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Panama 1914: The Early Years Of The Big Dig



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Synopsis

Join this great voyage through the history of the Panama Canal, which is, one hundred years after its completion, on the eve of a new chapter in its spectacular history. From the early explorers, many seeking a critical water connection between two of the world’s great oceans to the determination of the best engineers of America, the BIG DIG finally opened for shipping - you can be on board! What stood in the way of making this canal a reality? Dense jungle, bottomless swamps, snakes and wild animals, endless mountain slides, vicious mosquito borne illnesses, hostile Indians, marauding pirates and buccaneers, and jealous colonial-era world powers, just to name a few. The story of the Panama Canal is told in this audiobook through the original news reports of the day along with the construction efforts, that appeared in many publications. In addition, the detailed chronicles of veteran newspaperman Logan Marshall have been restored, edited and abridged by the author. The story told so well one hundred years ago has been newly enhanced, researched and the verbiage brought up to date. Panama 1914 provides the reader with a full understanding of the aborted tries, the competing routes, and the lambasting of President Teddy Roosevelt at the hands of the press as well as interesting anecdotes of history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Quick OverviewThis is a volume that is indispensable for any historian interested in the Panama Canal, Central America, or of an emerging international, some will say Empire-minded, United States of America, led by Teddy Roosevelt.Length: Print, 298 pages.Target Audience/Genre: This is a history of the Central American region from Balboa up through the construction of the Panama

Canal.Q - Is this book also available at Audible?A - Yes, the length is 9 hours, 52 minutes and costs only $1.99. I recommend purchasing the Kindle version with Whispersync.Q - How was this book obtained?A - I bought it at and added the Whispersync Audible version.Q - Is this a book that I can read without having to read others first?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Yes.Q - Are there a lot of typos/misspellings, grammatical errors or other editing failures?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ No.Q - Is this a fast, easy read or is it more of a leisure read?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Panama 1914 is a leisure tome of tantalizing history.Q - What sort of language does this writer use to amplify the points made?A ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â œ Plain English.Q - What age group is this suitable for?A - Suitable for all audiences 12 years of age and older.Q - My biggest pleasure or disappointment?A - Fascinating insight not merely into how the canal was built, but at how politics and greed played a major part. Sad to learn how many Chinese committed suicide, which is something I never heard about.IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve included a small excerpt below, so readers can peruse the style of presentation utilized by the author.EXCERPTCONTROL OF LAKE NICARAGUA A SERIOUS PROBLEMBy the dam on the lower San Juan River the channel of the present stream would be transformed into an arm of the lake, maintained sensibly at the same level, and through this arm all shipping must pass, the depth of water depending wholly on the stand of the lake. This stand is now subject to a natural oscillation of about 13 feet.Under the projected conditions the entire outflow must pass over the dam at a distance of 50 miles from the main lake, and if the level is allowed to rise above the present high water stand, valuable lands under cultivation on the west shore of the lake would be flooded and claims for damages would result.On the other hand, the bed of the river is crossed by many ledges of rock, and the cost of excavation fixes a limit to the depth economically practicable.The level of the lake must be held approximately between 111 feet and 104 feet above tide and the bed of the present river must be excavated sufficiently to afford a sailing depth of 35 feet at all times. But the records establish that years of high lake and years of low lake follow in no regular succession.As it is impossible to provide a reserve sufficient to control the level of an immense body of water 3,000 square miles in extent, the regulation of this vital element must be left to the foresight and good judgment of the operator controlling the outflow of the dam.Carelessness or bad judgment on the part of the operator at the dam, or an abnormal season, might therefore involve the stoppage of traffic for an indefinite period.A really desirable canal should be subject to no such contingency.The Nicaragua route shows some savings in distances between important shipping points as measured upon the map, but these would almost certainly be made up for by the much shorter time of passage through the Panama Canal.It must be borne in mind that the decision of the Isthmian Canal Commission in favor of Nicaragua was prompted by the price asked by the

Company for its interests in the Panama enterprise and that decision was promptly reversed as soon as the Commission’s estimate was accepted. As the cost of constructing and maintaining the respective waterways was...Bottom Line:For anyone interested in history or in international relations, Panama 1914 is a must have. The writing is excellent, and provides a priceless insight in commerce and business as it was practiced in America as the 20th Century dawned upon an emerging America (led by Teddy Roosevelt) willing to flex its muscles. Whatever the political leanings of the reader, this is one great read - and studded with terrific editorial cartoons.Comments regarding your opinion of this book or of my review, whether favorable or unfavorable, are always welcome. If you buy the book based on my review and become disappointed, especially, I do want to know that and I want to understand how I can improve as a book reviewer. Just please be polite.Thank you.

Lots of stimulating accounts regarding the hardships experienced by earlier visitors to the area such as the devastating diseases that effectively wiped out the Scottish colony led by William Paterson in the DariÃƒÂ©n Province and the numerous episodes of suicides by distraught Chinese workers attempting to forge the first railroad across the Isthmus of Panama. I also enjoyed learning of the golden artifacts found in the ancient graves of Chirqui as well as the courageous efforts by doctors and soldiers alike in their battle against malaria, bubonic plague, yellow fever, etc. by risking life & limb exposing themselves to contaminated clothing and bedding of the deceased to uncover ways to combat the diseases. Excellent photos/illustrations in greater numbers toward the final third of the book only added to my enjoyment so definitely have to say this was a rewarding book especially if you’re a history buff and are wanting to learn more about the Panama Canal. Very good book!

A fantastic, historic look at how the Panama Canal was built. Ken Rossignol has pieced together newspaper editorials and a plethora of articles on the subject of the canal, dating back several years before 1914, to when the original plans, arguments, and questions first arose about making a slice through land, disconnecting two continents forever..."An interoceanic canal was recommended as the only means of connection of the oceans that could adequately meet the future demands of commerce."- Panama 1914I love how the book covers the full story of the Panama Canal -- from the financial, governmental and legal angles, to the gritty, humanized angles about local issues -- disease (yellow fever, malaria), food supplies -- and how who got chosen to be hired as canal workers. Plus there’s a lot of good photos alongside the documents to help you better visualize what it was like building the canal over a hundred years ago.The way that Rossignol doesn’t write about

the history, but shares the history itself with you is a unique approach; it makes the reader feel like they're getting to research and discover history from its original form, directly from the eyes of the people who lived it! It's a good read!And for a history book, the ending nabbed me. It set me into a fit of laughter -- just you wait.

So much interesting information that really let the reader know how much danger and hard work was involved in creating that mammoth canal. The dangers were real and the cost was extremely high. In money, in lives and livelihood.I loved the real accounts of the event. There are so much history and newsworthy times. The photos and illustrations were such a lovely feature of the book.The newspaper accounts that are shared in the book showed just what an important and huge event this was.Advertisers even included the building project in their ads. It was on everyone's mind. I really enjoyed learning all these facts. The way it was written was very engaging. As a lover of history, I was in heaven reading this.Everyone that loves history should read this book.

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