

the gates of the alamo

The Gates of the Alamo: A Symbol of History and Resilience

the gates of the alamo stand not just as physical entrances to a historic mission but as symbolic thresholds into one of the most iconic chapters of American and Texan history. Visitors approaching these gates are stepping into a story of bravery, sacrifice, and the enduring spirit of a people who shaped the destiny of a region. Understanding the significance of the gates offers a richer appreciation of the Alamo beyond its walls, connecting us to the struggles and triumphs of the past.

The Historical Significance of the Gates of the Alamo

When most people think of the Alamo, the focus tends to be on the battle fought within its walls in 1836 during the Texas Revolution. However, the gates themselves carry their own historical importance. These entrances were the main points of access to the mission compound, serving both practical and strategic purposes during the tumultuous times leading up to and during the siege.

Origins and Architecture

The Alamo, originally known as Mission San Antonio de Valero, was established in the early 18th century as part of Spanish efforts to colonize and convert indigenous peoples in the region. The gates were constructed to secure the mission compound and control movement in and out of the settlement. Made from sturdy wood and reinforced with iron, the gates reflected the architectural styles and defensive needs of the period.

Unlike the imposing stone walls of European castles, the Alamo's gates and walls were designed to blend functionality with the adobe and limestone materials readily available in Texas. Their design was influenced by Spanish colonial architecture, which emphasized practicality while still maintaining an aesthetic charm. Over time, these gates witnessed numerous historical events, becoming silent sentinels to the unfolding drama.

The Role During the Battle of the Alamo

The gates of the Alamo were more than mere entry points during the famous battle; they were critical to the defense strategy. When Mexican forces led by General Santa Anna laid siege to the mission in February 1836, the defenders, including legendary figures like Davy Crockett, William B. Travis, and James Bowie, fortified the gates to resist the overwhelming assault.

Despite their efforts, the gates eventually succumbed to the onslaught, symbolizing the fall of the Alamo but also the unyielding spirit of its defenders. The battle cry "Remember the Alamo!" that followed became a rallying point for Texan independence, with the gates serving as a poignant reminder of the courage displayed within.

Visiting the Gates Today: What to Expect

For those planning a trip to San Antonio, the gates of the Alamo are a must-see landmark. More than just entrances, they represent a tangible connection to history that invites reflection and learning.

Exploring the Alamo Complex

When you walk up to the Alamo's gates today, you'll notice how the preservation efforts have maintained their historical integrity. The grounds inside offer a comprehensive museum experience, including artifacts, exhibits, and reenactments that delve into the mission's past. The gates mark the transition from the bustling city to a place frozen in time, where visitors can immerse themselves in the story of the Texas Revolution.

Tips for Visiting the Gates of the Alamo

To make the most out of your visit, consider these practical tips:

- **Arrive early:** The Alamo is one of Texas's most popular tourist attractions, so arriving early helps avoid crowds and allows for a more peaceful experience at the gates and beyond.
- **Take a guided tour:** Knowledgeable guides provide rich historical context about the gates, the mission, and the battle, helping visitors appreciate the significance behind every detail.
- **Respect the site:** Remember that the Alamo is a sacred place of sacrifice, so maintaining respect and decorum, especially around the gates, is important.
- **Bring a camera:** The gates and the surrounding courtyard offer excellent photo opportunities, capturing the essence of this historic landmark.

The Gates of the Alamo in Popular Culture

The gates have transcended their physical function to become powerful symbols in books, movies, and art. They often represent the gateway to heroism, sacrifice, and the fight for freedom in Texan identity.

Depictions in Film and Literature

The story of the Alamo has been dramatized numerous times, with the gates frequently featured as a dramatic focal point. Films such as the 1960 classic "The Alamo" and the 2004 remake depict the gates as the final line of defense, emphasizing their emotional and strategic importance.

