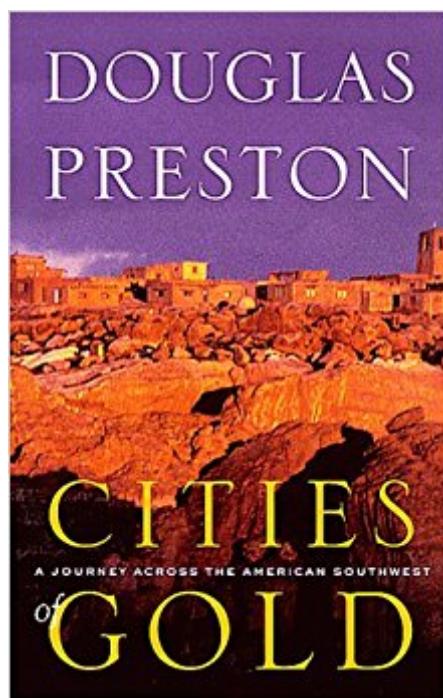


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Cities Of Gold: A Journey Across The American Southwest



Synopsis

This riveting true story recounts the author's journey on horseback across Arizona and New Mexico, retracing Coronado's desperate search for the legendary Seven Cities of Gold. First published in 1992 and now available only from UNM Press, this classic adventure tale reveals the Southwest as it was when Europeans first saw it and shows how much, and how little, it has changed. "The great myth of the American West," Preston writes, "is that there was a winning of it."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Old West's last glimmers flicker through this piercingly beautiful adventure, an unforgettable saga in which Preston, astride his horse Popeye, traverses the desert and mountain wilderness of Arizona and New Mexico, retracing the trailblazing 1540-1541 expedition of Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado. Accompanied by a photographer friend, former Natural History columnist Preston (Dinosaurs in the Attic) talks with Navahos, Zunis, Acomas, ranchers, cowboys, prospectors and rattlesnake hunters. His text shuttles back and forth in time, from the complex prehistoric civilization of the Anasazi Indians to the U.S. war against Apache chief Geronimo, whose followers were deported as prisoners of war to Florida, to the cautionary tale of a once-lush New Mexico valley (larger than Connecticut) reduced to desert by cattle herding and the clear-cutting of timber. In place of the mythical winning of the West, Preston unfolds a harrowing tale of loss. History Book Club alternate. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

With a friend, Preston (*Dinosaurs in the Attic: The Behind-the-Scenes Story of the American Museum of Natural History* , LJ 10/15/86), attempted to follow Coronado's 1540-41 exploration of the Southwest. This book is an account of their journey through Arizona and New Mexico in the spring of 1989. It is both history text and adventure yarn. It is also a good current cultural geography of the region, written in an entertaining as well as educational style. Preston succeeds in giving the reader a real feel for the country, as it is today and as it was 450 years ago. A map and a decent bibliography complement the text. Recommended for travel and history collections. History Book Club alternate.- Thomas K. Fry, UCLA Libs.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I rarely write reviews, and most books are not worthy. This one is a five. I rate it at that, as it is history that is well written and researched (I hope), and is an engaging read that I did not want to end. I am a horse rider myself, spend my winters in AZ riding the same types of terrain, and can empathize with the ordeals of horse wrecks and treacherous trails. There is a lot of humor throughout the book, that might not be appreciated if not a horseman or at least an outdoorsman. The stories of the tribes and individuals are captivating, of past and present. If you are interested in the history of our southwest before and during the demise of our American Indians, and willing to assess the value of modern society, I highly recommend it. And if you don't know a thing about a horse, you will gain some insights from reading this book!

I originally read this book due to my longstanding affinity for Doug Preston's work in fiction. Not expecting much, I was deeply surprised by how well this book put to use Preston's skill as a writer. His history working in journalism, the prosaic way in which he could document his personal experiences of beauty, hardship, joy, and toil involved in his parallel journey. This book helped me realized my own love for history, and affirmed my love of adventure. If I could ever wish to write a book, this is the book I would want to write.

The journey was so interesting -- the deserts and mountains they crossed, the stories told of the journey of Coronado, the indigenous people and their pueblos, the horses and dog that was part of Preston's entourage, I enjoyed it all.Glad his partner wrote a last chapter to tell his side of the journey and also to tell what happened to Acomita, I worried about the little dog.Recommend to anyone who wants to share this journey and the history of the land and people who lived there.

This is a great travel adventure and one of Douglas Prestons best. Up their with his new one, Lost city of the monkey god. But there is one glearing problem, I read the Kindel version with all the great pictures that Walter took, they add so much to the text and like I do when a Kindel book is really good I order the hard cover to put in my library, but when I received it there were no pictures and no one at knew why or how to get the book with the pictures. They just kept telling me they didn't know how to get it and that they didn't know who could help. really let me down. To bad it would be a geat book.Bill Pace

What else can I say?Of course, I like history, and have enjoyed a travel book here and there, and love the deserts (although my experience is the Mohave, not Arizona/New Mexico).He rides, falls off (and has other hilarious struggles whilst learning how to handle horses on an epic journey), talks to lots of people, and "digresses" into loads and loads of history, from the very recent (small town boom-and-bust, new developments moving in to old ranch land) to prehistoric (although the amateur archaeologist in me cringes every time he collects an arrowhead and takes it with him).And if that isn't exciting you then you aren't the target readership. I was and am and I loved it.

My favorite author NEVER FAILS He never dumbs down his books. His research is phenomenal. It's intellectual, fun, entertaining, gripping, and educational. I have every single book he ever wrote (I think? Unless he's hiding something). I never put a book down without learning at LEAST one new thing. Has anyone ever actually thanked an author for his books? Well, let me be among that crowd!

Anyone interested in the "old west" will find this to be a totally different view as the author re-traces Coranado's trip from Mexico to find the 7 Cities of Gold. Prestom makes this trip on Horse back with Walter documenting the adventure with his pictures. You will come away with alternative concepts for many people and things that Preston learns while on the trail. No cell phone, computer, or any other electronic gadgets. This story covers the authors entire trip and will keep you spellbound. I have been a "Preston/Childs" fan for years and enjoy all of their individual works as well.

This is a book that you regulate the read pace. You have to love the Southwest and all that goes with the nature of Mexico thru Texas, Arizona upwards. Reliving what Coronado went thru and transposing that to modern times is an enjoyable journey, only if you love going down a historical trail of the ole West. I love the book. It is pick up and read a chapter or two then shelve it until next

time.

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