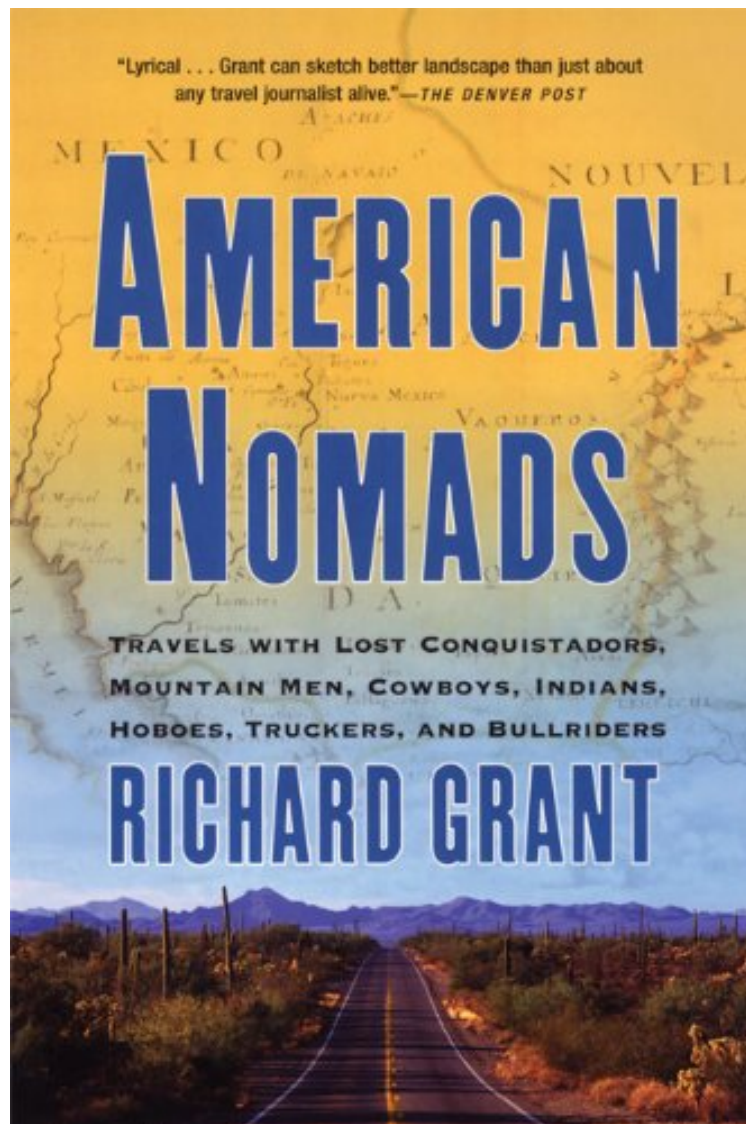


[Free] American Nomads: Travels with Lost Conquistadors, Mountain Men, Cowboys, Indians, Hoboes, Truckers, and Bullriders

## American Nomads: Travels with Lost Conquistadors, Mountain Men, Cowboys, Indians, Hoboes, Truckers, and Bullriders

*Richard Grant*

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**Richard Grant : American Nomads: Travels with Lost Conquistadors, Mountain Men, Cowboys, Indians, Hoboes, Truckers, and Bullriders** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Nomads: Travels with Lost Conquistadors, Mountain Men, Cowboys, Indians, Hoboes, Truckers, and Bullriders:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Philosophy for the Laymen By Paulo Reimann I guess is OK. A tribe of wonderers and wanderers searching for stoicism, meaning and fate. The book is well written, varies from chapter to chapter, some better than others but the result is excellent. Read it wandering in the Northern part of Brazil. Made sense. A mix of Cabeza de Vaca, Orellana, Teddy. Not to mention punks, hobos and other philosophers of the laymen. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. So much more than a Travelogue By M. Drudzinski What I loved about American Nomads -- aside from the author's narrative of life "on the road" and all the wild characters he encountered on his journeys -- is that Mr. Grant infuses the book with historical perspective, examining nomadism as a social phenomenon in the American context. From Spanish Conquistadors to Native American tribes to "mountain men" to rail hobos and truckers who move from stop to stop without staying in one place for very long, Grant doesn't just recount what living in near-constant motion does to his and others' psyches but how the phenomenon of nomadism versus sedentary living evolved over time in this country, why there are so many negative stereotypes associated with those who chose to live an "unsettled" life and why he chose to follow in the footsteps of so many others who cast off conventional societal values to live unfettered in frontier territory (most of this story takes place in the American West, where one can still find much open space). Grant spent many years on the road, often rejecting better financial opportunities and lasting relationships to explore the American West, hook up with other nomads and write about the experiences he had. Grant casts a non-judgmental light on the people who struck out in search of a better life or simply took the path less traveled (which involved constant travel), but he also doesn't shy away from the tough realities of life on the move and the kinds of mercurial personalities who choose such a life. Well-researched, with an easy, accessible narrative style, Grant's American Nomads might conjure up your repressed desire to shirk all obligations and see what's out there for you in the great wide open. Can't wait to read Mr. Grant's other books. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well done. By Michael Kennedy Grant is one of my favorite travel writers. This is one hell of a ride.