In literature, the gates serve as metaphors for transition and challenge, often symbolizing the passage from peace to conflict or from captivity to freedom. Writers and historians alike use the imagery of the gates to evoke the gravity of the moment when the defenders faced overwhelming odds.

Symbolism and Legacy

Beyond their historical and cultural representations, the gates of the Alamo continue to inspire modern Texans and Americans. They stand as a testament to standing firm in the face of adversity and the enduring belief in liberty. The phrase "Remember the Alamo!" echoes through these gates, reminding us that courage and sacrifice are timeless virtues.

Preservation Efforts and the Gates' Future

Maintaining the gates of the Alamo is a priority for historians and preservationists who understand their significance. Over the centuries, exposure to weather and heavy foot traffic has necessitated careful restoration work to ensure the gates remain intact for future generations.

Challenges in Preservation

Preserving wooden gates that date back hundreds of years presents unique challenges. The materials are vulnerable to decay, insect damage, and environmental factors like humidity and temperature fluctuations. Conservation teams employ modern techniques balanced with traditional craftsmanship to maintain authenticity while protecting the gates.

Community Involvement and Education

Local organizations and the state of Texas actively promote awareness about the importance of preserving the Alamo's gates. Educational programs invite the public to participate in preserving this piece of history, fostering a sense of ownership and pride. These efforts ensure that the gates remain not only a physical landmark but a living symbol of heritage.

Why the Gates of the Alamo Matter Today

In a world that is rapidly changing, historical sites like the Alamo's gates anchor us to our roots. They remind us of the complexities of history, the sacrifices made for freedom, and the resilience required to forge a new path. Whether you're a history buff, a tourist, or a local Texan, standing before the gates offers a moment to pause and connect with something larger than ourselves.

Visiting the gates invites reflection on the values of courage, determination, and unity. It's a reminder that history is not just about dates and battles but about the human stories that continue to shape our

identity. The gates of the Alamo are more than just an entryway—they are a portal to understanding the spirit of Texas and the enduring legacy of those who came before us.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Gates of the Alamo?

The Gates of the Alamo refer to the historic entryways of the Alamo Mission in San Antonio, Texas, which played a significant role during the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.

Why are the Gates of the Alamo historically significant?

The Gates of the Alamo are historically significant because they were part of the fortifications during the Battle of the Alamo, symbolizing the Texan resistance against Mexican forces.

Can visitors see the original Gates of the Alamo today?

Yes, visitors to the Alamo in San Antonio can see the preserved gates and structures, which have been maintained as part of the historic site.

What materials were used to construct the original Gates of the Alamo?

The original Gates of the Alamo were primarily constructed from stone and wood, typical of 18th-century Spanish mission architecture.

Have the Gates of the Alamo undergone any restoration?

Yes, the Gates of the Alamo have undergone several restoration efforts to preserve their structural integrity and historical appearance for educational and tourism purposes.

Are there any legends or stories associated with the Gates of the Alamo?

Yes, numerous legends surround the Gates of the Alamo, including tales of heroic defenders and symbolic acts of bravery during the siege, making them an enduring symbol of Texan courage.

Additional Resources

The Gates of the Alamo: A Historical and Architectural Exploration

the gates of the alamo stand as silent sentinels to one of the most iconic

battles in American history. These gates are not merely entryways; they are tangible links to a pivotal moment in the Texas Revolution, symbolizing resilience, sacrifice, and the enduring spirit of freedom. Understanding the significance of the gates of the Alamo requires a multifaceted examination of their historical context, architectural features, and cultural impact.

Historical Context of the Gates of the Alamo

The Alamo, originally a Spanish mission established in the 18th century, later became a fortress and battlefield during the Texas Revolution of 1836. The gates of the Alamo have witnessed countless moments, especially during the Siege of the Alamo when Texan defenders faced the Mexican army. While much attention is given to the battle itself, the gates represent the physical threshold between safety and conflict, serving as a focal point for both strategic defense and symbolic meaning.

