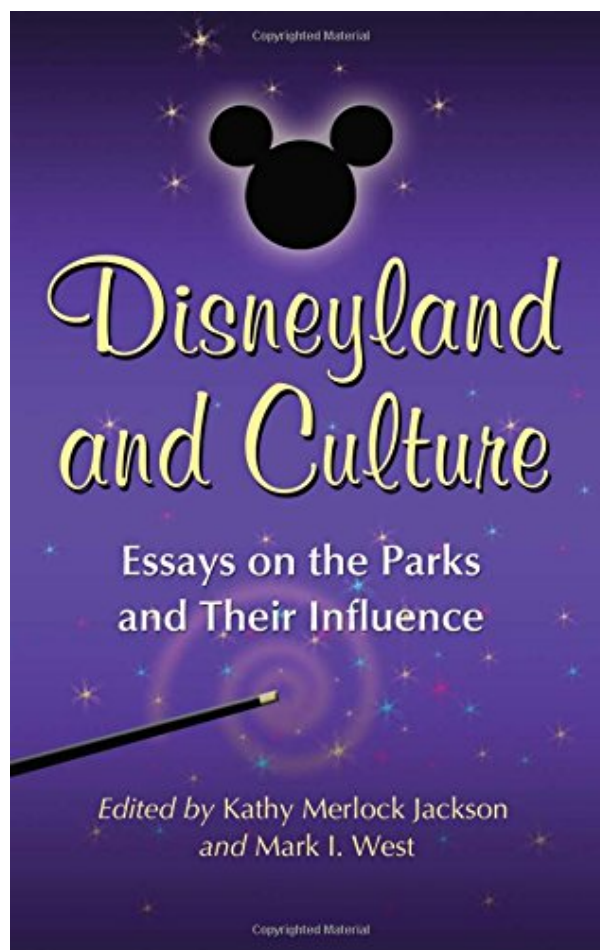
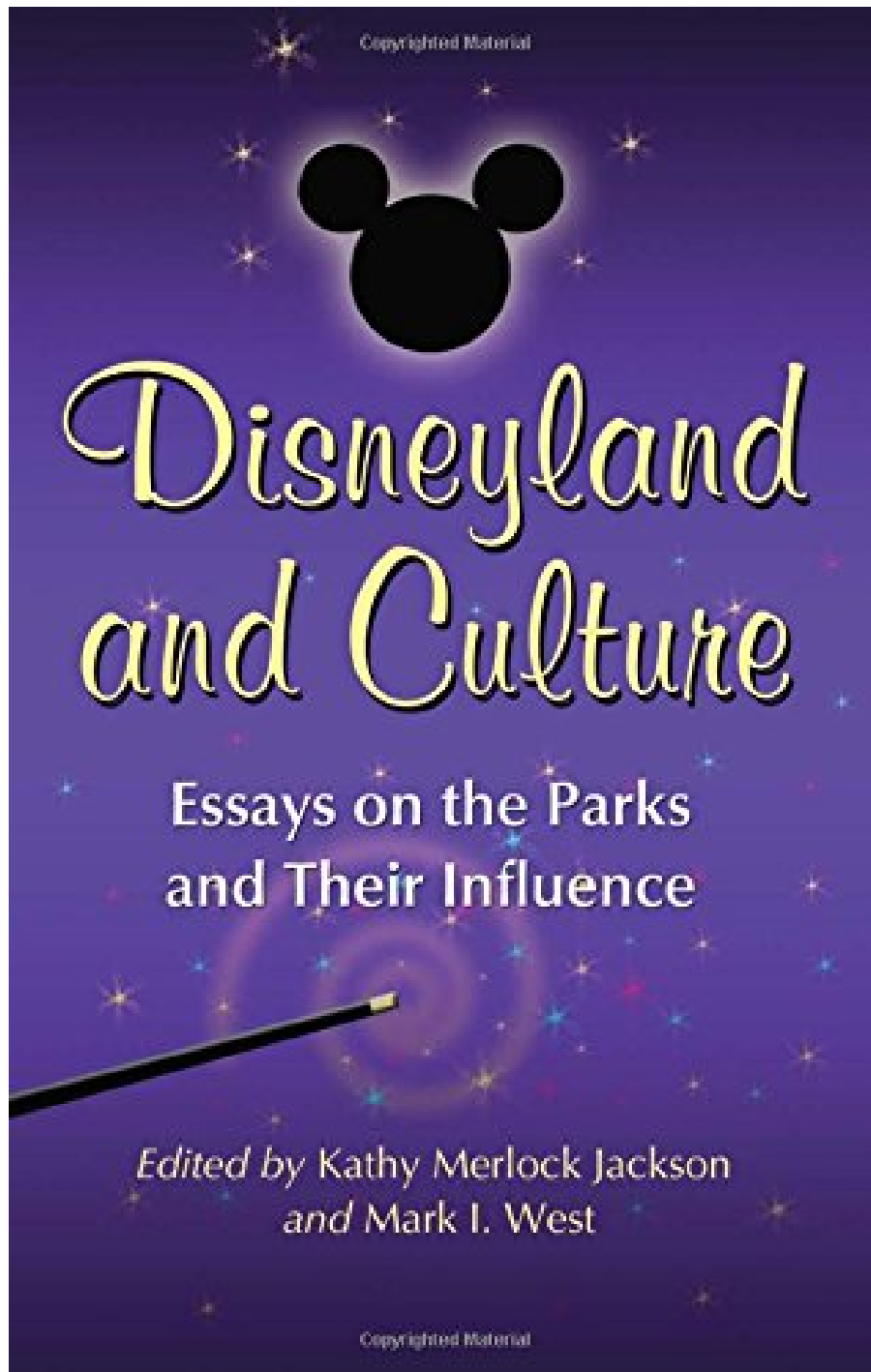


