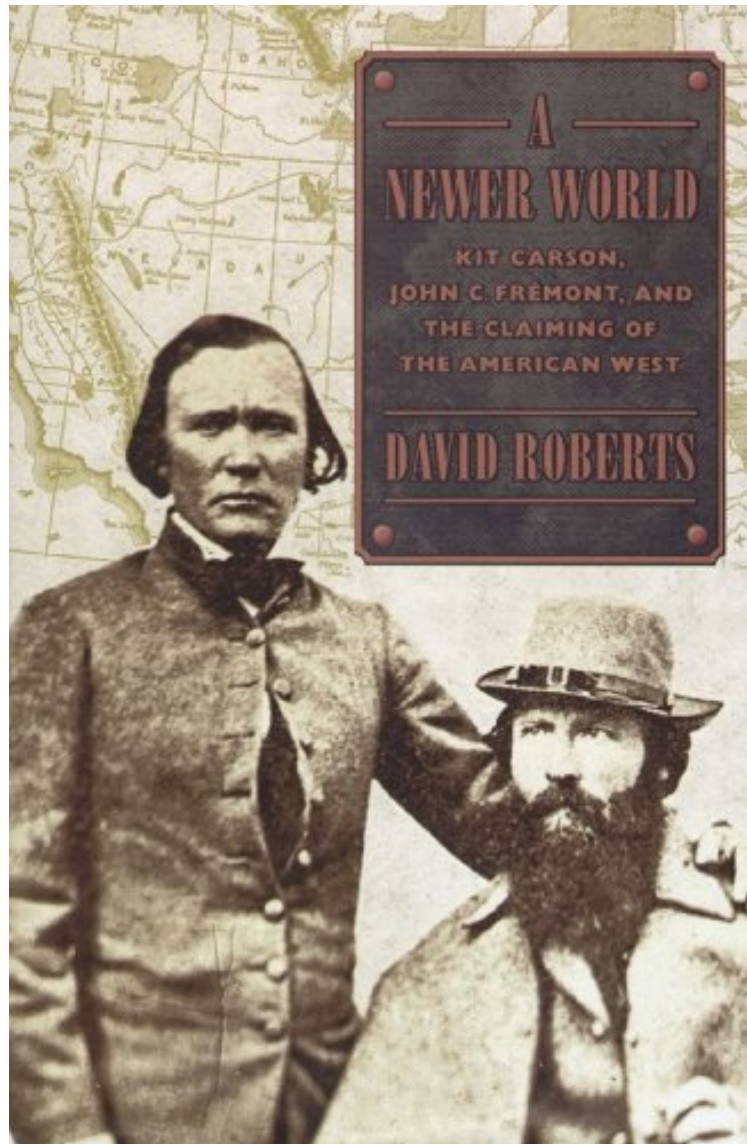


(Free pdf) A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Fremont and the Claiming of the American West (English Edition)

