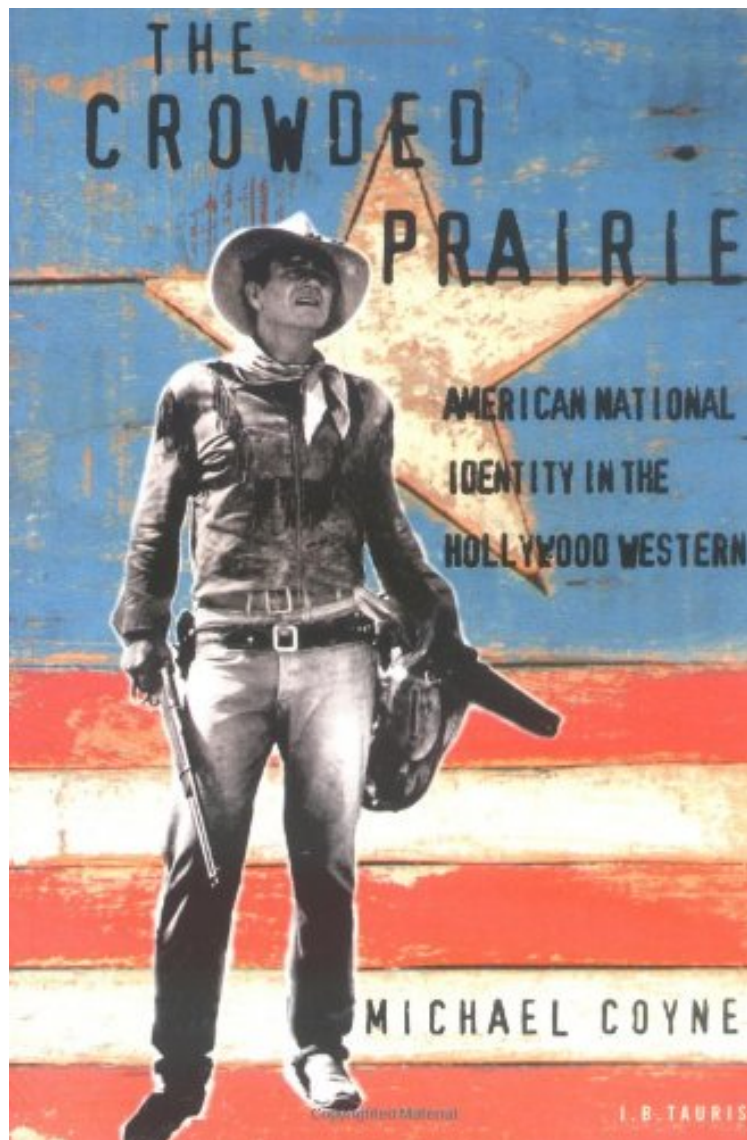


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The Crowded Prairie: American National Identity in the Hollywood Western (Cinema and Society Series)

Michael Coyne

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Michael Coyne : The Crowded Prairie: American National Identity in the Hollywood Western (Cinema and Society Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crowded Prairie: American National Identity in the Hollywood Western (Cinema and Society Series):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Western college classBy Kasey M. O'ConnorI must admit I wasnt

really interested in this non major degree seeking requirement. However, this book was intriguing and informative. It have fun facts in a readable way. It wasnt like a textbook. Definitely worth the read to get in touch with an American icon!
0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Adam K. 100% Satisfied! Just as described.
9 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Interesting analyses.
By A Customer
The author examines the Hollywood Western in its heyday, from Stage Coach (1939) to The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976), to view the genre in its social, political, and cultural dimensions. His approach is annoyingly Politically Correct (he finds objectionable the depiction of the West as having been conquered largely by white males, which of course it was), and the intrusion of conventional British class-consciousness may leave some readers cold, but his connection, for instance, of Josey Wales to Vietnam is interesting, if unpersuasive. The plots of the films are deftly summarized, but the reader is encouraged to view the films in conjunction with this text. With filmography, bibliography, good index, and some of the poorest photo-reproduction this reviewer has seen. (The numerical rating above is a default setting within 's format. This reviewer does not employ numerical ratings.)

This fresh, stimulating book employs the Western as a vital medium for examining the many tensions--political, racial, sexual, social and religious--which have beset modern America from "Stagecoach" and the Depression's last years to the decline of the genre in the 1970s. Michael Coyne focuses on a group of great Westerns, showing how they engaged covertly with such thorny issues as miscegenation, labor-management relations, generational discord, codes of masculinity, the Cold War, McCarthyism, Vietnam, and the increasing individual social alienation.

Michael Coyne...heft[s] his pickax in search of intellectual nuggets...The Crowded Prairie's real strength lies in Coyne's passion. The Washington Post