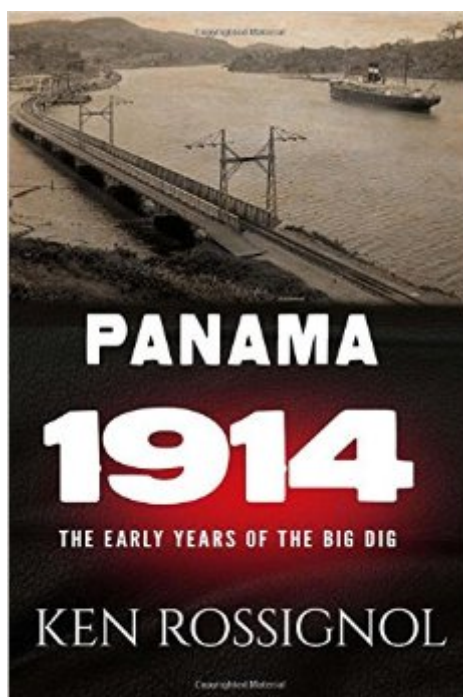


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Panama 1914: The Early Years Of The Big Dig



Synopsis

PANAMA 1914 IS NOW BOARDING! Join this great voyage through the history of the Panama Canal, which is, one hundred years after its completion, on the eve of a new chapter in its spectacular history. From the early explorers, many seeking a critical water connection between two of the world's great oceans to the determination of the best engineers of America, the BIG DIG finally opened for shipping – you can be on board! What stood in the way of making this canal a reality? Dense jungle, bottomless swamps, snakes and wild animals, endless mountain slides, vicious mosquito borne illnesses, hostile Indians, marauding pirates and buccaneers, and jealous colonial-era world powers, just to name a few. The story of the Panama Canal is told in this book through the original news reports of the day along with great photos of the construction efforts, gripping illustrations and editorial cartoons that appeared in many publications. In addition, the detailed chronicles of veteran newspaperman Logan Marshall have been restored, edited and abridged by the author. The story told so well one hundred years ago has been newly enhanced, researched and the verbiage brought up to date. PANAMA 1914 provides the reader with a full understanding of the aborted tries, the competing routes, and the lambasting of President Teddy Roosevelt at the hands of the press as well as interesting anecdotes of history. For instance: learn about the practice of renting gravesites, much like today's storage lockers. What happened when the relatives of the deceased failed to pay the rent? Scotland sent settlers to establish a colony at Panama. What happened? Of eight hundred Chinese workers who arrived to work on the canal and railroad, hundreds committed suicide and all of them either died or left, due to pestilence and turmoil. Why did hundreds of them fling themselves into the ocean? A custom-made \$40,000 Pullman car for a French canal company big shot was only part of the way the funds of investors were squandered in the failed effort that led to the takeover by the United States. What was the real cost to build this spectacular ditch? What happened when the U. S. House of Representatives had to decide whether to build the canal through Panama or plan a trip through Lake Nicaragua? The desperate dash of the USS Oregon to travel the long distance from the west coast around South America to help defend the east coast from a Spanish Armada reportedly heading to attack! That episode helped push the decision to enable America to quickly move ships from one ocean to the other – with the construction of the Panama Canal. Corruption, charges and counter-charges went on for many years after this: in March, 1899, Marshall wrote – "Congress authorized the President to make an exhaustive investigation as to the most practicable and feasible Isthmian route for a canal that should be under the complete control of the United States and the absolute property of the nation". A lobbyist stepped in and the key legislators learned about an explosive potential in

one country which led to a decision being finally made to build the \$375,000,000 water connection between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Step aboard the ship of history and don't forget your mosquito netting.

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Customer Reviews

Politics, pirates, finances, disease, international interests and far more are well organized and presented in this remarkable overview of the challenges, characters, cash, and courage, along with persistence and ingenuity, required to tackle, overcome, and complete the Panama Canal. National interests, great opportunities for graft and greed, and stock manipulation also plagued the construction. It was a huge undertaking with everything on a massive scale and Presidents and world leaders all wanted a part of the action.. The locks themselves were immense, large enough to allow the battleship USS Missouri to move from one ocean to the other during World War II. This is a book that President Jimmy Carter would have been well advised to read in order to appreciate the true depth of his action in giving the Canal away in 1979. Well researched and organized, this is well worth the time for those even modestly interested in a world class achievement which brought about incredible change and continues to benefit the United States..

Lots of stimulating accounts regarding the hardships experienced by earlier visitors to the area such as the devastating diseases that effectively wiped out the Scottish colony led by William Paterson in the Dari  Province and the numerous episodes of suicides by distraught Chinese workers attempting to forge the first railroad across the Isthmus of Panama. I also enjoyed learning of the

golden artifacts found in the ancient graves of Chiriqui as well as the courageous efforts by doctors and soldiers alike in their battle against malaria, bubonic plague, yellow fever, etc. by risking life & limb exposing themselves to contaminated clothing and bedding of the deceased to uncover ways to combat the diseases. Excellent photos/illustrations in greater numbers toward the final third of the book only added to my enjoyment so definitely have to say this was a rewarding book especially if you're a history buff and are wanting to learn more about the Panama Canal. Very good book!

So much interesting information that really let the reader know how much danger and hard work was involved in creating that mammoth canal. The dangers were real and the cost was extremely high. In money, in lives and livelihood. I loved the real accounts of the event. There are so much history and newsworthy times. The photos and illustrations were such a lovely feature of the book. The newspaper accounts that are shared in the book showed just what an important and huge event this was. Advertisers even included the building project in their ads. It was on everyone's mind. I really enjoyed learning all these facts. The way it was written was very engaging. As a lover of history, I was in heaven reading this. Everyone that loves history should read this book.

I have been to Panama and also gone through the Canal. In spite all the speakers I heard, I never learned a small portion of what I learned from Ken Rossignol's book. This book is not for the light reader. I wished for a large map of the area so that I could follow along as the names and countries changed. I recommend it for someone who really enjoys reading about history.

Documentary - very enlightening - never realized all that was involved - it is the story behind the story - the details of the thought, politics and work that went into this great project For me some of the data was overwhelming - for others that may be of interest - but the book itself is worth reading if you like the background story details

Good book by Ken Rossignol. I have only one complaint. I am not sure if the problem was due to the conversion to ebook format or what. The pictures and other graphics included were a bit hard to see on my tablet. Again, these might be easier with the printed version of the book, but I am not sure. I found the rest of the book quite interesting and I learned a lot more about the Panama Canal and its history that I did not know before.

Another great book! Ken Rossignol has done it again! This man has so much knowledge to share,

which I am very grateful for! He gives us insight into the past with such detail, you'd almost believe he had lived through it himself.

A very interesting book on the history of the construction of the Panama Canal, a wonderful framework to understand this time in our history, and the importance of the Panama Canal. As one of the largest construction projects every undertaken by the US to date. The work also covered the politics of the time and some options and competition that were on the table. We are even seeing chatter in the news today (2014) about Nicaragua's canal project - still to this day! Also like the Emboli case in the news this month, the problems with malaria-carrying mosquitos is also brought into perspective in Mr. Rossignols fabulous book. History may not repeat itself, but it sure does rhyme. A very well researched and honest picture is laid out of our history in this book. As in his past books, the author presents a great amount of detailed information, relevant at the time of the Panama Canal Projects conception, and relevant today I feel. I loved reading the news reports from the periods surrounding the formation of the Panama Canal provided a feel for time and firsthand account of these events, the political environment and opinions of the day. I highly recommend this work!

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