

The Middle West

Its Meaning
in American
Culture

James R.
Shortridge



The Middle West Its Meaning In American Culture

Cynthia Clampitt



The Middle West Its Meaning In American Culture:

The Middle West James R. Shortridge, 1989 Shortridge cultural geography U of Kansas examines the idea of the Middle West relating the changing meaning of the term regional identity the pastoralism of the area Annotation copyright Book News Inc Portland Or

The American Midwest Andrew R. L. Cayton, Richard Sisson, Chris Zacher, 2006-11-08 This first ever encyclopedia of the Midwest seeks to embrace this large and diverse area to give it voice and help define its distinctive character Organized by topic it encourages readers to reflect upon the region as a whole Each section moves from the general to the specific covering broad themes in longer introductory essays filling in the details in the shorter entries that follow There are portraits of each of the region's twelve states followed by entries on society and culture community and social life economy and technology and public life The book offers a wealth of information about the region's surprising ethnic diversity a vast array of foods languages styles religions and customs plus well informed essays on the region's history culture and values and conflicts A site of ideas and innovations reforms and revivals and social and physical extremes the Midwest emerges as a place of great complexity signal importance and continual fascination

The American Midwest in Film and Literature Adam R. Ochonicky, 2021-12-22 A critical overview of the evolution contestation and fragmentation of the Midwest's symbolic and often contradictory meanings in American culture How do works from film and literature Sister Carrie Native Son Meet Me in St Louis Halloween and A History of Violence for example imagine reify and reproduce Midwestern identity And what are the repercussions of such regional narratives and images circulating in American culture In *The American Midwest in Film and Literature Nostalgia Violence and Regionalism* Adam R Ochonicky provides a critical overview of the evolution contestation and fragmentation of the Midwest's symbolic and often contradictory meanings Using the frontier writings of Frederick Jackson Turner as a starting point this book establishes a succession of Midwestern filmic and literary texts stretching from the late 19th century through the beginning of the 21st century and argues that the manifold properties of nostalgia have continually transformed popular understandings and ideological uses of the Midwest's place identity Ochonicky identifies three primary modes of nostalgia at play across a set of textual objects the projection of nostalgia onto physical landscapes and into the cultural sphere nostalgic spatiality nostalgia as a cultural force that regulates behaviors identities and appearances nostalgic violence and the progressive potential of nostalgia to generate an acknowledgment and possible rectification of ways in which the flawed past negatively affects the present nostalgic atonement While developing these new conceptions of nostalgia Ochonicky reveals how an under examined area of regional study has received critical attention throughout the histories of American film and literature as well as in related materials and discourses From the closing of the Western frontier to the polarized political and cultural climate of the 21st century this book demonstrates how film and literature have been and continue to be vital forums for illuminating the complex interplay of regionalism and nostalgia Ochonicky presents an important reading of how nostalgia shapes the Midwest in the American

imagination as a place of identity and violence Past and present slip in this compelling and well researched approach to the workings of contemporary culture Vera Dika author of *Recycled Culture in Contemporary Art and Film The Use of Nostalgia* By centering the concept of region Adam Ochonicky provides an insightful and refreshing reading of American popular culture In texts ranging from Richard Wright s *Native Son* to John Carpenter s *Halloween* Ochonicky demonstrates the complex terrain of the Midwest in our cultural imaginary and the diverse memories and meanings we project upon it Kendall R Phillips author of *A Place of Darkness The Rhetoric of Horror in Early American Cinema* Syracuse University *The Middle West* James R. Shortridge,1989 Shortridge cultural geography U of Kansas examines the idea of the Middle West relating the changing meaning of the term regional identity the pastoralism of the area Annotation copyright Book News Inc Portland Or

The Oxford Handbook of Midwestern History Jon Lauck,2025 The Midwest region holds a pivotal place in the tapestry of American history The Oxford Handbook of Midwestern History delves into this rich heritage with chapters on topics ranging from the early Native American and French Midwest to the impact of the Northwest Ordinance and the Great Lakes the emergence of Midwest regional consciousness after the Civil War and the role of the Midwest s natural resources in the region s economic success and later decline It presents the newest research on race ethnicity culture politics and economic development It also considers the role of religion organized labor the presence of a diverse population of Germans Irish Dutch and Latinos and the influence of sports nostalgia populism and isolationism This handbook moves beyond the examination of traditional topics in Midwestern history to provide significant attention to matters such as architecture literary realism visual culture and constitutionalism This treatment of Midwestern history marks a major turn towards the history of the American interior In many ways The Oxford Handbook of Midwestern History marks the coming of age of what scholars and commentators are calling the New Midwestern History

Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Culture Robert Gregg,Gary W. McDonogh,Cindy H. Wong,2005-11-10 As a meeting point for world cultures the USA is characterized by its breadth and diversity Acknowledging that diversity is the fundamental feature of American culture this volume is organized around a keen awareness of race gender class and space and with over 1 200 alphabetically arranged entries spanning the American century from the end of World War II to the present day the Encyclopedia provides a one stop source for insightful and stimulating coverage of all aspects of that culture Entries range from short definitions to longer overview essays and with full cross referencing extensive indexing and a thematic contents list this volume provides an essential cultural context for both teachers and students of American studies as well as providing fascinating insights into American culture for the general reader The suggestions for further reading which follows most entries are also invaluable guides to more specialized sources

