



Hard Road West: History and Geology along the Gold Rush Trail

Keith Heyer Meldahl

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In 1848 news of the discovery of gold in California triggered an enormous wave of emigration toward the Pacific. Lured by the promise of riches, thousands of settlers left behind the forests, rain, and fertile soil of the eastern United States in favor of the rough-hewn lands of the American West. The dramatic terrain they struggled to cross is so familiar to us now that it is hard to imagine how frightening—even godforsaken—its sheer rock faces and barren deserts seemed to our forebears.

Hard Road West brings their perspective vividly to life, weaving together the epic overland journey of the covered wagon trains and the compelling story of the landscape they encountered. Taking readers along the 2,000-mile California Trail, Keith Meldahl uses the diaries and letters of the settlers themselves—as well as the countless hours he has spent following the trail—to reveal how the geology and geography of the West directly affected our nation’s westward expansion. He guides us through a corrugated landscape of sawtooth mountains, following the meager streams that served as lifelines through an arid land, all the way to California itself, where colliding tectonic plates created breathtaking scenery and planted the gold that lured travelers west in the first place.

“Alternates seamlessly between vivid accounts of the 19th-century journey and lucid explanations of the geological events that shaped the landscape traveled. . . . The reader comes away with both an appreciation for the arduous cross-continental wagon journey and an understanding of the events that created such a vast and difficult landscape.”—*Library Journal*

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Exactly why? Because this Hard Road West: History and Geology along the Gold Rush Trail is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such incredible way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book include such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I had been you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Phyllis Spencer:

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position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand new stage of crucial pondering.

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