought together some very eye opening essays from various writers who have either first hand experience or from those who are subject matter experts.

This is the type of book that should be required reading to all high school students in Oklahoma. Yes, the book is definitely controversial and would upset those with conservative, "right-wing" viewpoints, however with that said, it describes events in the state's history that everyone should be concerned about.

I admire Dr. Joyce and the conviction that made him write this book, and I highly recommended it to all who want to know a viewpoint of Oklahoma, its people and history that is generally not well known.

10 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

To the Victor . . .

By TundraBee

This "cafeteria Catholic" reviewer was born in ChicagoLand during the reign of Mayor Richard Daley I (American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley - His Battle for Chicago and the Nation), and graduated public

High School in Wisconsin, in 1972, having never heard of Shakespeare, or Hamlet, knowing how to milk the cows of America's Dairyland, but never having heard mention of Joseph McCarthy, former US Senator from WISCONSIN and those in his wake (No Sense of Decency: The Army-McCarthy Hearings: A Demagogue Falls and Television Takes Charge of American Politics.) I proceeded onward to a Lutheran College in Northfield The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid, Minnesota, where they made us eat this Gawd-Awful lye-soaked fish and never spoke of the James Gang, but raged on and on about the evils of the Vatican, and the Glory of Luther's Ninety-Five Theses in mandatory twice weekly religion classes. They taught me about that Shakespeare guy and his man Hamlet.

I spent a lot of time out in Wounded Knee, and one day turned South back on I-35 and wound up in Oklahoma.

I throw in all that personal geographical history because it illustrates Professor Joyce's (and, in a countrywide view, Howard Zinn's A People's History of the United States: 1492 to Present (P.S.)) point that "History" is often fabricated, or at least selectively reported, by the prevailing "Power Structure." (Read Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto (Civilization of the American Indian)).

At the University of Oklahoma, I was dutifully instructed on how to contain, and eventually stop, a cattle stampede. I was \*not\* taught about Angie Debo's watershed book on the travesties against the survivors of the Trail of Tears And Still the Waters Run nor the fact that the Founding FATHERS at OU refused to allow her to teach there.

But they must be getting better - or at least getting a sense of humour. In his intro, Joyce writes "... in that inevitable taking of sides which comes from selection and emphasis in Oklahoma history, I prefer to tell the story of Oklahoma's pre- (and history) from the point of view of ... the Run of '89 [for you non-Okies, this is when Oklahoma and Indian Territories were "opened up" to land-grabbing non-Indians, despite the fact that the grass was still growing and the Rivers still Flowing, and therefore the previously promised perpetual treaties had not expired. The "Boomers" were the "law-abiding" land thieves who waited for the "official" Boom of the start gun, the "Sooners" snuck in - well - sooner!] as seen by the Indians already here, ... the University of Oklahoma's much vaunted football success as seen by the bright students who feel compelled to leave the state for high-quality education and jobs, or as seen by the athlete who never gets a degree; and so on ..."

Boy Howdy! This book was published in 1994 by THE University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, the institution former University President George Lynn Cross urged to become "a university our football team can be proud of."

One more thing about the introduction: Joyce asks "Couldn't our view of Oklahoma history use a little reshuffling of heros and villians? Why, for example, isn't Woody Guthrie in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame?"

What? This reviewer was flabbergasted. So, while singing "This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land" to myself (and hoping that I wouldn't have to rouse all the folk on son Arlo's infamous Group W bench into action,) I did some updated internet research and am pleased to announce that Woody was rightfully but belatedly inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. In 2006. (Angie Debo got in in 1950.)

This book should be required reading in all Oklahoma curricula. And every state should have one like it. Bravo, Professor Joyce! (See also Alternative Oklahoma: Contrarian Views of the Sooner State.) The footnotes are great, except that it required massive use of my Amazon Prime membership and the construction of yet another "Some Assembly Required" bookcase. "The Southern Influence of Oklahoma" article validated every inchoate concept I had about the Sooner State - my internal guide has always been any state wherein the predominance of the populace draws and avails itself of some form of "you all" as the Second Person Plural is "Southern," linguistically, socially, and politically - despite Frederick Jackson Turner and Okie protestations that they are a "mid-western" state just because they have an Oklahoma City suburb named Midwest City! And the article on the integration/lunch counter sit-ins is important for younger generations to understand. It's the Santayana thing: Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

/TundraVision, back in Minnesota's Land of Sky Blue Waters

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