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Part 1

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Kevin Starr was an American historian, best-known for his multi-volume series on the history of California, collectively called "America and the California Dream". Other books in the series Modern Library Chronicles (1 - 10 of 34 books)

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California: A History by Kevin Starr

Kevin Starr is one of California's greatest historians, and *California: A History* is an invaluable contribution to our state's record and lore. From Maria Shriver, First Lady of California to Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo to Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Donner Party to the 1992 Los Angeles riots, Kevin Starr captures the fullness of California history in one sweeping and masterful narrative.

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Kevin Owen Starr (September 3, 1940 – January 14, 2017) was an American historian and California's State Librarian, best known for his multi-volume series on the history of California, collectively called "Americans and the California Dream." After an

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impoverished childhood, he received degrees from various universities where he studied history and literature.

Kevin Starr - Wikipedia

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Legendary California historian Kevin Starr is University Professor at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the gold and silver medals...

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First described in a bestseller, California entered history as a myth. In 1510 the Spanish writer Garci Ordenez de Montalvo issued a sequel to his 1508 prose romance Amadis de Gaula, which Montalvo had in turn based upon a late thirteenth- to early fourteenth-century Portuguese narrative derived from French sources.

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Kevin Starr has devoted his career to the history of his beloved
state, but he has never lost his sense of wonder over California ' s
sheer abundance and peerless variety. This one-volume distillation
of a lifetime ' s work gathers together everything that is most
important, most fascinating, and most revealing about our greatest
state.

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California: A History (By Kevin Starr) by Kevin Starr

Kevin Starr (1940 – 2017) was an American historian and California 's State Librarian, best know for his multi-volume series on the history of California. His writing won a Guggenheim Fellowship, and gold and silver medals from the Commonwealth Club of.... More about Kevin Starr. Inspired by Your Browsing History.

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Kevin Starr is the foremost chronicler of the California dream and indeed one of the finest narrative historians writing today on any subject.

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“ A California classic . . . California, it should be remembered, was

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very much the wild west, having to wait until 1850 before it could force its way into statehood. so what tamed it? Mr. Starr ' s answer is a combination of great men, great ideas and great projects. ” —The Economist From the age of exploration to the age of Arnold, the Golden State ' s premier historian distills the entire sweep of California ' s history into one splendid volume. Kevin Starr covers it all: Spain ' s conquest of the native peoples of California in the early sixteenth century and the chain of missions that helped that country exert control over the upper part of the territory; the discovery of gold in January 1848; the incredible wealth of the Big Four railroad tycoons; the devastating San Francisco earthquake of 1906; the emergence of Hollywood as the world ' s entertainment capital and of Silicon Valley as the center of high-tech research and development; the role of labor, both

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organized and migrant, in key industries from agriculture to aerospace. In a rapid-fire epic of discovery, innovation, catastrophe, and triumph, Starr gathers together everything that is most important, most fascinating, and most revealing about our greatest state. Praise for California “ [A] fast-paced and wide-ranging history . . . [Starr] accomplishes the feat with skill, grace and verve. ” —Los Angeles Times Book Review “ Kevin Starr is one of California ’ s greatest historians, and California is an invaluable contribution to our state ’ s record and lore. ” —Marla Shriver, journalist and former First Lady of California “ A breeze to read. ” —San Francisco

Kevin Starr is the foremost chronicler of the California dream and indeed one of the finest narrative historians writing today on any

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subject. The first two installments of his monumental cultural history, "Americans and the California Dream," have been hailed as "mature, well-proportioned and marvelously diverse (and diverting)" (The New York Times Book Review) and "rich in details and alive with interesting, and sometimes incredible people" (Los Angeles Times). Now, in *Material Dreams*, Starr turns to one of the most vibrant decades in the Golden State's history, the 1920s, when some two million Americans migrated to California, the vast majority settling in or around Los Angeles. In a lively and eminently readable narrative, Starr reveals how Los Angeles arose almost defiantly on a site lacking many of the advantages required for urban development, creating itself out of sheer will, the Great Gatsby of American cities. He describes how William Ellsworth Smyth, the Peter the Hermit of the Irrigation Crusade, the self-educated, Irish

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engineer William Mulholland (who built the main aqueducts to Los Angeles), and George Chaffey (who diverted the Colorado River, transforming desert into the lush Imperial Valley) brought life-supporting water to the arid South. He examines the discovery of oil, the boosters and land developers, the evangelists (such as Bob Shuler, the Methodist Savanarola of Los Angeles, and Aimee Semple McPherson), and countless other colorful figures of the period. There are also fascinating sections on the city's architecture the impact of the automobile on city planning, the Hollywood film community, the L.A. literati, and much more. By the end of the decade, Los Angeles had tripled in population and become the fifth largest city in the nation. In *Material Dreams*, Starr captures this explosive growth in a narrative tour de force that combines wide-ranging scholarship with captivating prose.