The original gates were constructed using locally sourced wood and ironwork, typical of mission architecture of the period. Over time, the gates have undergone several reconstructions and restorations to maintain their structural integrity and historical authenticity. Despite these changes, the gates continue to evoke the era's tension and heroism.

Architectural Features and Design

The gates of the Alamo exemplify Spanish Colonial architecture, characterized by simplicity and functionality with subtle ornamental details. Typically, these gates were made from thick wooden planks reinforced with wrought iron bands and studs, designed to withstand both environmental wear and potential attacks.

Key architectural features include:

- **Material Composition:** Primarily hardwoods native to Texas, such as oak or cedar, chosen for durability.
- **Ironwork:** Hand-forged iron hinges and studs not only reinforced the gates but also added an aesthetic quality unique to 18th-century mission craftsmanship.
- **Dimensions:** The gates were large enough to allow passage of horses, wagons, and troops, reflecting their practical military use.
- **Design Elements:** Minimal decorative carvings, focusing more on sturdiness and defense capability.

These features combine to create a gate that was both functional and symbolic, a barrier against invaders and a welcome point for allies.

The Symbolism Embedded in the Gates of the Alamo

Beyond their practical purpose, the gates of the Alamo have evolved into powerful symbols within Texan and American cultural memory. They represent courage and sacrifice, serving as a reminder of the defenders who stood firm against overwhelming odds.

Throughout the years, the gates have been referenced in numerous historical accounts, literature, and even popular culture. Their image is often used to evoke themes of resilience and the fight for independence. The gates act as a metaphorical threshold between oppression and liberty, making them a poignant emblem in the narrative of American expansionism and identity.

Preservation Efforts and Challenges

Maintaining the gates of the Alamo presents unique challenges to historians and conservationists alike. The original materials have succumbed to natural decay, weather conditions, and the impacts of tourism. Restoration projects aim to strike a balance between preserving the gates' authenticity and ensuring their longevity for future generations.

Conservation efforts include:

1. Careful analysis of original materials to source appropriate replacements.
2. Employing traditional craftsmanship techniques to maintain historical accuracy.
3. Implementing protective measures against environmental damage, such as controlled humidity and pest management.
4. Balancing public accessibility with preservation needs to prevent deterioration from excessive handling or exposure.

Despite these measures, ongoing debates persist about how much restoration should be allowed before the gates lose their original character.

The Gates of the Alamo in Modern Tourism and Education

Today, the gates of the Alamo serve as a major attraction for visitors from around the world. They offer a tangible connection to an era that shaped the course of Texas and United States history. Tour guides and educators emphasize the gates not just as architectural artifacts but as entry points into a broader understanding of 19th-century frontier life and military strategy.

Visitors often experience:

- Guided tours highlighting the construction and strategic significance of the gates during the siege.
- Educational programs focusing on the historical context of the Texas Revolution.
- Interactive exhibits that explore the symbolism and restoration processes related to the gates.

This integration of the gates into educational frameworks ensures that their legacy endures beyond mere physical preservation.

Comparisons with Other Historical Gates

When examining the gates of the Alamo, it is insightful to compare them with other historical gates globally. Unlike grandiose city gates such as the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin or the gates of the Forbidden City in Beijing, the Alamo's gates reflect utilitarian military design embedded within a mission context.

Differences include:

- **Scale:** The Alamo gates are modest in size, designed for defense rather than ceremonial grandeur.
- **Material and Construction:** Use of local wood and wrought iron contrasts with the stone and marble of many European gates.
- **Symbolism:** While other gates often symbolize power or imperial authority, the Alamo gates symbolize resistance and sacrifice.

This comparison helps contextualize the gates of the Alamo within a broader architectural and cultural framework.

The gates of the Alamo continue to captivate historians, architects, and visitors alike, serving as a bridge between past and present. Their enduring presence invites ongoing reflection on the complexities of history, heritage, and identity in Texas and the United States.

