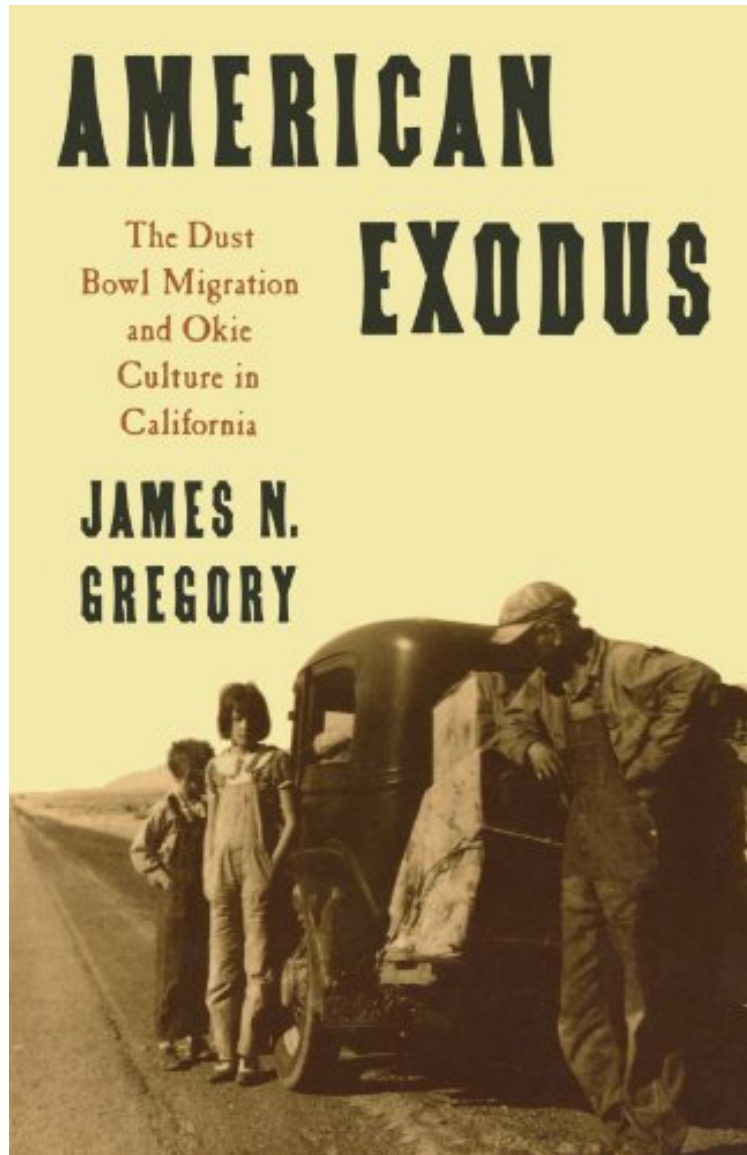


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James N. Gregory

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James N. Gregory : American Exodus: The Dust Bowl Migration and Okie Culture in California before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American Exodus: The Dust Bowl Migration and Okie Culture in California:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. California Here I Come, Yet Again, For A Better LifeBy addictIn the 1930s, the Dust Bowl made migrants of the people of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Texas. In an attempt to seek stability in lives lost to failed farms, they ventured to California to form what is known as the "Okie" subculture, one of many of the state that began as a diverse territory with many subcultures. This very interesting and provocative book kept me reading. Growing up in the California Central Valley, many friends grew up from families who trekked to this state to better themselves. The result: some families struggled and integrated, some did not. Read it and read yet again about the discrimination against people with different accents, religions, political values, and the yearning to belong. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Reality of the Grapes of Wrath!By SylviastelJames E. Gregory's book about the Dust Bowl migration and Okie Culture in California is worth reading about if you're studying California history as well as the migration period during the Great Depression. If you read John Steinbeck's novel, "The Grapes of Wrath," you will find this book to help explain how thousands of families relocated West often to California. You will be surprised to see how well-researched about the Okies culture and life during the tough times. As an American, you will learn about how prejudicial Californians were to the Okies during the Great Depression. The Okies were seen as job stealers when there wasn't enough during the Great Depression. The Okies were also mistreated poorly especially the children. Nobody wanted to be known as an Okie in California. Okies were seen as poor, uneducated, filthy, and inferior to Californians. Each chapter in this book focuses on the Okies adapting to life in California and how they were treated and lived in certain areas. The chapter about religion is surprising and eye-opening to the reader. The Okies' vast contributions to the California economy and culture is an important part but dark part of history. The Okies were definitely faced with degrees of prejudice and felt unwanted by the Californians especially during the Great Depression. But as you read, the Okies who went West to California were a tough bunch of families and individuals who wanted to better themselves. They were willing to work hard for a living and felt the sting of being treated like second class citizens among the Natives. Anyway, the book also examines Okie culture like music and cowboys such as Merle Haggard, Woody Guthrie, Buck Owens, Tex Ritter, and others who inspired the country music industry in the West Coast. The Okie culture may live on in California as well. Even though it's been decades since the Dust Bowl and the migration, it is still an important part of California's history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was very happy with my purchaseBy Linda MayoI haven't had a chance to read this yet, but I am looking forward to it. I was very happy with my purchase. Thank you