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A narrative tour de force that combines wide-ranging scholarship with captivating prose, Kevin Starr's acclaimed multi-volume *Americans and the California Dream* is an unparalleled work of cultural history. In this volume, Starr covers the crucial postwar period--1950 to 1963--when the California we know today first burst into prominence. Starr brilliantly illuminates the dominant economic, social, and cultural forces in California in these pivotal years. In a powerful blend of telling events, colorful personalities, and insightful analyses, Starr examines such issues as the overnight creation of the postwar California suburb, the rise of Los Angeles as Super City, the reluctant emergence of San Diego as one of the largest cities in the nation, and the decline of political centrism. He explores the Silent Generation and the emergent Boomer youth

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cult, the Beats and the Hollywood "Rat Pack," the pervasive influence of Zen Buddhism and other Asian traditions in art and design, the rise of the University of California and the emergence of California itself as a utopia of higher education, the cooling of West Coast jazz, freeway and water projects of heroic magnitude, outdoor life and the beginnings of the environmental movement. More broadly, he shows how California not only became the most populous state in the Union, but in fact evolved into a mega-state en route to becoming the global commonwealth it is today. Golden Dreams continues an epic series that has been widely recognized for its signal contribution to the history of American culture in California. It is a book that transcends its stated subject to offer a wealth of insight into the growth of the Sun Belt and the West and indeed the dramatic transformation of America itself in these pivotal

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years following the Second World War.

In this extraordinary book, Kevin Starr – widely acknowledged as the premier historian of California, the scope of whose scholarship the Atlantic Monthly has called “breathtaking” – probes the possible collapse of the California dream in the years 1990—2003. In a series of compelling chapters, *Coast of Dreams* moves through a variety of topics that show the California of the last decade, when the state was sometimes stumbling, sometimes humbled, but, more often, flourishing with its usual panache. From gang violence in Los Angeles to the spectacular rise – and equally spectacular fall – of Silicon Valley, from the Northridge earthquake to the recall of Governor Gray Davis, Starr ranges over myriad facts, anecdotes, news stories, personal impressions, and analyses to explore a time of

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unprecedented upheaval in California. *Coast of Dreams* describes an exceptional diversity of people, cultures, and values; an economy that mirrors the economic state of the nation; a battlefield where industry and the necessities of infrastructure collide with the inherent demands of a unique and stunning natural environment. It explores California politics (including Arnold Schwarzenegger 's election in the 2003 recall), the multifaceted business landscape, and controversial icons such as O. J. Simpson. " Historians of the future, " Starr writes, " will be able to see with more certainty whether or not the period 1990-2003 was not only the end of one California but the beginning of another " ; in the meantime, he gives a picture of the place and time in a book at once sweeping and riveting in its details, deeply informed, engagingly personal, and altogether fascinating.

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California, Wallace Stegner observed, is like the rest of the United States, only more so. Indeed, the Golden State has always seemed to be a place where the hopes and fears of the American dream have been played out in a bigger and bolder way. And no one has done more to capture this epic story than Kevin Starr, in his acclaimed series of gripping social and cultural histories. Now Starr carries his account into the 1930s, when the political extremes that threatened so much of the Depression-ravaged world--fascism and communism--loomed large across the California landscape. In *Endangered Dreams*, Starr paints a portrait that is both detailed and panoramic, offering a vivid look at the personalities and events that shaped a decade of explosive tension. He begins with the rise of radicalism on the Pacific Coast, which erupted when the Great

