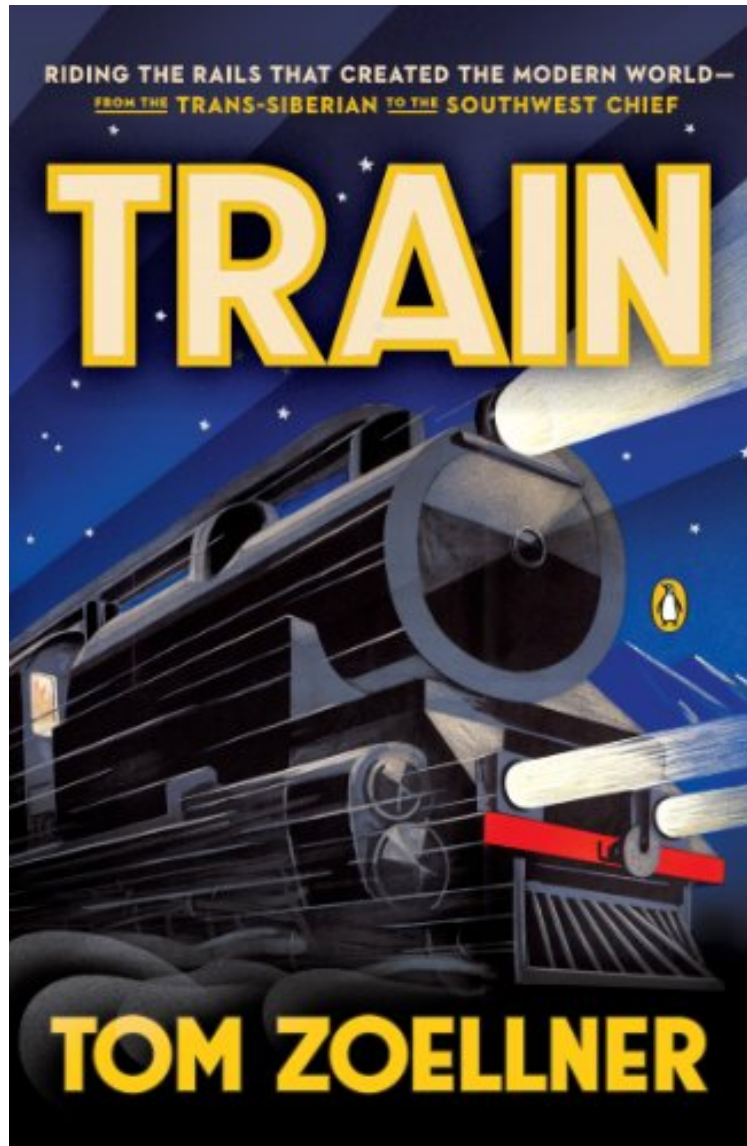


[Ebook free] Train: Riding the Rails That Created the Modern World--from the Trans-Siberian to the Southwest Chief

Train: Riding the Rails That Created the Modern World--from the Trans-Siberian to the Southwest Chief

Tom Zoellner

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#886497 in Books Ingramcontent 2014-10-28 2014-10-28Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.44 x .74 x 5.431, 1.00 #File Name: 0143126342384 pagesTrain Riding the Rails That Created the Modern World From the Trans Siberian to the Southwest Chief | File size: 58.Mb

Tom Zoellner : Train: Riding the Rails That Created the Modern World--from the Trans-Siberian to the Southwest Chief before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Train: Riding the Rails That Created the Modern World--from the Trans-Siberian to the Southwest Chief:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Part travelogue, part history, value in both parts, but be aware it's not
TherouxBy Armando FoxThe author takes us along on his rides of half a dozen world-famous longdistance train trips,
in each case providing the historical context ofthe railroad's role in that country, the
cultural/economic/politicalsignificance of that railroad or of that particular route, and so on.The result is part
travelogue and part history, neither partcomprehensive, but certainly entertaining, especially for fans of
railtravel.Supporting Theroux's assertion that railroads are microcosms of theircountries, part of the interest is that the
journeys could not be moredifferent because of their history and cultural embedding: thetrans-Siberian railway, the
new Chinese high-speed line to Tibet, theIndian Railways, the journey crossing the US from Chicago to LA,
etc.Zoellner pays particular attention to the economic and culturalsignificance of these runs.Without railroads, the
extractive industries that drove colonializationand expansion in the USA, South America, and India would not have
beenpossible, nor would the efficient movement of millions of prisoners toconcentration camps in Nazi Germany; and
the author concludes theChinese have similar aspirations to "colonize" Tibet and therebypermanently end any
discussions of its independence. At the same time,the very trains that were the ultimate symbol of British colonialism
inIndia now represent unprecedented mobility for its masses, and thetrains that served as symbols of white oppression
in the antebellumAmerican South soon became the vehicles that transported free blacks toChicago in search of a new
middle-class life.The author is at his best when he doesn't try to affect Paul Theroux -it's not clear he's found his own
voice, since the historical parts ofthe narrative are written in a quite different voice than the travelogueparts. He should
stick to his natural voice; he's a good writer.Overall enjoyable, but if you're looking specifically for travel writing(as
opposed to a historico-travel collage), Paul Theroux focuses moreon the "human interactions" side of travel (and this
author admits asmuch).2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful In Every WayBy Bill
DolworthWhen Zoellner had to cut short one of his railroad journeys due to circumstances beyond his control, I was
disappointed but not nearly as much as he was. I was expecting this book to be a first hand account of the state of
international railroad lines with colorful places and characters thrown in along the way. This book is certainly good at
that. Many of Zoeller's fellow passengers stories have a bittersweet quality to them.But what was a pleasant surprise
was the wonderfully written history of the rails. The back stories of the movers and shakers as well as the working
grunts was highly entertaining. The author also addresses the social changes brought about by the railroad in ways you
would never imagine (in one country the tracks have literally become a dumping ground). Your enthusiasm for bullet
trains in the U. S. might be tempered after you read about the how costly it is to build high speed rail, the ugliness that
train trestles would present in city environs and the story of how the Northeast Corridor Acela Amtrak line never lived
up to its full potential.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good Railroading ReadBy Joseph G.
LaramieAn enlightening mix of historic overview of the rail lines covered, including political climate, details of the
physical infrastructures (equipment, rails etc), conversations with fellow passengers, employees and management and
travelogue. The. Author gives the reader the best and the worst of each line. I read The book, and then sent three
copies to friends with strong railroading interest.

