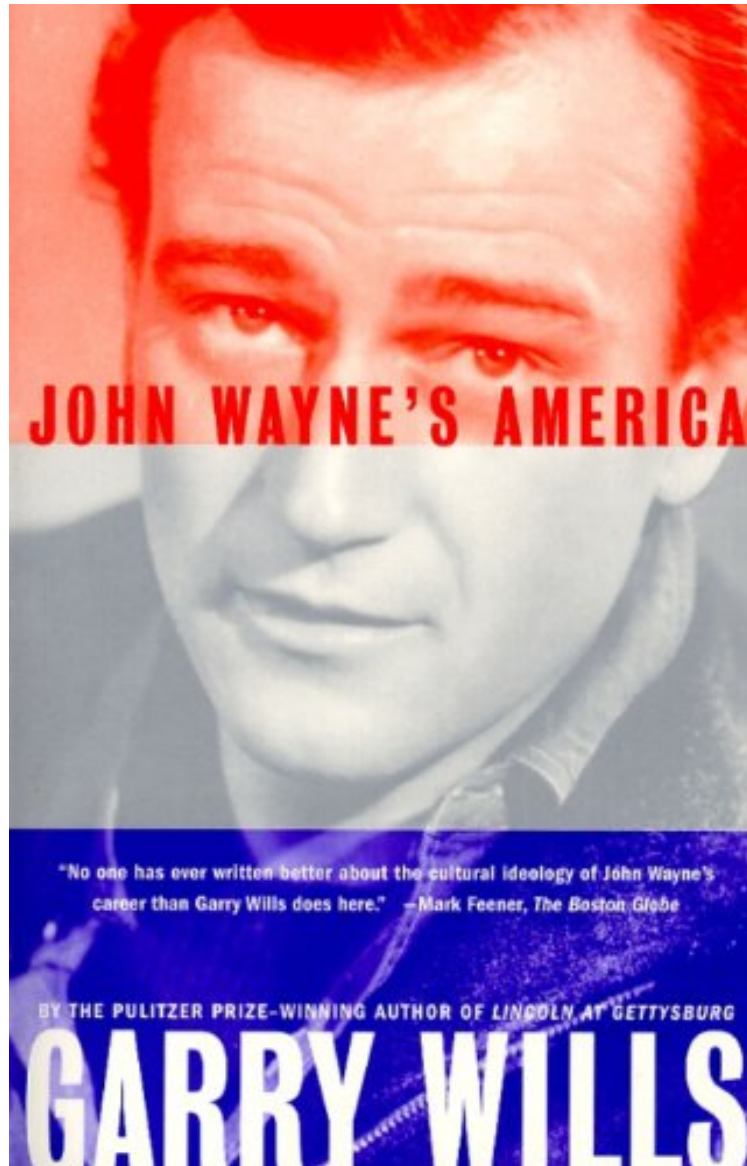


(Mobile library) John Wayne's America (English Edition)

## John Wayne's America (English Edition)

*Von Garry Wills*

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**Von Garry Wills : John Wayne's America (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Wayne's America (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sure, it was an interesting read, but... Von Ein Kunde I wish Wills would write (say that 5X fast) separate books on (a) Wayne's popularity; (b) his life; (c) his movies; and (d) John Ford, Howard Hawks, Harry Carey, Yak Canutt, et al., etc. John

