



## Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State

By Randolph B. Campbell

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In *Gone to Texas*, historian Randolph Campbell ranges from the first arrival of humans in the Panhandle some 10,000 years ago to the dawn of the twenty-first century, offering an interpretive account of the land, the successive waves of people who have gone to Texas, and the conflicts that have made Texas as much a metaphor as a place.

Campbell presents the epic tales of Texas history in a new light, offering revisionist history in the best sense--broadening and deepening the traditional story, without ignoring the heroes of the past. The scope of the book is impressive. It ranges from the archeological record of early Native Americans to the rise of the oil industry and ultimately the modernization of Texas. Campbell provides swift-moving accounts of the Mexican revolution against Spain, the arrival of settlers from the United States, and the lasting Spanish legacy (from place names to cattle ranching to civil law). The author also paints a rich portrait of the Anglo-Texan revolution, with its larger-than-life leaders and epic battles, the fascinating decade of the Republic of Texas, and annexation by the United States. In his account of the Civil War and Reconstruction, he examines developments both in local politics and society and in the nation at large (from the debate over secession to the role of Texas troops in the Confederate army to the impact of postwar civil rights laws). Late nineteenth-century Texas is presented as part of both the Old West and the New South. The story continues with an analysis of the impact of the Populist and Progressive movements and then looks at the prosperity decade of the 1920s and the economic disaster of the Great Depression. Campbell's last chapters show how World War II brought economic recovery and touched off spectacular growth that, with only a few downturns, continues until today.

Lucid, engaging, deftly written, *Gone to Texas* offers a fresh understanding of why Texas continues to be seen as a state unlike any other, a place that distills the essence of what it means to be an American.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Anyone who believes that the history of Texas is written only in tub-thumping braggadocio will quickly be set straight by this superb history of the Lone Star State. A leading historian of Texas (Sam Houston and the American Southwest, etc.), Campbell writes with authority and clarity about one of the nation's most distinctive components. His thoroughly contemporary approach sets early Texas history firmly within the checkered development of Mexico and keeps African-Americans, both slave and free, as well as native tribes at the center of his story. His coverage of such matters as the Texas Revolution, the state's 10 years as an independent republic and the cattle business are models of their kind, and surely no one has written so well while so briefly about how Texas became Southern. Because much of the book is spent on the state's lively political history, however, there may not be enough about Texas society (and certainly not about the state's complex, mixed culture) to satisfy some readers. What's best about the book and what will make it attractive beyond Texas borders is Campbell's healthy skepticism about claims that Texas is unique among the states. He's also critical where criticism is clearly warranted, such as when arraigning "the general lack of concern for civil rights that characterized the state's politics after the 1870s." Campbell shows an unusual ability to judge people in 21st-century terms without losing sight of the long-ago context of their acts. A dividend for readers is the book's unusually good maps and diagrams.

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### Review

"What we finally have in *Gone to Texas*, then, is a history for a diverse, mature, and self-confident people willing to take a balanced look at their own past. It's a quantum leap forward from T.R. Fehrenbach's classic *Lone Star*, first published in 1968 . . ."--*Texas Books in Review*

"A sweeping history of the outsized state and its bellweather politics.... A well written survey."--*Kirkus Reviews*

"The best, most comprehensive account of the Lone Star saga I know of, the place to start if you prefer Texas history to Texas mythology."--Fritz Lanham, *Houston Chronicle*

"The new standard history of America's most unusual state. It is a balanced account, beautifully written, with verve and wit."--William H. Goetzmann, Jack S. Blanton, Sr. Chair of History and American Studies, University of Texas at Austin

"One of the very best crafted, thoroughly researched, and masterfully presented histories in one volume ever written about this state. It establishes standards of scholarship and literary merit that will endure for years to come.... Nothing short of an historical tour de force."--Light T. Cummins, Guy M. Bryan, Jr. Professor of History, Austin College

"Authoritative, gracefully written, and fully conversant with the newest scholarship, this book will henceforth be the standard history of Texas for both academic and general readers--a significant historical and cultural achievement."--John B. Boles, William P. Hobby Professor of History, Rice University

"Eminent scholar Randolph Campbell presents a full length portrait, unsparing of blemishes and scars, that stands alone in its thoroughgoing portrayal of the Lone Star State's luminous past. Campbell's colorful pageant of the winners, sinners, heroes and highbinders who roamed the legendary landscape of that 'other country'--Texas--is a dandy, best of breed. *Gone to Texas* will inform and excite Texans, while inviting others to go to Texas in the pages of this book."--Kent Biffle, Texana columnist, *The Dallas Morning News*

"Anyone who believes that the history of Texas is written only in tub-thumping braggadocio will quickly be set straight by this superb history of the Lone Star state. A leading historian of Texas, Campbell writes with authority and clarity about one of the nation's most distinctive components. His thoroughly contemporary approach sets early Texas history firmly within the checkered development of Mexico and keeps African-Americans, both slave and free, as well as native tribes at the center of his story. His coverage of such matters as the Texas Revolution, the state's 10 years as an independent republic and the cattle business are models of their kind, and surely no one has written so well while so briefly about how Texas became Southern.... What is best about the book and will make it attractive beyond Texas borders is Campbell's healthy skepticism about claims that Texas is unique among the states."--*Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

**Randolph B. Campbell** is a Professor of History at the University of North Texas. A past president of the Texas State Historical Association, he is the author or co-author of seven books on nineteenth-century Texas history, including *Sam Houston and the American Southwest* and *An Empire for Slavery: The Peculiar Institution in Texas, 1821-1865*.

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