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the gates of the alamo: The Gates of the Alamo Stephen Harrigan, 2017-01-24 A New York Times bestselling novel, modern historical classic, and winner of the TCU Texas Book Award, The Spur Award and the Wrangler Award for Outstanding Western Novel It's 1836, and the Mexican province of Texas is in revolt. As General Santa Anna's forces move closer to the small fort that will soon be legend, three people's fates will become intrinsically tied to the coming battle: Edmund McGowan, a proud and gifted naturalist; the widowed innkeeper Mary Mott; and her sixteen-year-old son, Terrell, whose first shattering experience with love has led him into the line of fire. Filled with dramatic scenes, and abounding in fictional and historical personalities—among them James Bowie, David Crockett, William Travis, and Stephen Austin—*The Gates of the Alamo* is a faithful and compelling look at a riveting chapter in American history.

the gates of the alamo: *The gates of the Alamo* Stephen Harrigan, 2000 A full-scale fictional chronicle centered around the fall of the Alamo bristles with historical figures, including Jim Bowie, Santa Anna, and Davy Crockett, among others, as it provides a dramatic re-creation of an event that shaped the history and identity of Texas.

the gates of the alamo: *Mythology in Stephen Harrigan's The Gates of the Alamo* Karen Casanova Mendiola Tanguma, 2008

the gates of the alamo: *Conversations with Texas Writers* Frances Leonard, Ramona Cearley, 2010-01-01 Larry McMurtry declares, Texas itself doesn't have anything to do with why I write. It never did. Horton Foote, on the other hand, says, I've just never had a desire to write about any place else. In between those figurative bookends are hundreds of other writers—some internationally recognized, others just becoming known—who draw inspiration and often subject matter from the unique places and people that are Texas. To give everyone who is interested in Texas writing a representative sampling of the breadth and vitality of the state's current literary production, this volume features conversations with fifty of Texas's most notable established writers and emerging talents. The writers included here work in a wide variety of genres—novels, short stories, poetry, plays, screenplays, essays, nonfiction, and magazine journalism. In their conversations with interviewers from the Writers' League of Texas and other authors' organizations, the writers speak of their apprenticeships, literary influences, working habits, connections with their readers, and the domestic and public events that have shaped their writing. Accompanying the interviews are excerpts from the writers' work, as well as their photographs, biographies, and bibliographies. Joe Holley's introductory essay—an overview of Texas writing from Cabeza de Vaca's 1542 *Relación* to the work of today's generation of writers, who are equally at home in Hollywood as in Texas—provides the necessary context to appreciate such a diverse collection of literary voices. A sampling from the book: This land has been my subject matter. One thing that distinguishes me from the true naturalist is that I've never been able to look at land without thinking of the people who've been on it. It's fundamental to me. —John Graves Writing is a way to keep ourselves more in touch with everything we experience. It seems the best gifts and thoughts are given to us when we pause, take a deep breath, look around, see what's there, and return to where we were, revived. —Naomi Shihab Nye I've said this many times in print: the novel is the middle-age genre. Very few people have written really good novels when they are young, and few people have written really good novels when they are old. You just tail off, and lose a certain level of concentration. Your imaginative energy begins to lag. I feel like I'm repeating myself, and most writers do repeat themselves. —Larry McMurtry I was a pretty poor cowhand. I grew up on the Macaraw Ranch, east of Crane, Texas. My father tried very hard to make a cowboy out of me, but in my case it never seemed to work too well. I had more of a literary bent. I loved to read, and very early on I began to write small stories, short stories, out of the things I liked to read. —Elmer Kelton

the gates of the alamo: *Alamo Traces* Thomas Ricks Lindley, 2003 Never wavering in its search for the bedrock of fact, this book is a methodical, piece-by-piece dismantling of what we thought we knew and a convincing speculation about what might have really happened during that courageous fight for independence.

