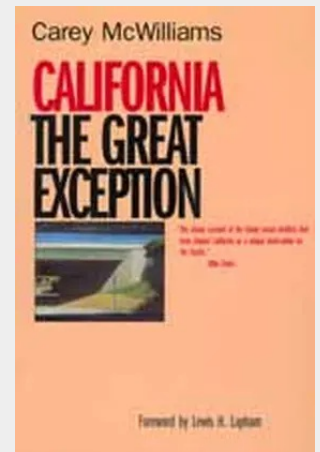


California: The Great Exception

In 1949, lawyer, historian, and journalist Carey McWilliams stepped back to assess the state of California at the end of its first one hundred years—its history, population, politics, agriculture, and social concerns. As he examined the reasons for the prodigious growth and productivity that have characterized California since the Gold Rush, he praised the vitality of the new citizens who had come from all over the world to populate the state in a very short time. But he also made clear how brutally the new Californians dealt with "the Indian problem," the water problem, and the need for migrant labor to facilitate California's massive and highly profitable agricultural industry. As we look back now on 150 years of statehood, it is particularly useful to place the events of the past fifty years in the context of McWilliams's assessment in *California: The Great Exception*. Lewis Lapham has written a new foreword for this edition.



30,50 €

28,50 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

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Artikelnummer: 9780520218932

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-520-21893-2

Verlag: UNIV OF CALIFORNIA PR

Erscheinungstermin: 30.04.1999

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 1. Auflage 1999

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 535 g

Seiten: 391

Format (B x H): 155 x 230 mm

