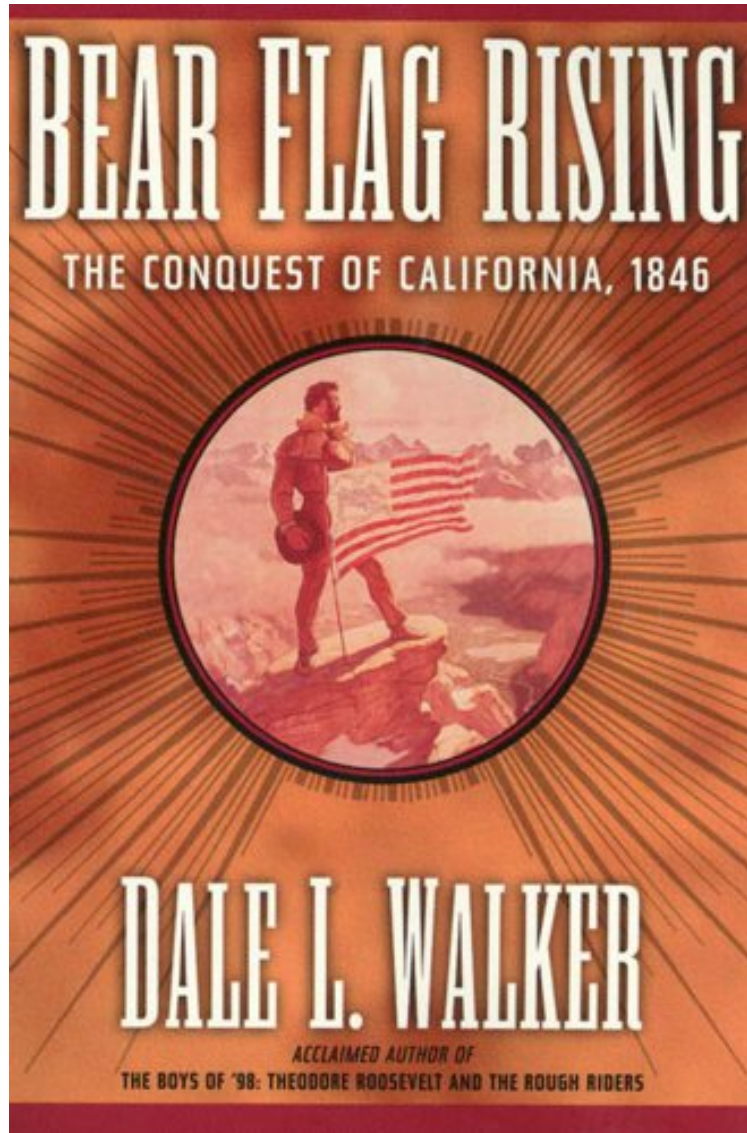


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## Bear Flag Rising: The Conquest of California, 1846

*Von Dale L. Walker*

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**Von Dale L. Walker : Bear Flag Rising: The Conquest of California, 1846** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bear Flag Rising: The Conquest of California, 1846:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The finest history of the conquest of California Von Ein Kunde This book merits six stars, not five. It will surely become the standard work on the conquest of California. I was able to read it in advance of publication, and want to share my enthusiasm for it. Dale L. Walker is one of the finest nonacademic historians writing in our times. His genius is manifest throughout this work. One aspect is his gift of portraiture. He gives us unforgettable pictures of the tough

martinet Stephen Watts Kearny, the star-crossed and ambitious Army map-maker John C. Fremont, and the wily and well-connected Robert Stockton, whose own ambitions burned fiercely in California. Another of Walker's gifts is research. He has provided us with so much new material, and has unearthed so many obscure facts that help explain the mysteries of the conquest, that this book will be a powerful clarifying force in our understanding of what happened there. He does not neglect the lesser figures, either, such as Kit Carson, and that magnificent Californio, General Mariano Vallejo. He writes with such ease and clarity and lucidity, and with such storytelling gifts, that this book invites a look at every page, and will enthrall people of all sorts. I give it the highest recommendation that I am capable of giving.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Satisfying Popular History Von James Gallen I started reading "Bear Flag Rising" in preparation for a trip to California. I was hoping to gain an understanding of the events which occurred as California moved from a Mexican to American territory. At its end I was very satisfied. This is definitely popular history, not an academic tome. The facts are related without a lot of depth or analysis. Many quotations from other histories are included, suggesting that the information is primarily derived from secondary sources. Although I was disappointed while reading the early pages, my appreciation of the book grew rapidly. The story of the Conquest of California is an interesting one, more for the infighting among the Americans than the fight against the Mexicans. The "Bear Flag Republic" took its name from the flag adopted by a group of American settlers who declared Californian independence from Mexico and then enforced their declaration by the capture of Sonoma under a flag bearing the image of a California bear. The three main individual characters in the story are Lt. Col. John C. Fremont, Commodore Robert Stockton and Gen. Stephen Kearney. Fremont, The Pathfinder, son-in-law of Sen. Thomas Hart Benton, arrived on the scene at the head of a team of Topographical Engineers. Assuming command of the Bear Flag rebels, he organized them into the "California Battalion" and led them throughout the conflict. Commodore Robert Stockton assumed command of the Navy's Pacific Squadron from Commodore John Sloat who had raised the American flag over Monterey. Stockton then commanded a force of sailors, marines and the Pacific Battalion which accomplished the conquest of the coastal regions of California. The last force to arrive was that of Gen. Stephen Kearney, fresh from the conquest of New Mexico. He arrived in California with about one hundred dragoons and orders from President Polk to establish a government in California. "Bear Flag Rising" reports, with adequate detail, the relatively small scale battles which decided the war in California. It gives a good survey of the California Theatre of the Mexican War, one of three main theatres, along with Gen. Zachary Taylor's campaign south of Texas and Gen. Winfield Scott's march from Vera Cruz to Mexico City. With California secure, a dispute arose over the right to govern California between Stockton, claiming by right of conquest, and Kearney, claiming by right of Presidential appointment. Lt. Col. Fremont's decision to accept orders from Stockton resulted in his court martial at the instigation of Gen. Kearney. All in all, I recommend "Bear Flag Rising" to anyone with an interest in the California campaign of the Mexican War.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Rousing Yarn of California Von B. J. Wilson Bear Flag Rising is as readable a piece of popular history as you will find. Dale Walker gives us entertaining and flawed figures of the time and all their amazing accomplishments. The concept of walking across the Mojave desert is enough to make the average Californian swoon. The book belongs on the bookshelf of all the latter day Californios and immigrants. If any flaw, it is the use by Walker of the term "half-breed" in one description, in his version without the quotes. It is a phrase that is as offensive to native Americans as the "n" word. Just a small thought. All said this is a terrific introduction to the filibustering, flim-flamming, foolish, brave, idealistic participants in California History, from Pio Pico and Jose Alvarado to John C. Fremont and Robert Stockton. It has sent me to read more of Walker.