the gates of the alamo: *The Eye of the Mammoth* Stephen Harrigan, 2019-10-01

History—natural history, human history, and personal history—and place are the cornerstones of *The Eye of the Mammoth*. Stephen Harrigan's career has taken him from the Alaska Highway to the Chihuahuan Desert, from the casinos of Monaco to his ancestors' village in the Czech Republic. And now, in this new edition, he movingly recounts in *Off Course* a quest to learn all he can about his father, who died in a plane crash six months before he was born. Harrigan's deceptively straightforward voice belies an intense curiosity about things that, by his own admission, may be unknowable. Certainly, we are limited in what we can know about the inner life of George Washington, the last days of Davy Crockett, the motives of a caged tiger, or a father we never met, but Harrigan's gift—a gift that has also made him an award-winning novelist—is to bring readers closer to such things, to make them less remote, just as a cave painting in the title essay eerily transmits the living stare of a long-extinct mammoth.

the gates of the alamo: *The Big Book of Texas Ghost Stories* Alan Brown, 2019-07-17

Hauntings lurk and spirits linger in the Lone Star State Reader, beware! Turn these pages and enter the world of the paranormal, where ghosts and ghouls alike creep just out of sight. Author Alan Brown shines a light in the dark corners of Texas and scares those spirits out of hiding in this thrilling collection. From tales of haunted hotels like the Von Minden and The Beckham, to a creek where a woman's screams can still be heard to this day, and the shadowy figures still stalking the Alamo, these stories of strange occurrences will keep you glued to the edge of your seat. Around the campfire or tucked away on a dark and stormy night, this big book of ghost stories is a hauntingly good read.

the gates of the alamo: The Mythical West Richard W. Slatta, 2001-11-20 This cultural journey down memory lane showcases how major Western figures, events, and places have been portrayed in folk legends, art, literature, and popular culture. Ever since the days of the 49ers and George Armstrong Custer, the Old West has been America's most potent source of legend. But it is sometimes hard to separate fact from fiction. Did you know, for example, that Annie Oakley was a talented marksman who shot an estimated 40,000 rounds per year while practicing and performing for Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show in the late 1800s? Or that many interpreters believe that *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* is not just a fairy tale, but also a Populist allegory? These are just two of the folk legends dissected and examined in this veritable cultural geography. The volume covers everything from billionaire Howard Hughes and composer Aaron Copeland to Aztlan (the legendary first city of the Aztecs) and Area 51, the top-secret U.S. Air Force base at Groom Lake, Nevada, that has fascinated UFO and conspiracy buffs.

the gates of the alamo: Disrespected Neighbo(u)rs Uwe Zagratzki, 2018-07-27 Neighbourly relations frequently position a "self" against an "Other". This is the case for both individuals and nations, and, indeed, within the various cultural groups of a nation. Our racial, ethnic, social, or gender identities are often created in demarcating ourselves by stereotyping the Other. Disrespect of the immediate neighbour based on stereotypical pre-conceptions and cultural biases may lie dormant for a long time and then, as shown in recent conflicts around the globe, suddenly surface due to changed economic and political conditions. Media, including films and fictional as well as non-fictional texts, feature prominently in producing, propagating, and maintaining cultural difference and stereotypes in ideologically effective ways. This volume analyses re-presentations from various angles, as it comprises articles dealing with ethnic groups and neighbo(u)rhoods from three world areas, as well as genres and media instrumental to their respective cultural stereotyping. This focus on literary and media representations of the neighbo(u)rly Other from miscellaneous cultural environments results in a comprehensive understanding of analogies and differences in the mechanisms of production and perception of stereotypes. Addressing the manifold discourses at the heart of stereotyping the familiar Other, the book also points to their far-reaching repercussions on lived cultural practices.

the gates of the alamo: Road to Baghdad Ambush Alley Ambush Alley Games, 2011-04-01

