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this successful western history version of the popular discovering series provides a broad range of both visual and written sources within a unique pedagogical framework its unique structure promotes critical thinking sharpens analytical skills and builds student interest in the subject matter the text emphasizes historical study as interpretation rather than memorization of data with actual documents and artifacts from which students develop answers to historical questions

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the western american landscape has always had great significance in american thinking requiring an unlikely union between frontier mythology and the reality of a fragile western environment additionally it has borne the burden of being a gendered space seen by some as the traditional virgin land of the explorers and pioneers subject to masculine desires and by others as a masculine space in which the feminine is neither desired nor appreciated both wallace stegner and cormac mccarthy focus on this landscape and environment its spiritual narrative symbolic imaginative and ideological force is central to their work in this study mcgilchrist shows how their various treatments of these issues relate to the social climates pre and post vietnam era in which they were written and how despite historical discontinuities both stegner and mccarthy reveal a similar unease about the effects of the myth of the frontier on american thought and life the gendering of the landscape is revealed as indicative of the attempts to deny the failure of the myth and to force the often numinous western landscape into parameters which will never contain it stegner s pre vietnam sensibility allows the natural world to emerge tentatively triumphant from the ruins of frontier mythology whereas mccarthy s conclusions suggest a darker future for the west in particular and america in general however mcgilchrist suggests that the conclusion of mccarthy s border trilogy upon which her arguments regarding mccarthy are largely based offers a gleam of hope in its final conclusion of acceptance of the feminine

this supplemental text designed for use in any western civilization course explores historical material using the discovery approach which presents students with a series of historical problems and the evidence they can use to analyze and solve these problems each chapter follows a six step system that allows students to follow a scholarly historical investigation from beginning to end

although the history of the family was long ignored by serious scholars research has flourished in recent decades and this new field of study has told us much more than we knew even thirty years ago in the process many myths about what life was like two or three centuries ago have been debunked for example contrary to popular belief we now know that most women in the preindustrial west did not marry before they were twenty five most households consisted of no more than four or five people usually including unrelated young people working as servants and perhaps most surprising of all multi generational households were not very common this timely synthesis of a vast and complex literature makes accessible to general readers the story of the family in the preindustrial western world pulling together much fascinating information beatrice gottlieb presents every aspect of a rich subject with clarity and fairness her generously illustrated book deals with the households of the wealthy and the poor courtship and marriage the care and training of children and the bonds and strains of kinship the matter of inheritance receives special attention as it played a substantial role in a world permeated by rank and status and its importance gave the family a peculiar social and economic significance the book also deals with ideas about the family and the values it embodied as gottlieb says what you and i usually mean when we say family is something that comes to us from the nineteenth century not from time immemorial she makes the point that the so called traditional world before the industrial revolution was awash in traditions that collided with each other marriage for example appeared to many as natural and inevitable to others as burdensome and repellant and while both medical and religious authorities always strongly advised mothers to nurse their children upper class women almost never did instead using lower class wet nurses the famous people and events of history make brief walk on appearances in this book henry viii s divorce louis xiv s mistresses benjamin franklin s apprenticeship to his brother mary wollstonecraft s death in childbirth but the author s emphasis is on the more ordinary people whose everyday lives strike a responsive chord in all of us this remarkable eminently readable work brings to vivid life the wives and husbands servants and masters children and parents of a not too distant past

this engaging text offers a brief readable description of our common western heritage providing a tightly focused narrative and interpretive structure brian a pavlac covers the basic historical information that all educated adults should know his joined terms supremacies and diversities develop major themes of conflict and creativity throughout history the text is also informed by five other topical themes technological innovation

migration and conquest political and economic decision making church and state and disputes about the meaning of life written with flair this easily accessible yet deeply knowledgeable text provides all the essentials for a course on western civilization

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