Fascinated by the land of endless horizons, sunshine, and the open road, Richard Grant spent fifteen years wandering throughout the United States, never spending more than three weeks in one place and getting to know America's nomads -- truckers, tramps, rodeo cowboys, tie-dyed concert followers, flea market traders, retirees who live year round in their RVs, and the murderous Freight Train Riders of America (FTRA). In a richly comic travelogue, Grant uses these lives and his own to examine the myths and realities of the wandering life, and its contradiction with the sedentary American dream. Along with a personal account, American Nomads traces the history of wandering in the New World, through vividly told stories of frontiersmen, fur trappers and cowboys, Comanche and Apache warriors, all the way back to the first Spanish explorers who crossed the continent. What unites these disparate characters, as they range back and forth across the centuries, is a stubborn conviction that the only true freedom is to roam across the land.

From Publishers Weekly In this cogent but uneven meditation on American wanderers past and present, British writer Grant, who has written for GQ and Esquire, parallels his own travels through the American Southwest with those of earlier explorers, conquerors, cowboys, Indians, bikers and hoboes. In 1985, the author, without prospects and sick of London's dreary weather, escaped to the U.S. He's spent the past 15 years feeding his "wanderlust, restlessness, itchy feet, antsy pants, white-line fever," crisscrossing the country, but sticking mainly to the Southwest. Along the way, he has grappled with certain questions, internally and in the articles he has written to finance his travels. As he puts it in his prologue, "What drove a man to spend his life in motion? Was it a natural human impulse, recognized and obeyed, or was it a disease of the soul? Why was the type so prevalent in America...?" To find the answers, he hung out at all-night truck stops, chatted with grizzled hitchhikers and rail tramps, and attended love and peace fests (including the popular Rainbow gatherings). He also spent time in libraries, researching the history of the wanderers--both native and European--who came before him. While certain profiles (e.g., of early Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca and mountain man Joe Walker) do absorb, Grant occasionally strays into the extraneous (a too-long chronicle of the horse's introduction into North America and a spotty history of the notorious Freight Train Riders of America are particular examples). It makes for a lively, though sometimes tiring, pastiche of travelogue and regurgitated history. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Grant, an English writer who has written for GQ and Esquire, has penned a travelogue par excellence, cloaked in the robes of a sociological examination of the American nomad. Resolved to leave his own sedentary life, the author spends time with an assortment of truckers, rodeo cowboys, RV-ers, and wanna-be Indians (usually white computer geeks looking for escape). He examines, too, records of some of the genuine nomads of our past, such as the explorer Cabeza de Vaca, the Indian hunter horse tribes, and the legendary frontiersman Joe Walker. Readers may feel a certain sadness about the artificiality of some modern versions of nomadism, especially during a passage in which, at a gathering of would-be American Indians, Grant searches for the genuine article. This is a wondrous essay, documenting a style of life that eschews government authority--property taxes, drug laws, gun laws, nudity laws, truancy laws, and sexual age-of-consent laws. For all the problems inherent in such a lifestyle, readers may still fantasize about what life could be like away from the rat race. Allen

WeaklandCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "American Nomads is a thorough and fascinating exploration of American ethos." -- John Dicker, The Colorado Springs Independent"American Nomads is a wonderful book, sure to delight all who love the American open road." -- Larry McMurtry"Grant is a good writer.... He doesnt patronize the United States.... His delight in and wonder at America are genuine." -- Jonathan Yardley, The Washington Post Book World"Grant is a great storyteller." -- William McKeen, The St. Petersburg Times"Grant shows his appreciation and understanding of boots that are made for walking.... Grants is participatory journalism at its best." -- Susan Campbell, The Hartford Courant"Prose so graceful and energetic that it makes you want to head to the nearest bus station." -- John Freeman, The Tuscon Weekly"Spicing the work with humor, Grant [examines] the myths and realities of the roaming life." -- The Denver Post"[American Nomads is] a diverting jaunt with vagabonds of the Wests open roads and backwoods: mobile nobility nicely considered." -- Kirkus s"[Grant] maintains a wicked sense of humor throughout he book that makes it consistently entertaining and informative." -- Joseph L. Carlson, Library Journal"[The] trip through Grants book...[is] a ride worth taking." -- Tom Tolan, The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel