

# CYCLOPAEDIA 9 – WILD WEST

BY T.R. KNIGHT (INNROADS MINISTRIES \* ARTICLE SERIES)

## OVERVIEW

Wild West stories are set primarily in the later half of the 19th century in the American Old West. These Westerns often have an idealized, perhaps mythical view of the Old West and its denizens. Cowboys and gunslingers, big hats and spurs, cowboy boots and buckskins, revolvers and rifles. The stories also focus on Native Americans, outlaws, lawmen, bounty hunters, cavalry, ranchers, and settlers. Even the land of the Wild West has a harshness, often focusing on the arid, desolate landscape of deserts and mountains.

As the real American West was fading, the myths of the Wild West took firm hold in the imagination of Americans and foreigners. Dime novels, live shows like Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and eventually early moving pictures exaggerated the historical facts creating sensational tales the Wild West.

The Western was the most popular genre in Hollywood and American fiction through the early 1960s. Occasionally it sees a resurgence in film, fiction and games.

## WESTERN MOVIE SUBGENRES

Though Westerns are about life and stories of the American West, they have spawned movies produced in other countries. These movies sometimes depict the American West using foreign locations, while other movies have the heroes and villains in other countries but acting as the legendary cowboy.

- Charro Westerns (Mexico)

- Curry Westerns (India)
- Meat Pie Westerns (Australia)
- Red Westerns (Eastern Europe)
- Spaghetti Westerns (Italy)

Some western films even borrowed from samurai films of Japan. The Magnificent Seven was based on The Seven Samurai by the master filmmaker Akira Kurosawa. A Fistful of Dollars was also based on a Japanese samurai film and would become one of the most famous Spaghetti Westerns of all time.

Following are sources of information pertaining to the Wild West to assist prospective game masters, game designers, writers, and storytellers in knowing where to start their research.

## ARTICLES

### ***Chinese Inclusion in the History of the American West***

By Zhu, L.

Source: Journal of the West. 45, no. 1, (2006): 3-7

### ***The Donner Party and the Rhetoric of Westward Expansion***

By Stuckey, Mary E

Source: Rhetoric and Public Affairs, v14 n2 (20110701): 229-2

### ***L.G. Moses's Wild West Shows and the Images of American Indians, 1883-1933***

By Trennert, R A

Source: American Indian Quarterly, 22, no. 4, (1998): 551

## BOOKS

***All The Pretty Horses***

By McCarthy, Cormac

***The Big Sky***

By Guthrie, A.B.

***Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee***

By Brown, Dee

***Butcher's Crossing***

By William, John

***Centennial***

By Michener, James A.

***Cowboys, Mountain Men, and Grizzly Bears: Fifty of the Grittiest Moments In The History Of The Wild West***

By Mayo, Matthew

***Famous Gunfighters of the Western Frontier***

By Masterson, W.B.

***Famous Sheriffs and Western Outlaws***

By Raine, William MacLeod

***Guns of the Wild West***

By Wexler, Bruce

***Hondo***

By L'Amour, Louis

***How the West Was Won***

By L'Amour, Louis

***Legends of the Fall***

By Harrison, Jim

***Little Big Man***

By Berger, Thomas

***Lonesome Dove***

By McMurtry, Larry

***The Longhorns***

By Dobie, Frank

***The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance***

By Johnson, Dorothy

***The Ox-Bow Incident***

By Clark, Walter VAn Tilburg

***Riders of the Purple Sage***

By Grey, Zane

***Shane***

By Schaeffer, Jack

***The Shootist***

By Swarthout, Glendon

***The Sisters Brothers***

By deWitt, Patrick

***Smoky the Cowhorse***

By James, Will

***Tough Towns: True Tales from the Gritty Streets of the Old West***

By Smith, Robert Barr

***True Grit***

By Portis, Charles

***The Virginian: A Horseman of the Plains***

By Wister, Owen

***Wicked Women: Notorious, Mischievous, and Wayward Ladies from the Old West***

By Enss, Chris

## GAMES

*Aces & Eights* - RPG  
*Aces High* - RPG  
*Bang* - Tabletop Game  
*Boomtown* - Tabletop Game  
*Boot Hill* - RPG  
*Bountytown* - Tabletop Game  
*Call of Juarez: Bound in Blood* - Computer Game  
*Carson City* - Tabletop Game  
*Colt Express* - Tabletop Game  
*Cowboys* - Tabletop Game  
*Dark Horse* - Tabletop Game  
*Deadlands: The Weird West* - RPG  
*Deadlands: Doomtowntown* - Tabletop Game  
*Deadwood* - Tabletop Game  
*Doomtown: Reloaded* - Tabletop Game  
*Dicetown* - Tabletop Game  
*Far West* - RPG  
*Flick'em Up* - Tabletop Game  
*Gold West* - Tabletop Game  
*Grimslingers* - Tabletop Game  
*Gun* - Computer Game  
*Gunslinger* - Tabletop Game  
*Gun.Smoke* - Computer Game  
*High Noon Saloon* - Tabletop Game  
*Homesteaders* - Tabletop Game  
*Longhorn* - Tabletop Game  
*Lost Valley* - Tabletop Game  
*Mad Dog McCree* - Computer Game  
*The Oregon Trail* - Computer Game  
*Outlaw* - Computer Game  
*Outlaws* - Computer Game  
*Pony Express* - Tabletop Game  
*Red Dead Redemption* - Computer Game  
*Red Dead Revolver* - Computer Game  
*Red Steel 2* - Computer Game  
*Revolver* - Tabletop Game  
*Shadows of Brimstone* - Tabletop Game  
*Six-Guns & Sorcery* - RPG  
*Spellslinger* - RPG

*Spurs* - Tabletop Game  
*Sunset Riders* - Computer Game  
*Way Out West* - Tabletop Game  
*Werewolf: The Wild West* - RPG  
*Western Hero* - RPG  
*Wild Arms* - Computer Game  
*Wild Fun West* - Tabletop Game  
*Wyatt Earp* - Tabletop Game

## CINEMA

*Adventures of Brisco County, Jr.* - TV Show  
*The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin* - TV Show  
*Back to the Future Part III*  
*The Big Valley* - TV Show  
*Blazing Saddles*  
*Bonanza* - TV Show  
*Brave Starr* - Cartoon  
*Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show* - Live Shows  
*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*  
*The Cisco Kid* - TV Show  
*Cowboys & Aliens*  
*Dances with Wolves*  
*Daniel Boone* - TV Show  
*Deadwood* - TV Show  
*Django*  
*Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* - TV Show  
*A Fistful of Dollars*  
*Firefly* - TV Show  
*F Troop* - TV Show  
*For A Few Dollars More*  
*The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*  
*Gunsmoke* - TV Show  
*Have Gun - Will Travel* - TV Show  
*Hidalgo*  
*High Noon*  
*The High Chaparral* - TV Show  
*How the West was Won* - TV Show  
*Jonah Hex*  
*Kung Fu* - TV Show  
*Legends of the Fall*

*Lone Ranger* - TV Show  
*Lonesome Dove* – Movie/TV Show  
*The Magnificent Seven* - TV Show  
*The Man from Snowy River*  
*The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*  
*The Mask of Zorro/The Legend of Zorro*  
*Maverick* – Movie/TV Show  
*McCabe and Mrs. Miller*  
*McLintock!*  
*One Upon a Time in the West*  
*Open Range*  
*The Outlaw Josey Wales*  
*The Ox-Bow Incident*  
*The Quick and the Dead*  
*Quigley Down Under*  
*Rango*  
*Rawhide* - TV Show  
*The Rifleman* - TV Show  
*Rio Bravo*  
*The Roy Rogers Show* - TV Show  
*The Searchers*  
*Shane*  
*Shanghai Noon/Shanghai Knights*  
*The Shootist*  
*Silverado*  
*Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*  
*Support Your Local Gunfighter/Sheriff*  
*They Call Me Trinity*  
*Tombstone*  
*Trigun* - Anime  
*The Virginian* - TV Show  
*True Grit*  
*Unforgiven*  
*Wagon Train* - TV Show  
*Wanted: Dead or Alive* - TV Show  
*Westworld*  
*The Wild Bunch*  
*Wild Wild West* – Movie/TV Show  
*Wyatt Earp*  
*The Young Riders* - TV Show  
*Young Guns*  
*Zorro* - TV Show

## LOCATIONS

Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave  
<http://www.buffalobill.org/>

National Annie Oakley Center  
<http://www.garstmuseum.org/>

National Cowboy & Western Heritage  
Museum  
<http://nationalcowboymuseum.org/>

National Museum of the American Indian  
<http://nmai.si.edu/>

## PEOPLE

Gene Autry  
Billy the Kid  
Christopher Houston 'Kit' Carson  
Butch Cassidy  
Buffalo Bill Cody  
Samuel Colt  
John Henry 'Doc' Holliday  
Wyatt Earp  
Clint Eastwood  
Geronimo  
Zane Grey  
Wild Bill Hickok  
Jesse James  
Louis L'Amour  
Sergio Leone  
Clayton Moore  
Ennio Morricone  
Annie Oakley  
Riders in the Sky  
Roy Rogers  
Will Rogers  
Belle Starr  
The Sundance Kid  
John Wayne