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## Book Review: Finding Lewis and Clark: Old Trails, New Directions

David Bernstein

*University of Wisconsin-Madison*

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*Finding Lewis and Clark: Old Trails, New Directions*. Edited by James P. Rhonda and Nancy Tystad Koupal. Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2004. xiii + 203 pp. Photographs, illustrations, notes, index. \$17.95 paper.

In the introduction to *Finding Lewis and Clark*, co-editor James Rhonda articulates four questions that drive this collection of essays: what is the story of the legendary expedition from 1803-1806 all about?; who were the actors in this drama?; which moments shaped the journey?; and what were the consequences of Lewis and Clark's march across the continent? While aspects of the first three questions inspire such varied pieces as William Foley's biography of William Clark and a description of Joseph Mussulman's online "hyperhistory" of the expedition, it is in responding to the final question that this collection finds the most common ground.

Peter Kastor addresses the imperial ramifications of the expedition in "Gateways and Guardians," arguing that Lewis and Clark are best understood as agents of governance and control rather than as the physical embodiment of America's expansionist impulse, as they are frequently depicted. For Kastor, it was congressional and presidential unease with the newly acquired Louisiana Territory that gave the expedition its national purpose. Boundary disputes with Spain, the fear of white Louisianans joining Europeans to take control of the Mississippi, and an imminent slave revolt in New Orleans created an atmosphere in which governance—not exploration or expansion—became the primary goal of the Jeffersonian Republicans.

Essays by Robert Peck and Joni Kinsey forsake the imperial consequences of the expedition to

examine Lewis and Clark's scientific and artistic legacies; a number of illustrations accompany these pieces. Another fifteen black-and-white images taken by Greg Gregor between 1987 and 1994 make up a fascinating photographic survey of the environmental changes that have occurred on the route taken by the Corps of Discovery. For scholars of the Great Plains, this album and W. Raymond Wood's depiction of tribal relations on the Upper Missouri before Lewis and Clark are particularly relevant.

Culled from a conference in 2003 with the same title, *Finding Lewis and Clark* at times reflects its origins, displaying the strengths and weaknesses one finds in a collection of frequently disparate conference papers. Elliot West's final essay, however, would justify yet another book, arguing, as it does, that the Lewis and Clark expedition did not have the long-term consequences for imperial conquest that we so often assume. But he also reminds us that their story is as revealing and captivating as any in American history. As such, this collection is a welcome addition to the literature.

DAVID BERNSTEIN  
Department of History  
University of Wisconsin-Madison