
A Basic History of California. *Don E. Fehrenbacher.* Anvil Original, published by Van Nostrand. 1964. 191 p. no illustrations. \$1.45.

The author uses the unique method of dividing the book into two major parts; the first 83 pages of text is basic history, followed by a collection of readings. A more meaningful comprehension is obtained by incorporating the readings into their logical sequence in the narrative text; however, this necessitates the use of two bookmarks.

Mr. Fehrenbacher shows that California's development has resulted from many factors, with each major factor causing a substantial population influx. Although events are related, the author stresses the role of peoples as the major influence affecting California history.

A strictly historical picture could have been presented if an attempt had not been made to evaluate the nuclear age, which is an integral part of our present life and is not ready to be fitted into its proper perspective in history.

This book can provide the new resident, returnee, or frequent visitor with a refresher in California history. The appendix, entitled, "The Government of California", should be especially helpful to the new resident. The author does reveal an ability to be concise on a relatively broad topic. This paperback is rather well written and deserves a place in some personal libraries.

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