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THE PARKS AND THEIR INFLUENCE BY  
KATHY MERLOCK JACKSON, MARK I.  
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## Review

"Recommended." --Choice

## About the Author

Kathy Merlock Jackson is a professor at Virginia Wesleyan College, where she teaches media studies and children's culture. She is the editor of *The Journal of American Culture* and a former president of the American Culture Association.

Mark I. West is chair of the English Department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He has written or edited a dozen books on children's literature and culture and is a past president of the Children's Literature Association.

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# **DISNEYLAND AND CULTURE: ESSAYS ON THE PARKS AND THEIR INFLUENCE BY KATHY MERLOCK JACKSON, MARK I. WEST PDF**

The success of Disneyland as the world's first permanent, commercially viable theme park sparked the creation of a number of other parks throughout the world, from Florida to Japan, France, and Hong Kong. But the impact of Disneyland is not confined to the theme park arena. These essays explore a far-reaching ideology. Among the topics are Disney's role in the creation of children's architecture; Frontierland as an allegorical map of the American West; the "cultural invasion of France" in Disneyland Paris; the politics of nostalgia; and "hyperurbanity" in the town of Celebration, Florida.

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## Review

"Recommended." --Choice

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Intense, almost made my Disney-mind explode!

By Amazon Customer

This book -- a group of essays -- taught me things I didn't know about Disneyland and other Disney parks and allowed me to view the things I already knew in a new light. Delightful and smart, a must read for any Disney parks fan.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A Cavalcade of Culture

By takingadayoff

Disneyland and Culture is not limited to Disneyland. There are essays on Walt Disney World in Orlando and on Disneyland Paris, Hong Kong Disneyland, Tokyo Disneyland, and the city of Celebration, Florida. Essayists zero in on specific parts of the theme park, such as Tom Sawyer's Island in Frontierland, Main Street USA, the Snow White ride in Fantasyland, and the Enchanted Tiki Room. Others discuss the relationship of Disneyland to Hollywood, television, architecture, and feng shui.

Some of the essays are decades old and others just a few years old, but all of them are relevant to today. A few wander into the very academic (Baudrillard gets several mentions in one essay), but most of the pieces are accessible to those of us who are just interested in what is going on beneath the surface.

Last time I visited Disneyland I felt uneasy about the whole Pirates of the Caribbean experience. Pirates aren't cute or funny, they are dangerous and violent. Why is this a ride at Disneyland? And what about Tomorrowland? It's no longer the look to the future that I remembered as a child. It's definitely a retro future. The professors have their own views on these and other topics, all quite thoughtful.

One essay, Vacation in Historyland, veered off into a discussion of the reality TV shows Frontier House and Colonial House, shows that were shown on public television and were marketed as educational shows complete with suggested lesson plans for use in classrooms. Of course they are purely entertainment and about as educational as the "nature" programs Disney used to produce (one notorious Disney film featured a staged mass suicide jump of lemmings which helped to fuel the misconception that droves of lemmings are always jumping to their deaths).

Another essay described how the author's young son was inaugurated into celebrity culture during a stay at a Disney resort. Once the five-year-old understood the concept of autographs, the family spent the rest of the vacation trying to be in the right place at the right time to get character autographs, be photographed with Disney characters, getting inside information on where certain characters were likely to be at any given time. It's almost as if the kid was learning to stalk the celebrity costumed characters.

This collection is very well edited. Normally in this type of anthology, I'll find about half the essays hold my attention all the way through, but I read nearly every one of the articles here, with great interest. And as is typical with good essays, I had as many questions when I finished as when I started, but they were all different questions.

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