An epic and revelatory narrative of the most important transportation technology of the modern worldIn his wide-
ranging and entertaining new book, Tom Zoellnercoauthor of the New York Timesbestselling *An Ordinary Man*travels
the globe to tell the story of the sociological and economic impact of the railway technology that transformed the
worldand could very well change it again. From the frigid trans-Siberian railroad to the antiquated Indian Railways to
the Japanese-style bullet trains, Zoellner offers a stirring story of this most indispensable form of travel. A masterful
narrative history, *Train* also explores the sleek elegance of railroads and their hypnotizing rhythms, and explains how
locomotives became living symbols of sex, death, power, and romance.

From BooklistDespite ebbing enthusiasm for passenger rail travel in the U.S. these days, train companies remain
major players in transporting consumer goods from coast to coast. Also, as veteran journalist and unabashed train
fanatic Zoellner emphasizes in this exuberant celebration of these mammoth wheeled machines, both commuters and
businesses overseas are still heavily dependent on trains, especially in countries like China, where rail service
continues to expand almost exponentially. As a convenient excuse for research, Zoellner toured several of the worlds
most notable rail lines, including a north-to-south trek in Britain, a journey up corkscrewing tracks in the Peruvian
Andes, and a jaunt on Russias Trans-Siberian Railway. In between colorful anecdotes from his travels that include
snapshots of contemporary commuters in countries from Scotland to India, Zoellner provides a wealth of fascinating
historical details, such as the mood of astonishment that greeted the first trains in nineteenth-century England and the
grim duty the railroads undertook during both world wars. An absorbing and lively reflection on an enduring marvel of
modern industrial technology. --Carl Hays Praise for*Train*:Tom Zoellner's writing is never less than engaging;
in*Train*he has made himself a veritable Walt Whitman of rail travel. It's a great read.Richard Rhodes,Pulitzer prize-
winning author of*The Making of the Atomic Bomb**Train*is such a pleasure to read, elegant, deeply informed and smart,
full of knowledge-bearing sentences, and prose so companionable and rich in insight that it is as if its author were at
your shoulder, taking you along with him. What an enjoyable journey. I will never hear the far off moan of a train in

the night without thinking of it, and I know of no higher praise one can give a book. Tom Zoellner is quickly making himself a reputation as a man of wide and eclectic interests, and oh, my! Can he write! Richard Bausch, author of *Peace Spirited* and *bighearted*... Zoellner enlightens us about an industry that's hiding in plain sight. *San Francisco Chronicle* Highly entertaining, lucid and perceptive.... It's a train lovers celebration of the great epic story of rail travel itself. *Los Angeles Times* This is one of those all-too-rare books that have so much to them. *The Washington Times* [Train] is a gracefully written, densely detailed meditation of trains past, present and future.... [P]art travelogue, as he rides seven trains that shaped the modern world; part personal memoir, as he describes the people he met along the way; and part history of trains, from their origin to their impact on societies around the world and their vital role in the fast-forward 21st century. *LA Weekly* "An absorbing and lively reflection on an enduring marvel of modern industrial technology." *Booklist* Train makes for fascinating reading. The authors easy, breezy style will keep readers chugging along. *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Zoellner illustrates how the modern era was ushered in and strapped in place by railroads, and how trains the reality and the idea continue to shape the world as we understand it. Train is by turns lyrical, powerful, romantic, transporting, and rich. *Phoenix New Times* "[Train], rich with history and local color, is a mesmerizing read for anyone interested in the impact of trains on the environment, politics, economics, and daily life around the world today." *Library Journal* Enchanting and informative. *New York Post* [Train] is an absorbing round-the-world journey. *BookPage* About the Author Tom Zoellner is the author of five nonfiction books, including *Uranium*, winner of the 2011 American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award, and coauthor of *An Ordinary Man*. He teaches at Chapman University in southern California and lives in Los Angeles.