Kurzbeschreibung Dale L. Walker, historian and author of *Legends and Lies: Great Mysteries of the American West*, takes on the conquest of California in this vivid portrait of America's manifest destiny. *Bear Flag Rising* traces the history of California from the Indians who inhabited the land before the first Europeans saw it through the warfare that would finally leave the province in American hands. The lives of the Californios in tranquil days before the advent of American trappers and the steady decline of the province under Mexico's neglectful rule are brought to life in this epic chronicle. Battles and skirmishes, such as the bitter fight on the San Gabriel River during the march to recapture Los Angeles, are meticulously re-created in all their vicious glory. Above all, *Bear Flag Rising* is rich with the personalities of the conquest--from John Charles Fremont, the ambitious, enigmatic explorer, to Commodore Robert Field Stockton, a wealthy, imperious, and ruthless naval officer, and Stephen Watts Kearny, who made a 2,000-mile overland march from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, annexing New Mexico on the way, and arrived in California to face Mexican lancers in battle. *Bear Flag Rising* reveals, through exacting research and masterful prose, the full story of how Mexico lost California and how this Pacific paradise went on to become "the greatest jewel in the crown of the American Empire." At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

de On June 14, 1846, a band of rebels calling themselves "Osos"--their name inspired by grizzly bears whose "fighting spirit" they admired--gathered in the plaza of Sonoma, California. At dawn that day, they had ridden into the

town and occupied it, forcing the Mexican Colonel Vallejo to surrender. In celebration of their bloodless victory, the rebels fashioned a flag bearing their emblem: a brown bear on a white field, a red stripe along the bottom and a red star in the upper corner, and the words "California Republic"--painted in pokeberry juice. The Osos cheered as the Bear Flag was raised for the first time. Dale L. Walker's *Bear Flag Rising* tells how America wrested California from Mexico, and the events that changed the map of the U.S. more radically than any event after the Louisiana Purchase. Walker enlivens California's already colorful history with capsule biographies of the heroic villains and villainous heroes that populated the area. Notable among these are Commodore Robert Field Stockton and General Stephen Watts Kearny, both ostensibly with the same purpose--to claim California and fulfill America's Manifest Destiny--but with differing methods and goals. Caught between the rival conquerors' enormous egos, celebrated explorer John Charles Fremont ended up with his career (and, possibly, his life) in danger. Thoroughly researched, engagingly written, *Bear Flag Rising* is an excellent addition to the growing list of books on the American West. --Sunny Delaney

*Kurzbeschreibung* Dale L. Walker, historian and author of *Legends and Lies: Great Mysteries of the American West*, takes on the conquest of California in this vivid portrait of America's manifest destiny. *Bear Flag Rising* traces the history of California from the Indians who inhabited the land before the first Europeans saw it through the warfare that would finally leave the province in American hands. The lives of the Californios in tranquil days before the advent of American trappers and the steady decline of the province under Mexico's neglectful rule are brought to life in this epic chronicle. Battles and skirmishes, such as the bitter fight on the San Gabriel River during the march to recapture Los Angeles, are meticulously re-created in all their vicious glory. Above all, *Bear Flag Rising* is rich with the personalities of the conquest--from John Charles Fremont, the ambitious, enigmatic explorer, to Commodore Robert Field Stockton, a wealthy, imperious, and ruthless naval officer, and Stephen Watts Kearny, who made a 2,000-mile overland march from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, annexing New Mexico on the way, and arrived in California to face Mexican lancers in battle. *Bear Flag Rising* reveals, through exacting research and masterful prose, the full story of how Mexico lost California and how this Pacific paradise went on to become "the greatest jewel in the crown of the American Empire." At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.