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## Of Chiles, Cacti and Fighting Cocks: Notes on the American West

*Frederick Turner*

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#2130299 in Books Fulcrum Publishing 2004-10-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 6.00l, 1.02 #File Name: 1555914861288 pages | File size: 71.Mb

**Frederick Turner : Of Chiles, Cacti and Fighting Cocks: Notes on the American West** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Chiles, Cacti and Fighting Cocks: Notes on the American West:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A traveler in the American SouthwestBy Ronald ScheerAs of this writing, this well written collection of essays seems to be out of print, and it shouldn't be. Turner has a sharp eye for detail and an ability to craft personal experience and an encyclopedic scale of information into engaging reading on subjects as varied as saguaro cactuses, chili con carne (with a recipe for Basic Texas Red), management of wild horse

herds, Billy the Kid, Basque shepherders in the Great Basin, and a Czech festival each autumn in Deming, New Mexico. Especially interesting for this reader is his essay on the lives of two early 20th-century writers who turned their own frontier experiences into best-sellers that shaped American awareness of the West: James Willard Schultz ("My Life as an Indian," 1907) and Will James ("Lone Cowboy," 1930). Based in Santa Fe, Turner roams over the southern arid states where inhabitants set their clocks to Mountain Time. And his essays are fine examples of travel writing that appreciates both landscape and centuries of human history. This is an excellent addition to any bookshelf of nonfiction Western literature. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five stars just for spelling "chiles" right. By S. J. Snyder This is about the REAL Southwest, neither the Tex-Mexified version east of the Rockies, nor the touristy version of Santa Fe, nor the mythical version of the OK Corral. Most of this book deals with the largest U.S. desert -- the Great Basin desert. A land of rugged climatic extremes and even more rugged geography, it has largely bent men to its will rather than the other way around. Beginning with his own childhood reading and first trips to this area, Turner paints a portrait of the Southwest's natural and social history while also describing how he, too, has been shaped by this land. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Reprint is well-done! By Catherine KA wonderful new edition of this lovely book has recently been done by Fulcrum Publishing. The ISBN is 1-55591-486-1. It includes new essays, including one on Gerogia O'Keefe that looks at the west from an artist's perspective that I thought was particularly special.

Sharp-witted observations on the unusual and often intriguing dichotomy of the real and the legendary in the American West.

From Library Journal This is a book for every East-coast armchair cowboy; every child who grew up in the Old West of the imagination, not reality. Turner muses on the appeal of the cowboy and horses for generations of Americans and Europeans alike. He includes some interesting bits of history and local lore, including an ugly but compelling account of cockfighting. There is a lot of factual information about the Western states, but they're treated as an entity. Easterners may not find this annoying, but westerners will. Still, public libraries collecting regional literature will find this a readable and interesting choice. - Katharine Galloway Garstka, Intergraph Corp., Huntsville, Ala. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This is a book for every East-coast armchair cowboy; every child who grew up in the Old West of the imagination ..." About the Author Frederick Turner has been gathering notes on the American West, consciously and otherwise, ever since he first gazed upon these superb spaces in the summer of 1951. Mr. Turner lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is the author of seven books that explore the American experience.