The American frontier, also known as the Old West or the Wild West, includes the geography, history, folklore, and cultural expression of life in the forward wave of American expansion that began with European colonial settlements in the early 17th century and ended with the admission of the last few territories as states in 1912. This era of massive migration and settlement was particularly encouraged by President Thomas Jefferson following the Louisiana Purchase, giving rise to the expansionist. This book is the Old West as it should have been—a liberally tinged with romance and heroics. But there’s little need to stray from the truth. Nearly every Hollywood myth has its counterpart in history. Life on the frontier. A legend in its own time, the American West enthralled the 19th-century world. Popular fiction, newspaper stories, Wild West shows, and paintings portrayed a mysterious, romantic West of larger-than-life heroes, dashing villains, and thrilling dangers. The reality was both more and less than the legend. Thousands carved new lives for themselves in the West—some found the vast riches and adventure they dreamed of. Life on the frontier. Contents. The lure of adventure and riches brought men west. Some had dreams of a qu... The author draws on contemporary documents to characterize the lives of men in the American West, driven by dreams of riches, adventure, opportunity, or by simple restlessness that took them to where lawlessness prevailed and men outnumbered women seven to one. The breadth of her subject means that she can touch only lightly on any area of interest (mountain men, pioneers, miners, gamblers, lawmen, outlaws, cowboys, the military). The editorial reviews above sum up the content of this book nicely.