Road to Baghdad gives Force on Force players all the information they need to re-fight the 2003 Allied invasion of Iraq. From deadly little firefights between Iraqi Fedayeen and US Special Forces

to armored battles against Republican Guard positions across the Tigris River, Road to Baghdad offers a wealth of varied scenarios and mission objectives that will challenge the tactical abilities of both new and experienced wargamers alike. With a wealth of new information to expand Force on Force, including detailed historical background and orders of battle for US, British and Iraqi forces during the invasion, Road to Baghdad allows players to really get to grips with the experiences of war in Iraq.

the gates of the alamo: As Texas Goes...: How the Lone Star State Hijacked the American Agenda Gail Collins, 2012-05-29 Discusses the conservative political agenda that began in Texas and how it became a national movement with far-reaching social and economic consequences.

the gates of the alamo: Living by the Sword Eric Demski, 2014-06-28 The quintessential image of the hero for GOD, the Knight, half warrior and half saint, stands for everything good, strong, and honorable in the human spirit. This book contains twenty-five years of research on true knighthood: the refined and essential virtues, elements, techniques and strategies to wage successful war against Evil. Taken from the lives, stories, and advice of warriors, saints, monks, priests, and pious people, these strategies show specifically and very concretely how to be a knight and hero. The book explains - How does a knight use purity to make himself stronger in physical, as well as mental and spiritual combat? - How does a knight find a state of Grace? - How does a knight develop his moral courage and his ability to sacrifice? - Why meekness and humility is the root of true strength, - How great courage is directly derived from fear of GOD, - How sacrifice and asceticism can be used to defeat demons, - How Faith can be developed and improved. - The techniques of Sir Ramon Lull, Rodrigo De Bivar, Charles Martel, Sir Miguel Cervantes, and saints such as Ignatius, Louis, Francis, Augustine, Aquinas and many more Every question is answered. Only one thing remains. May GOD grant us HIS Grace.

the gates of the alamo: Shakespeare on Screen: King Lear Victoria Bladen, Sarah Hatchuel, Nathalie Vienne-Guerrin, 2019-09-26 An up-to-date survey of Shakespeare's King Lear on screen and the aesthetic, social and political issues raised by screen versions.

the gates of the alamo: Tejano Patriot Art Martínez de Vara, 2020-05-01 Art Martínez de Vara's Tejano Patriot: The Revolutionary Life of José Francisco Ruiz, 1783-1840 is the first full-length biography of this important figure in Texas history. Best known as one of two Texas-born signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Ruiz's significance extends far beyond that single event. Born in San Antonio de Béxar into an upwardly mobile family, during the war for Mexican independence Ruiz underwent a dramatic transformation from a conservative royalist to one of the staunchest liberals of his era. Steeped in the Spanish American liberal tradition, his revolutionary activity included participating in three uprisings, suppressing two others, and enduring extreme personal sacrifice for the liberal republican cause. He was widely respected as an intermediary between Tejanos and American Indians, especially the Comanches. As a diplomat, he negotiated nearly a dozen peace treaties for Spain, Mexico, and the Republic of Texas, and he traveled to the Imperial Court of Mexico as an agent of the Comanches to secure peace on the northern frontier. When Anglo settlers came by the thousands to Texas after 1820, he continued to be a cultural intermediary, forging a friendship with Stephen F. Austin, but he always put the interests of Béxar and his fellow Tejanos first. Ruiz had a notable career as a military leader, diplomat, revolutionary, educator, attorney, arms dealer, author, ethnographer, politician, Indian agent, Texas ranger, city attorney, and Texas senator. He was a central figure in the saga that shaped Texas from a remote borderland on New Spain's northern frontier to an independent republic.

the gates of the alamo: Tennessee Tales the Textbooks Don't Tell Jennie Ivey, Calvin Dickinson, Lisa Rand, 2002-08 Beginning with the legend of how a young Cherokee boy earned the name Dragging Canoe and weaving its way through three centuries, this book treats history not as a collection of names and dates, but as real-life drama filled with strong characters and vivid emotions.