Wayne has a supporting role in this book. It's good reading, don't get me wrong, but Wills doesn't nail his thesis on the head. He's more comfortable writing about John Ford's personality than the nature of celebrity in America. So really, we don't need to be told the obvious: John Wayne is still popular because he was so stinkin' good at what he did. Period. To Wills: I like Wagner's music, but I probably wouldn't like Wagner himself. So what. Wayne was a movie actor and did his job well; I enjoy his movies. Full stop. I'd recommend reading this book, though, until the definitive study of Wayne's films comes along.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. King of books on Duke Von Bryan Moore Anyone even remotely interested in John Wayne, John Ford, Westerns, or pop culture in general might want to add this fine book to their "to read" list. While Wills's book is full of biographical info. and is arranged (more or less) chronologically, it is much more concerned with tracing the formation of a truly larger-than-life public image. One of Wills's purposes is to debunk some of the myths that have clouded the public's view of (the former) Marion Morrison, but he clearly admires Wayne as a unique, commanding presence on the screen. Those who stubbornly refuse to think of Wayne as anything other than a manly, gun-loving superpatriot might want to steer clear. But most thinking people are more likely to be intrigued, even fascinated. The author's reading of Wayne--his life and films (THE BIG TRAIL, STAGECOACH, RED RIVER, and TURE GRIT in particular)--is always on target and lucid. While I don't recall disagreeing with Wills on a single critical point, I occasionally grew tired of his painstaking analysis of John Ford's background and various relationships and how they were inserted into his films. I realize that Ford played a huge role in the mythologizing of John Wayne, but I--again, occasionally--found myself asking whether Wills had lost his focus. Even so, the Ford sections are interesting; for example, I had no idea that he was such a sadist and fabricator. Over the course of the book Wills indicates that Ford was a complicated man, while Wayne was rather simple ("Wayne couldn't even spell [the word] politics," Henry Fonda says in one of the book's quotations). Though not perfect (I'd give it a 4 1/2 if I could), this is a great, fun book on a great (and overdue) subject.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great for both fans and anti-fans of The Duke Von robertm@enteract.com What a super book! There are multiple levels to this book, and one can love all or only a few of them. On one level, the book is an analysis of the career of John Wayne the movie star (as opposed to John Wayne the private individual, though the two cannot be completely separated). So you can enjoy learning about Wayne's days at Columbia pictures, or his relationship with Yakima Canutt, or the formative influence of Harry Carey, or Wayne's film with and connection to John Ford and Howard Hawks. On another level, the book contains brilliant discussions on a number of the important films in Wayne's career, like STAGECOACH or my favorite Wayne and John Ford film THE SEARCHERS. On another level, the book contains marvelous socio-political analysis of the function the concept of John Wayne plays in American life. And on yet another level the book is an essay within cultural studies. One has to admire the many areas and subjects that Wills handles with ease. My favorite parts of the book were those that dealt with the mythmaking that went into the creation of "John Wayne," the symbol of everything best about America and those dealing with his films and relationship with John Ford. Although extreme fans of Wayne may be somewhat offended by some parts of the book (e.g., Wayne's stringent avoidance of military service in WW II and the misinformation about his early life, such as his being a potential football star felled by an injury, when in fact he was dismissed from the USC football team for not being very good), I think everyone will come away from it having a better sense not only Wayne's shortcomings but his very real accomplishments. A fine book in every way.

Kurzbeschreibung The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Lincoln at Gettysburg brings his eloquence, wit, and on-target perceptions of American life and politics to this fascinating, well-drawn portrait of a twentieth-century hero. In this work of great originality the biography of an idea Garry Wills shows how John Wayne came to embody American values and influenced our culture to a degree unmatched by any other public figure of his time. In Wills's hands, Wayne's story is transformed into a compelling narrative about the intersection of popular entertainment and political realities in mid-twentieth-century America.

Pressestimmen Steve Neal Chicago Sun Times A fascinating and insightful study about the making of an American myth. Of more than a dozen books about Wayne, John Wayne's America is by far the best; it is a fresh and original interpretation of his film career and of his impact on American culture.

Dennis McLellan Los Angeles Times A stunning book...essential reading for anyone interested in Wayne and popular culture.

Molly Haskell The New York Times Book I hope this new book will find its way into the hands of those who are ready to think seriously about a pivotal figure in our culture, a figure who was a great star and a flawed man.

Mark Feener The Boston Globe No one has ever written better about the cultural ideology of John Wayne's career than Garry Willis does here.

Kurzbeschreibung The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Lincoln at Gettysburg brings his eloquence, wit, and on-target perceptions of American life and politics to this fascinating, well-drawn portrait of a twentieth-century hero. In this work of great originality the biography of an idea Garry Wills shows how John Wayne came to embody American values and influenced our culture to a degree unmatched by any other public figure of his time. In Wills's hands, Wayne's story is transformed into a compelling narrative about the intersection of popular

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