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Review of Santa Fe: History of an Ancient City.

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Santa Fe: History of an Ancient City. Edited by David Grant Noble. Santa Fe, New Mexico: School of American Research Press, 1989. Foreword, introduction, maps, photographs, illustrations, suggested reading, index. xi + 155 pp. \$29.95 cloth, \$16.95 paper.

Without doubt, Santa Fe is one of the most fascinating and enchanting cities in this country. Pueblo Indians, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglo-Americans have created over the past four centuries a rich, diverse culture of endearing mystique.

David Grant Noble, in an anthology written for a general audience, collects essays by New Mexico historians who analyze archaeological, architectural, and documentary sources to construct the story of Santa Fe's history. The opening essay examines the area's archaeological record to give an overview of the city's pre-conquest past. The next three essays focus on the pivotal events and individuals who shaped Santa Fe during the two centuries it served at

the end of the *Camino Real* as Spain's administrative, military, and commercial center on the northern frontier in the New World. Other essays are devoted to the changes brought to the city by Mexican independence, the impact of commerce along the Santa Fe Trail, and the invasion and occupation of Santa Fe by U.S. troops led by General Stephen Kearny. The last essay traces the city's history from 1610 to the present by tracking the changes in the Palace of the Governors, probably the oldest public building in the United States.

By digging into its historical record, the contributors to this slim volume have unearthed Santa Fe's roots. Noble's generous use of a wide variety of maps, sketches, and pictures helps enliven Santa Fe's past. Had Noble included an essay treating contemporary Santa Fe's national and international reputation as a center for art and culture, he would have more fully completed the narrative of this country's oldest capital city.

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