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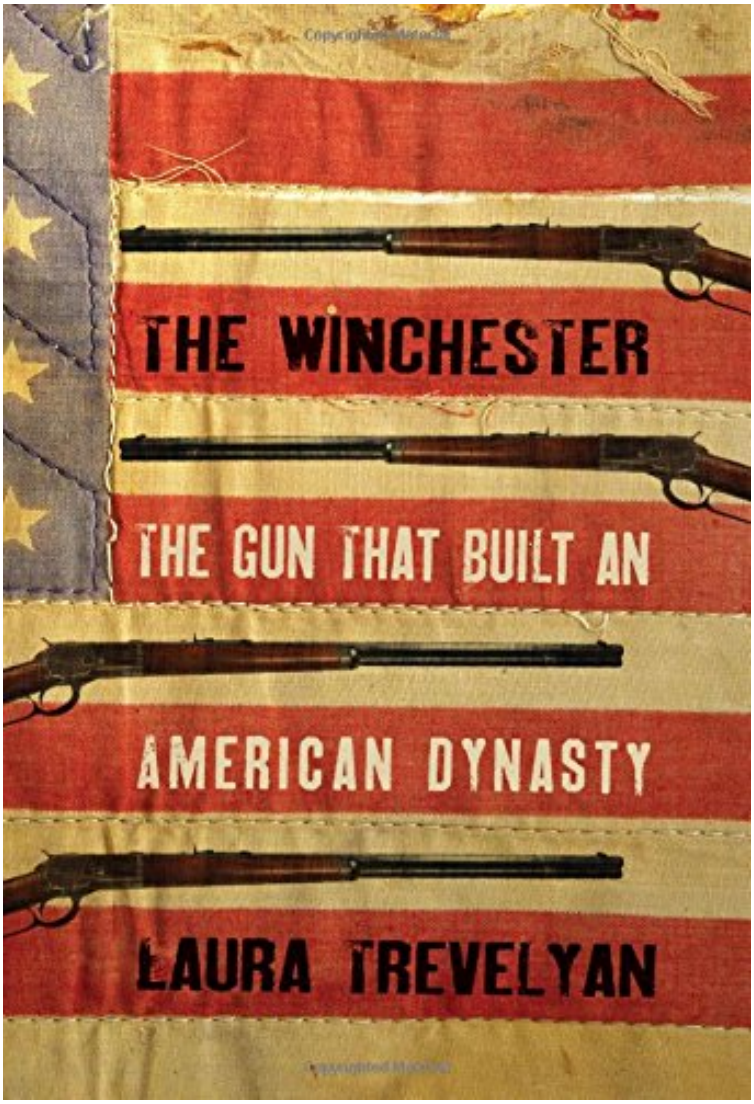

[DOWNLOAD] The Winchester: The Gun That Built an American Dynasty

The Winchester: The Gun That Built an American Dynasty

Laura Trevelyan : The Winchester: The Gun That Built an American Dynasty before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Winchester: The Gun That Built an American Dynasty:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. NOT a RESTAURANT to REVISITBy Richard A. MacKinnonThe author is very direct about what this book is about--and not about. It's a family history rather than a business history of Winchester Company but it's unavoidable to have business issues intrude and this is where I think the book lacks appeal. How so?To this reader the most interesting part was how Oliver Winchester came to start the company.

Thereafter, the story of Winchester Arms is a saga of miscues, poor decisions, and inept management. I found it a sad story rather than a bracing saga of The Gun That Won the West. It unfolds more as The Gun That Shot the Company in the Foot. That's the real surprise in the book.As a Yale student of western American history, I walked by the Winchester complex many times and wondered how it had become derelict. Now I know. What I don't get a feel for is the impact of the business on the city of New Haven. What did all those thousands of workers mean to the city. Toward the end, strikes and labor unhappiness really soured the milk and the family's record of stewardship. There is no meaningful mention of relations with Yale University. Given the tumbledown neighborhoods around the sprawling plant, it's hard to imagine Winchester as a good citizen despite the hospital funding and mansions of the owners. How did Winchester's museum of its heritage arms escape Yale and end up at The Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody? Surely Yale didn't seem to uphold its end of the relationship either but there's a story here that doesn't make the book.The inability to retain inventor John Browning .. the miscues of the WWI gun contracts and expansions .. the reliance on patent protection and acquisition of competitors .. all signal a lack of foresight and innovation which retarded the formation of the corporate antibodies which protect companies as they sail into their future. Whether the author meant to convey this, the reader comes away with a sense that such was the case--and that is worth knowing. I had always wondered what the role of the Olin's was in the Winchester saga and the book does well in spelling this out. While Olin was a successful enterprise, it's magic touch failed to sustain Winchester over the long haul. More bad decisions and more questionable management.I have a very high regard for Yale Press and its long history of publishing books relating to Western Americana. But I wonder about its editing role with this book as I found it NOT well written and a difficult read. It's not a matter of this not being an academic treatment. After reading the introduction, the reader should not have been expecting one. But the jargon and breezy parlance makes for a jarring ride which fails to lubricate the gears of this family story. It doesn't seem to come up to Yale Press standards for this long-time fan of the publisher. Modern photos of the Winchester complex would have enlightened the reader beyond the traditional family photos and 19th century birds eye prints.I'm glad I read/bought the book because it answered some of my questions. But having finished the entree I found myself looking forward more to and in need of dessert. I didn't get it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy K BrahmsInteresting story!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Customeras described

A fascinating history of the family behind the popular firearm that changed America and the world Arguably the worlds most famous firearm, the Winchester Repeating Rifle was sought after by a cast of characters ranging from the settlers of the American West to the Ottoman Empires Army. Laura Trevelyan, a descendant of the Winchester family, offers an engrossing personal history of the colorful New England clan responsible for the creation and manufacture of the Gun that Won the West. Trevelyan chronicles the rise and fortunes of a great American arms dynasty, from Oliver Winchesters involvement with the Volcanic Arms Company in 1855 through the turbulent decades of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She explores the evolution of an iconic, paradigm-changing weapon that has become a part of American culture; a longtime favorite of collectors and gun enthusiasts that has been celebrated in fiction, glorified in Hollywood, and applauded in endorsements from the likes of Annie Oakley, Theodore Roosevelt, Ernest Hemingway, and Native American tribesmen who called it "the spirit gun."

"A riveting explanation of America's historic obsession with guns. . . . The book is beautifully illustrated, with fascinating photos of the Winchester family, and with well-known historical figuresincluding the Native American leader Geronimo and President Theodore Rooseveltclutching their repeating rifles."Gerri Kimber, Times Literary Supplement