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Depression swept over California in the 1930s. Starr captures the triumphs and tumult of the great agricultural strikes in the Imperial Valley, the San Joaquin Valley, Stockton, and Salinas, identifying the crucial role played by Communist organizers; he also shows how, after some successes, the Communists disbanded their unions on direct orders of the Comintern in 1935. The highpoint of social conflict, however, was 1934, the year of the coastwide maritime strike, and here Starr's narrative talents are at their best, as he brings to life the astonishing general strike that took control of San Francisco, where workers led by charismatic longshoreman Harry Bridges mounted the barricades to stand off National Guardsmen. That same year socialist Upton Sinclair won the Democratic nomination for governor, and he launched his dramatic End Poverty in California (EPIC) campaign. In the end, however, these

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challenges galvanized the Right in a corporate, legal, and vigilante counterattack that crushed both organized labor and Sinclair. And yet, the Depression also brought out the finest in Californians: state Democrats fought for a local New Deal; California natives helped care for more than a million impoverished migrants through public and private programs; artists movingly documented the impact of the Depression; and an unprecedented program of public works (capped by the Golden Gate Bridge) made the California we know today possible. In capturing the powerful forces that swept the state during the 1930s--radicalism, repression, construction, and artistic expression--Starr weaves an insightful analysis into his narrative fabric. Out of a shattered decade of economic and social dislocation, he constructs a coherent whole and a mirror for understanding our own time.

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This volume deals with the years of World War II and after. In the 1940s California changed from a regional centre into the dominant economic, social and cultural force it has been in America ever since.

A passionate chronicle of the Golden Gate Bridge's construction by a National Humanities Medal-winning historian reveals influences from culture and nature that shaped its development while offering insight into its role as a national symbol of American engineering and innovation.

Examining California's formative years, this innovative study seeks to discover the origins of the California dream and the social,

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psychological, and symbolic impact it has had not only on Californians but also on the rest of the country.

Examines the elements whose confluence defined Southern California including Spanish/Mexican influences, climate, and the rise of Hollywood

What we now call "the good life" first appeared in California during the 1930s. Motels, home trailers, drive-ins, barbecues, beach life and surfing, sports from polo and tennis and golf to mountain climbing and skiing, "sportswear" (a word coined at the time), and sun suits were all a part of the good life--perhaps California's most distinctive influence of the 1930s. In *The Dream Endures*, Kevin Starr shows how the good life prospered in California--in pursuits

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such as film, fiction, leisure, and architecture--and helped to define American culture and society then and for years to come. Starr previously chronicled how Californians absorbed the thousand natural shocks of the Great Depression--unemployment, strikes, Communist agitation, reactionary conspiracies--in *Endangered Dreams*, the fourth volume of his classic history of California. In *The Dream Endures*, Starr reveals the other side of the picture, examining the newly important places where the good life flourished, like Los Angeles (where Hollywood lived), Palm Springs (where Hollywood vacationed), San Diego (where the Navy went), the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena (where Einstein went and changed his view of the universe), and college towns like Berkeley. We read about the rich urban life of San Francisco and Los Angeles, and in newly important communities like Carmel and

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San Simeon, the home of William Randolph Hearst, where, each Thursday afternoon, automobiles packed with Hollywood celebrities would arrive from Southern California for the long weekend at Hearst Castle. The 1930s were the heyday of the Hollywood studios, and Starr brilliantly captures Hollywood films and the society that surrounded the studios. Starr offers an astute discussion of the European refugees who arrived in Hollywood during the period: prominent European film actors and artists and the creative refugees who were drawn to Hollywood and Southern California in these years--Igor Stravinsky, Arnold Schoenberg, Man Ray, Bertolt Brecht, Christopher Isherwood, Aldous Huxley, Thomas Mann, and Franz Werfel. Starr gives a fascinating account of how many of them attempted to recreate their European world in California and how others, like Samuel Goldwyn, provided stories

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and dreams for their adopted nation. Starr reserves his greatest attention and most memorable writing for San Francisco. For Starr, despite the city's beauty and commercial importance, San Francisco's most important achievement was the sense of well-being it conferred on its citizens. It was a city that "magically belonged to everyone." Whether discussing photographers like Edward Weston and Ansel Adams, "hard-boiled fiction" writers, or the new breed of female star--Marlene Dietrich, Jean Harlow, Bette Davis, Carole Lombard, and the improbable Mae West--*The Dream Endures* is a brilliant social and cultural history--in many ways the most far-reaching and important of Starr's California books.