## A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Fremont and the Claiming of the American West (English Edition)

Von David Roberts

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Von David Roberts : A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Fremont and the Claiming of the American West (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Fremont and the Claiming of the American West (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The real villain was General Carleton; not Kit CarsonVon Donald E. ClayBOOK REVIEW A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Frmont, and the Claiming of the American West By David Roberts Simon Schuster, NY, 2000, 304 pages, \$25.00 hardback.David Roberts, the author of A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Frmont, and the Claiming of the American West, traveled "virtually every step of their itineraries, by car and on foot" to deepen his understanding of four campaigns he selected to epitomize the two explorers' triumphs and failures. The four campaigns Roberts selected begin with the first Frmont expedition in 1842 with Kit Carson as his guide. Part Two of the book explores the roles played by Frmont and Carson in precipitating the conquest of California. In the third part, Roberts examines Frmont's disastrous fourth expedition in the San Juan Mountains without Carson serving as his guide. The forth and final segment of the book reveals the relationship between Carson and General Carleton during the Navajo conquest and confinement. Contrasts between the illiterate Carson and Frmont the West Point graduate, who in later years would be nominated by the Republican Party to run for president, are forever interesting. Carson saved Frmont's life repeatedly, but it was Frmont, with help from his articulate wife, who engineered Carson's rise to national celebrity status. In the forth segment of Robert's book titled The Long Walk, we learn General Carleton was the arch villain of the Apaches and Navajos-not Carson. Carleton selected the site for the Indian concentration camp-Bosque Redondo on the Pecos River- against the advice of his own inspection team. He underestimated the number of Indians that would be incarcerated, he woefully prepared the site to accommodate the captives, and he was wrong in his belief the nomadic tribes could become self-sufficient on such a small, barren site. Maybe Carleton planned it that way. After the Confederates were defeated in New Mexico during the early part of the Civil War, Carleton marched his regiment of California Volunteers eastward to Santa Fe. The victorious Union commander, Colonel Edward R.S. Canby was reassigned to an eastern command, and Carleton took over the command of the Union army in the Department of New Mexico. With no more Confederates to fight, Carleton turned his eye to the Apaches and Navajos. Roberts describes Carleton as extremely competent and aggressive, always driving himself and his men, a stickler for discipline, and one who could not admit an error or change his mind. He "had become obsessed with a psychopathic hatred of Apaches." With the 2350 men brought in from California itchy for further action, Carleton launched his campaign against the Southwestern Indians to give his soldiers something to do. While still assigned as the leader of the New Mexico Volunteers, Colonel Kit Carson was on his way to Fort Stanton when overtaken by a messenger sent from Carleton. Not fully literate in reading the English language, Carson asked one of his troopers to read the message. It read, All Indian men of that tribe are to be killed whenever and wherever you can find them: the women and children will not be harmed, but you will take them prisoners and feed them at Fort Stanton until you receive other instructions about them. If the Indians send in a flag and desire to treat for peace, say to the bearer...that you have been sent to punish them for their treachery and their crimes: That you have no power to make peace; that you are there to kill them wherever you can find them.... I trust that this severity in the long run will be the most humane course that could be pursued toward these Indians. Carson believed in following orders as faithfully as the next soldier, but he could not bring himself to carry out the letter of Carleton's genocidal imperative. In February of 1863, Carson dictated a letter of resignation, but Carleton refused to accept it. There was only one man, Carleton insisted, capable of carrying out the next phase of his grand scheme. Carson had the same orders to kill on sight when he marched into Canyon de Chelly in the conquest of the Navajos. And again he ignored Carleton's instructions. Roberts suggests any other officer in Carleton's command would have been charged with insubordination. Kit Carson, idolized by millions, fictionalized in the Western novels, befriended by governors, congressmen, senators, and presidents, was too large of an icon for General Carleton. David Roberts is the author of twelve books including two that are of special interest for aficionados of historic Southwest cultures- In Search of the Old Ones: Exploring the Anasazi World of the Southwest; and Once They Moved Like the Wind: Cochise, Gernimo, and the Apache Wars. oReviewed by Don Edward Clay, Editor of the Four Corners Pathfinder1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Editor neededVon Ein KundeDavid Roberts needs a strong editor, one who is not afraid to exercise some control. I love this topic, but after 100 pages I found it all too easy to put this book down. Two things made it less than stellar reading: (1) There is probably too much disjointed trivia (I say "probably" because some readers may want every word of it). The writing simply didn't flow for me. (2) Roberts should be taken to the woodshed for his pretentious vocabulary, such as using "punition" when "punishment" would be the appropriate word. This happens on every page. He reminds me of a very insecure professor I had who would say such things as "the largesse of the Greek theater," when he meant the "largeness." The goal of every writer should be to communicate, not to exhibit psuedo-erudition. PS: I taught my first college English class in 1967, so, yes, I have a little experience in these things.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Newer World: Kit Carson, John C. Fremont, and the ClaimingVon Ein KundeIn the interest of accuracy I would like to point out that the gentleman pictured with Kit Carson on the dust cover of David Robert's book is not John C. Fremont but the Honorable E.O. Perrin of New York. The picture was taken in Albuquerque and is one of a series of pictures that survive in carte de visite form. The first mis-identification of Perrin that I know of occurred in an American Heritage history a number of years ago. Once in print these errors seem to take on a legitimacy than is not

deserved. I now look forward to opening the cover for what I expect to be a scholarly work.

