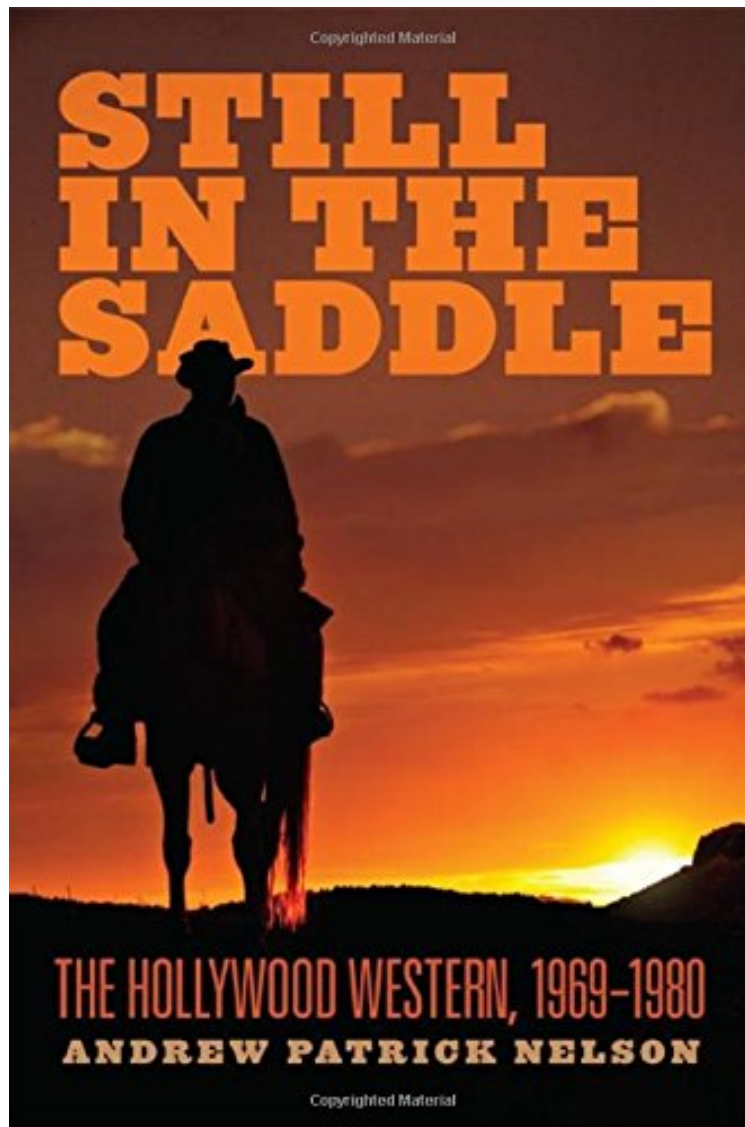


(Ebook pdf) Still in the Saddle: The Hollywood Western, 1969-1980

## Still in the Saddle: The Hollywood Western, 1969-1980

Andrew Patrick Nelson

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**Andrew Patrick Nelson : Still in the Saddle: The Hollywood Western, 1969-1980** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Still in the Saddle: The Hollywood Western, 1969-1980:

By the end of the 1960s, the Hollywood West of Tom Mix, Randolph Scott, and even John Wayne was passing so the story goes. Many film historians and critics have argued that movies portraying a mythic American West gave way to

revisionist films that influential filmmakers such as Sam Peckinpah and Robert Altman made as violent critiques of the Westerns golden years. Yet rumors surrounding the death of the Western have been greatly exaggerated, says film historian Andrew Patrick Nelson. Even as the Wild Bunch and John McCabe rode forth, John Wayne remained the Westerns number one box office draw. How, then, could there have been a revisionist reckoning at a time when the Duke was still in the saddle? In *Still in the Saddle*, Nelson offers readers a new history of the Hollywood Western in the 1970s, a time when filmmakers tried to revive the genre by appealing to a diverse audience that included a new generation of socially conscious viewers. Nelson considers a comprehensive filmography of releases from 1969 to 1980 in light of the visual tropes and narratives developed and reworked in the genre from the 1930s to the present. In so doing, he reveals the complexity of what is probably the most interesting period in Western movie history. His incisive reevaluations of such celebrated (or infamous) films as *The Wild Bunch* and *Heavens Gate* and examinations of dozens of forgotten and neglected Westerns, including the final films of John Wayne, demonstrate that there was more to the 1970s Western than simple revision. Instead, we see not only important connections between canonical and lesser-known films of the period, but also continuities between these and older Westerns. Nelson believes an ongoing, cyclical process of regeneration thus transcends established divisions in the genres history. Among the books currently challenging the prevailing evolutionary account of the Western, *Still in the Saddle* thoroughly revises our understanding of this exciting and misunderstood period in the Westerns history and adds innovatively and substantially to our knowledge of the genre as a whole.

"Andrew Patrick Nelson's thoughtful book...makes the central point that most of the Westerns now regarded as creative breakthroughs (*The Wild Bunch*, *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*) were financial failures, especially when juxtaposed with "traditional" John Wayne Westerns such as *True Grit* and *Big Jake*." Scott Eyman, *True West Magazine*" Andrew Patrick Nelson...tackles a narrow but significant slice of motion picture content and history with an intelligence, understandability and comprehensiveness few other 'film books' are able." Bruce Austin, Professor, School of Communication, Rochester Institute of Technology" A top pick for any fan of the western." California Bookwatch" Nelson's book is thoroughly researched and offers a new look at a large number of films, many heretofore forgotten or neglected. It is a source to consider when looking for a good Western that does not get the recognition it rightfully deserves." Nebraska History" *Still in the Saddle* is a welcome addition to the body of film scholarship dealing with the movie 'oater.'" Western American Literature About the Author Andrew Patrick Nelson, Assistant Professor of Film History and Critical Studies in the School of Film and Photography at Montana State University, Bozeman, is the editor of *Contemporary Westerns: Film and Television* since 1990.