the gates of the alamo: Catholic World , 1890

the gates of the alamo: Remember Goliad Clifford Hopewell, 2023-07-24 Palm Sunday, March

27, 1836, turned out to be the blackest day in the war of independence between Texas and Mexico. Colonel James Walker Fannin Jr. and his men were ruthlessly slaughtered at the Presidio La Bahia, near the town of Goliad. The order was given direct by General Santa Anna. The author describes the background leading up to the start of hostilities in October 1835, and the two Mexican armies who threatened to overrun the Texans, with the massacre at the Alamo on March 2 and then the attack on the Presidio La Bahia, which Fannin called Fort Defiance. A description of garrison life, and of the men under Fannin's command precedes the battle of Coleto Plains where Fannin's Texans without an adequate water supply and defenses, were surrounded by General Urrea's army and forced to surrender. One of more traumatic aspects of the battle and executions involved a group of young soldiers from Alabama, mostly from the same area, whose leader, Dr. Shackelford, was spared to minister to the sick and injured and was forced to witness the deaths of his protégées.

the gates of the alamo: *Latino Chronology* D. H. Figueredo, 2007-03-30 From the first Latinos' arrival in pre-Columbian America to the Alamo, Santeria, Desi Arnaz, the exodus from Castro's Cuba, and the 2006 immigration rallies, this volume illuminates the most critical—and some not as well-known—events in Latino history. Chronological entries organized by subject explore categories such as Civil Rights and Protest, Arts & Music, Literature, Religion, Economics, and Legislation. Inclusive of all Latino subgroups, this accessible Chronology is the most current and concise reference source on the history of Latin Americans in the U.S., a must-read for students of Latino culture and American studies, past and present.

the gates of the alamo: *An Anchor in the Sea of Time* Stephen Harrigan, 2025-10-07 A new collection of essays grappling with identity and memory, from a master of the form. The author of the New York Times bestselling novel *The Gates of the Alamo*, the sweeping Texas history *Big Wonderful Thing*, and decades of incisive journalism, Stephen Harrigan is an adept writer skilled in crafting memorable characters. From this singular voice now comes a collection of essays tackling the most personal, and yet most expansive, themes of all: identity, memory, and time itself. *An Anchor in the Sea of Time* unfolds individual stories but also a larger narrative about the development and distortions of history. In one essay, a painting on his grandparents' wall is seared in Harrigan's young mind. In another, a group trip to Vietnam stirs up a sobering confrontation with class privilege among Americans who fought there and others, like Harrigan, who did their best not to. The award-winning essay "Off Course" reflects on the father Harrigan never met. And Harrigan's reporting about the Karankawas, an Indigenous group from the Texas coast once thought to be extinct, takes readers deep into the recesses of collective forgetting and offers glimpses of the possibility of recovery. A vivid encounter with lost selves, vanished worlds, and futures yet unrealized, *An Anchor in the Sea of Time* is perhaps the most personal book yet from this beloved writer.

the gates of the alamo: *War and Film in America* Marilyn J. Matelski, Nancy Lynch Street, 2017-10-27 America's chief exports are war and entertainment; combined, they are the war films viewed all over the world. The film industry is a partner of the government; American film shapes the ways in which both Americans and others view war. The authors herein explore differing film perspectives across five decades. The essays, written especially for this volume, explore topics such as frontier justice, Cold War fervor, government-sponsored terrorism, the back-to-Nam films, films as a venue for propaganda, and war's far-reaching effects on personal values, family relationships, and general civility. The movies used in these analyses vary from conventional battle epics like *Bridge on the River Kwai* and *The Green Berets* to motion pictures with a war motif either as part of the story (*The Way We Were*) or as a historical setting (*The Graduate*). Some of the films are satirical (*Dr. Strangelove*); some are propagandistic (*The Alamo*, *Big Jim McLain*). Other films include *Black Hawk Down*, *True Lies*, *The Deer Hunter*, *Patriot Games* and *Let There Be Light*. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy [here](#).

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