Fifty years ago, John Steinbeck's now classic novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, captured the epic story of an Oklahoma farm family driven west to California by dust storms, drought, and economic hardship. It was a story that generations of Americans have also come to know through Dorothea Lange's unforgettable photos of migrant families struggling to make a living in Depression-torn California. Now in James N. Gregory's pathbreaking *American Exodus*, there is at last an historical study that moves beyond the fiction and the photographs to uncover the full meaning of these events. *American Exodus* takes us back to the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and the war boom influx of the 1940s to explore the experiences of the more than one million Oklahomans, Arkansans, Texans, and Missourians who sought opportunities in California. Gregory reaches into the migrants' lives to reveal not only their economic trials but also their impact on California's culture and society. He traces the development of an "Okie subculture" that over the years has grown into an essential element in California's cultural landscape. The consequences, however, reach far beyond California. The Dust Bowl migration was part of a larger heartland diaspora that has sent millions of Southerners and rural Midwesterners to the nation's northern and western industrial perimeter. *American Exodus* is the first book to examine the cultural implications of that massive 20th-century population shift. In this rich account of the experiences and impact of these migrant heartlanders, Gregory fills an important gap in recent American social history.

From *Library Journal*A thorough study of the migration of Oklahomans, Arkansans, Texans, and Missourians to California in the years of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. Gregory dispels the popular Okie image built from *The Grapes of Wrath*, placing this unique exodus in economic perspective. He is particularly successful in tracing Okie impact on the San Joaquin Valley, where the Okie twang and culture have taken root to become the Californian. Gregory's prose is conversational, although his narrative lacks the compelling anecdotes that enrich history for the lay reader. This is, nevertheless, an important and necessary work on this period. Recommended.- Timothy L. Zindel, Hastings Coll. of the Law, San FranciscoCopyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. "An important and readable book about one of the significant episodes of the Great Depression. The story is told from multiple points of view and illustrated with a number of striking pictures--some of them not often seen. This book would be useful in a number of different kinds of courses."--William H. Goetzmann, The Univ. of Texas" ...a profoundly impressive book....*American Exodus* is a major contribution to our understanding of regional, cultural, and political history in the United States. It deserves the widest possible readership."--Bill C. Malone, *The Journal of Southern History* "[A] stunning book....The impressive range of source material, from government documents to graffiti to country music to cliometrics is fashioned and reshaped to form a vivid yet subtle portrait of generation of Americans on the move....A masterpiece of reflection, imagination and research, a book that advances our historical understanding, with a narrative skillfully and

vividly told. In sum, a testimony to what the historical profession and history are presumed to be about."--OAH Ray Allen Billington Prize Committee "We have had many other essays and books on the Okie migrants who entered California in the 1930s, but no one has done so comprehensive and masterful a job of telling their history as James Gregory. He has uncovered a vast literature on these people, including their own newspapers and poetry, and he has derived from it a convincing portrait of both their strengths and weaknesses. Best of all, he succeeds in giving them their due. They are, as he reveals, a major 20th-century American subculture, with roots in the Old Southwest and a life that has endured beyond the thirties down to our own time. The Okies must be reckoned with, and this book must be read to understand [them]."--Donald E. Worster, University of Kansas "American Exodus takes us beyond the Dorothea Lange photographs and the Hollywood stereotypes to the heart of that complex story of a plain folk culture transplanted across a continent in the midst of the great depression. In John Steinbeck, the Okie's found their novelist; in Jim Gregory they have found their historian."--Dan T. Carter, Emory University "Clearly the best book that has been written about the Okies."--Roger Daniels, University of Cincinnati "[A] remarkable book....Gregory has a fine ear for music and a fine eye for quotation, and combines these with vigorous social analysis. American Exodus is a fine achievement."--Otis L. Graham, Jr., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill "It will fit in well with my 20th-century California class."--Kathy Olmsted, University of California, Davis

About the Author James N. Gregory is Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Berkeley.