Kurzbeschreibung John C. Frmont, nearly forgotten today, was one of the giants of nineteenth-century America. He led five expeditions into the American West in the 1840s and 1850s, covering a greater area than any other explorer. His expedition reports -- ghost-written by his beautiful and talented wife, Jessie Benton Frmont -- were bestsellers in their day. Riding the wave of his popularity, he captured the Republican Party nomination for president in 1856 but narrowly lost the election. Frmont's scout on three of his expeditions was Kit Carson. Frmont fancied himself a mountaineer, and he possessed great stamina and courage, but he lacked Carson's skills and knowledge. The only expedition Frmont led without Carson was a disaster that, like the better-known Donner Party debacle, culminated in one of the rare documented instances of cannibalism in American history. *A Newer World* is the fascinating story of the Frmont-Carson expeditions and of two men, utterly unlike in so many ways, who became friends as well as fellow explorers. Frmont owed his life to Carson, who saved him on several occasions, while the legend of Kit Carson, the greatest mountain man of his day, grew out of Frmont's expedition reports. The Frmont-Carson expeditions are second only to Lewis and Clark's in their significance for America's western expansion. Their 1845-46 campaign, for example, helped to precipitate the Mexican-American War and led to the wresting of California from Mexico. Carson is often remembered today for his 1863-64 roundup of Apaches and Navajos, leading to the infamous Long Walk. David Roberts demonstrates that Carson, who was twice married to Indian women, was profoundly ambivalent about the campaign, which was ordered by an Army officer who was his superior. Throughout the book, Roberts draws on little-known primary sources in telling the dramatic stories of these expeditions. He shows how Frmont saw himself as a historical figure, especially in his reports, while Carson -- taciturn where Frmont was outspoken, modest where Frmont was boastful, and, significantly, illiterate -- was oblivious to his own fame. Yet it was Carson who underwent an evolution from an Indian killer to an Indian advocate. In addition to his archival research, Roberts traveled the routes of Frmont and Carson's expeditions to gain a firsthand knowledge of the territory they explored. In analyzing how Frmont and Carson advanced the Americanizing of the West, Roberts writes with a modern-day sensitivity to the Indians, for whom these expeditions were a tragedy..deUnlike, in many ways, but forever joined, the figures of Kit Carson, frontier scout and soldier, and John Frmont, politician and bureaucrat, loom large in the history of the American West. Carson is remembered today as something of a dime-novel hero or as a villain responsible for the deaths of innocent women and children during the Long Walk of the Navajo. For his part, Frmont, famed in the mid-19th century, is all but forgotten. Frmont was a complicated, flamboyant, and scandal-ridden figure whose quest for fame proved to be his undoing. David Roberts, the author of several popular histories of the West, describes Frmont's undeniable contributions to the growth of the American nation in *A Newer World*, a narrative account of the explorer's career in the West from the early 1840s to the advent of the Civil War. "Frmont's expeditions," Roberts writes, "were significant not so much for crossing land never before seen by Americans as for thrusting the Great West into the awareness of a nation hungry to expand. He was the classic example of the right man in the right place at the right time." So, too, was Kit Carson, the taciturn frontiersman who guided Frmont and saved his life on more than one occasion. Roberts's sympathetic but not uncritical tale of their crossed destinies puts human faces on two men lost to legend. --Gregory McNameeFrom Kirkus sA vigorous narrative of the intersecting lives of two of the most outsized figures in the American West: the trapper, guide, and Indian fighter Kit Carson, and the ebullient, grandstanding officer John Frmont. Roberts (*Once They Moved Like the Wind: Cochise, Geronimo, and the Apache Wars*, 1993, etc.) has focused on four revealing events in the lives of these two figures: the 1842 Frmont expedition, which reached as far as Wyoming; the conquest of California in 1845-46, which often verged on slapstick; a disastrous surveying expedition led by Frmont in 1848 during which almost a third of his men died; and Carson's 1863 campaign to round up and relocate the Mescalero Apache and the Navajo. Largely unknown before Frmont hired him to guide his 1842 expedition, the taciturn Carson was already an extraordinary outdoorsman, having spent more than a decade wandering thousands of square miles of the still largely unknown West. Though the mountain man was modest about his remarkable travels, and Frmont was a dashing self-promoter, they were both tough, courageous figures. Carson served with Frmont on three expeditions, mapping an astonishing amount of Western territory under conditions of often extreme hardship. Their collaboration concluded with Frmont's ill-planned, ramshackle, yet ultimately successful attempt to expel Mexican forces from California. His improbable triumph propelled Frmont into a long, bumpy political career. Carson, looking back on his role in the defeat and confinement of the Apache and Navajo on a destitute reservation, where many died of disease or starvation, became an unlikely spokesman for Indian rights. Roberts, who has researched these events with exemplary thoroughness, writes with vigor and clarity, and makes a careful argument for viewing these men, and the events he chronicles, as emblematic of the exploration and settling of the West. A thoughtful, engaging, and useful addition to the shelf of recent revisionist works on the American West. (8 pages photos) -- Copyright 1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.