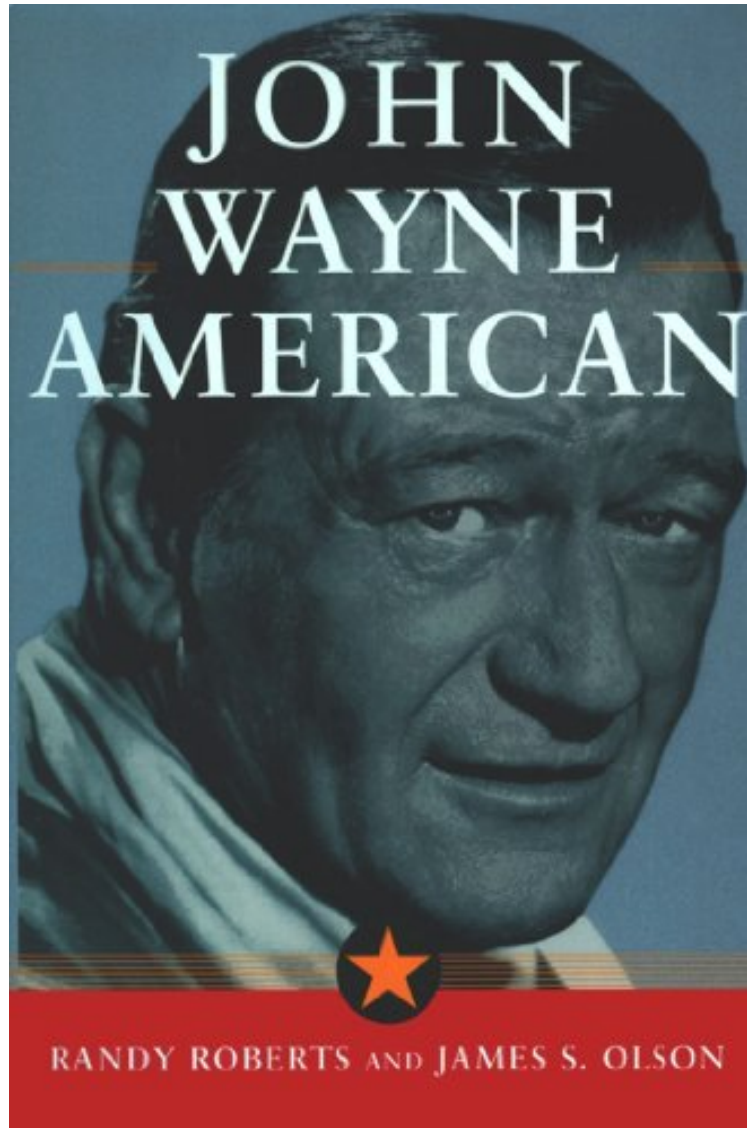


[Mobile book] John Wayne: American: American (English Edition)

## John Wayne: American: American (English Edition)

Von James S. Olson, Randy Roberts

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**Von James S. Olson, Randy Roberts : John Wayne: American: American (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Wayne: American: American (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An excellent look into the personal life of the Duke.Von blhrrt@aol.comOf all the Duke books I have read, this one was perhaps the best at bringing his personal life onto the same level as his professional life. This book was able to combine the two and show the Duke as a hard working professional trying to balance his two different lives, and the

struggles involved. I have always been a Duke fan and this book showed me why. 1 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Duke lives again! Von GammaG21@aol.com Roberts and Olsen have written the definitive book about an American Icon. Not only do they go into who John Wayne was, but they delve into the outside forces that transformed a kid from Winterset Iowa into an American legend! Bravo!

Kurzbeschreibung No American has been more identified with his country than John Wayne. For millions of people from the heartland to the furthest corners of the earth, he simply is America. Wayne virtually defined the role of the cowboy and the soldier, unswervingly playing the gruff man of decency, the hero who would always come through when the chips were down. On-screen -- and off -- Wayne was larger than life. For twenty-five years he dominated at the box office. His popularity both at home and abroad remains higher than any other celebrity of his time. So why have critics and film historians refused to grant him the central importance he deserves? Why has there never before been a serious biography? The answers to these questions reveal much about both Wayne and America. He was highly regarded in the '40s and '50s. As the Cold War progressed, however, critics gradually turned away from him. By the '60s and '70s, Wayne's politics guaranteed that movies like *The Green Berets* would be panned, despite consistent popular success. Now, after the death of both Wayne and communism, it is high time for Randy Roberts and James Olson's reappraisal. Based on over five years of interview and archival research, *John Wayne: American* explains the appeal of Wayne's abiding Americanness. Indeed, we cannot understand America itself without understanding John Wayne. Born in a dyed-in-the-wool Republican town in Iowa, a football star and student leader, and a scholarship boy at USC, Wayne went to Hollywood because it was the truest meritocracy in America, the one place where his lack of wealth and connections could not hurt him. After spending the first decade of his career on Poverty Row, he emerged as a star in *Stagecoach*. But it was during World War II that Wayne -- and America -- emerged as superpowers. Wayne came to politics reluctantly, joining the mainstream of America in its confrontation with communism -- and maintaining his opposition ever since. At heart, however, Wayne was a nonideological conservative. He loved his freedom, his friends, his women, and his booze. He believed in simple justice, and common decency, and he will always be beloved as a result. From Booklist Although John Wayne is arguably the most popular actor in history--he ranked among the top 10 box-office attractions for 25 consecutive years--he's been relatively neglected by film scholars. Prefatorily, Roberts and Olson grind the ax that Wayne has been marginalized by pop-culture elitists because of his political conservatism, which, as they point out, was always "outspoken but nonideological." Yet they provide a balanced, thoroughly researched portrait that traces his career from a lengthy apprenticeship in countless western potboilers through the wartime films that established his character as an American ideal to the later ones that played upon his real-life status as a proud but anachronistic icon. They're particularly insightful about the development of Wayne's distinctive acting style--the halting cadence of his speech, his distinctive walk, and other studied mannerisms. Wayne's movies remain hugely popular 15 years after his death, and indeed, he starred in some of Hollywood's finest films, as those pop-culture elitists will attest; still, this is the first substantive, serious biography of him and, as such, fills a big gap. Gordon Flagg From Library Journal Despite its rather defiant title and a prolog that asks why "critics and historians [have] refused to grant Wayne his deserved spot in the pantheon of Hollywood greats," this is a remarkably nonpartisan biography. The authors, both professors, are neither adept analyzers of the Wayne canon nor stylish writers, but their work's importance lies in its thorough research. Many personal papers and oral histories not available to, or used by, previous Wayne biographers were consulted. Especially revealing are the stories detailing how a man who was a top box-office attraction for nearly a quarter century let several fortunes slip through his fingers by trusting unscrupulous or incompetent managers. This thorough look at one of this country's enduring stars is recommended for all film collections. ?Thomas Wiener, editor, "Satelite Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.