From Warm Center to Ragged Edge Jon Lauck,2017-06 During the half century after the Civil War intellectuals and politicians assumed the Midwest to be the font and heart of American culture Despite the persistence of strong currents of midwestern regionalism during the 1920s and 1930s the region went into eclipse during the

post World War II era In the apt language of Minnesota's F Scott Fitzgerald the Midwest slid from being the warm center of the republic to its ragged edge This book explains the factors that triggered the demise of the Midwest's regionalist energies from anti midwestern machinations in the literary world and the inability of midwestern writers to break through the cultural politics of the era to the growing dominance of a coastal urban culture These developments paved the way for the proliferation of images of the Midwest as flyover country the Rust Belt a staid and decaying region Yet Lauck urges readers to recognize persisting and evolving forms of midwestern identity and to resist the forces that squelch the nation's interior voices

Midwestern Landscape Architecture William H. Tishler, 2000 This richly illustrated collection profiles the bold innovators in landscape architecture who around the turn of the twentieth century ventured into the nation's heartland to develop a new style of design celebrating the native midwestern landscape The pioneers of landscape architecture in the Midwest are responsible for creating some of the most recognizable parks cemeteries recreation areas and other public gathering places in the region *Midwestern Landscape Architecture* includes essays on Adolph Strauch who introduced a new concept of visually integrated landscape treatment in Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery William Le Baron Jenney designer of Chicago's diverse West Parks and Jens Jensen who created the American Garden in Union Park in Chicago a celebration of native flora and founder of The Clearing a unique school of the arts and humanities in Wisconsin Other major figures include Frederick Law Olmsted Sr co designer of New York's Central Park whose work in the Midwest included the layout of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and Ossian Cole Simonds who helped reconcile the formal approach of the City Beautiful movement with the naturalism of the Prairie School in urban park design This volume also details the contributions of crusaders for ecological awareness and an appreciation of the region's natural heritage These include horticultural writer Wilhelm Miller who spread the ideals of the Prairie style and Genevieve Gillette a landscape architect and conservationist whose preservation efforts led to the establishment of numerous Michigan state parks and wilderness areas *Midwestern Landscape Architecture* fosters a better understanding of how landscape design took shape in the Midwest and how the land itself inspired new solutions to enhance its understated beauty Despite Olmsted's assessment of the Illinois prairie as one of the most tiresome landscapes that I ever met with the Midwest has amassed an important legacy of landscape design that continues to influence how people interact with their environment in the heartland

The Oxford Companion to United States History Paul S. Boyer, 2001-07-04 Here is a volume that is as big and as varied as the nation it portrays With over 1 400 entries written by some 900 historians and other scholars it illuminates not only America's political diplomatic and military history but also social cultural and intellectual trends science technology and medicine the arts and religion Here are the familiar political heroes from George Washington and Benjamin Franklin to Abraham Lincoln Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D Roosevelt But here too are scientists writers radicals sports figures and religious leaders with incisive portraits of such varied individuals as Thomas Edison and Eli Whitney Babe Ruth and Muhammed Ali Black Elk and Crazy Horse

Margaret Fuller Emma Goldman and Marian Anderson even Al Capone and Jesse James The Companion illuminates events that have shaped the nation the Great Awakening Bunker Hill Wounded Knee the Vietnam War major Supreme Court decisions Marbury v Madison Roe v Wade landmark legislation the Fugitive Slave Law the Pure Food and Drug Act social movements Suffrage Civil Rights influential books The Jungle Uncle Tom s Cabin ideologies conservatism liberalism Social Darwinism even natural disasters and iconic sites the Chicago Fire the Johnstown Flood Niagara Falls the Lincoln Memorial Here too is the nation s social and cultural history from Films Football and the 4 H Club to Immigration Courtship and Dating Marriage and Divorce and Death and Dying Extensive multi part entries cover such key topics as the Civil War Indian History and Culture Slavery and the Federal Government A new volume for a new century The Oxford Companion to United States History covers everything from Jamestown and the Puritans to the Human Genome Project and the Internet from Columbus to Clinton Written in clear graceful prose for researchers browsers and general readers alike this is the volume that addresses the totality of the American experience its triumphs and heroes as well as its tragedies and darker moments

Midwest Maize Cynthia Clampitt, 2015-02-28 Food historian Cynthia Clampitt pens the epic story of what happened when Mesoamerican farmers bred a nondescript grass into a staff of life so prolific so protean that it represents nothing less than one of humankind s greatest achievements Blending history with expert reportage she traces the disparate threads that have woven corn into the fabric of our diet politics economy science and cuisine At the same time she explores its future as a source of energy and the foundation of seemingly limitless green technologies The result is a bourbon to biofuels portrait of the astonishing plant that sustains the world

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