



Outlaw Heroes in Myth and History

Graham Seal

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Description

An overview and analysis of the tradition and mythology of the outlaw hero, its origins and its ongoing cultural consequences.

'A wide-ranging account of the compelling power of the outlaw along the borders of history and mythology.'
—*Professor Stephen Knight, University of Cardiff*

'This is a ground-breaking and masterly work. Outlaw heroes and their myths have always been with us, celebrated by the people but often ignored by historians. This book examines the historical phenomenon of the outlaw from a global perspective, and in the process offers a rich insight into the significance of outlaws in society. Formidably researched, it reaches across cultures, gender and generations, from Robin Hood to Ned Kelly, Phoolan Devi and Osama bin Laden.'
—*Dr John McQuilton, University of Wollongong*

Outlaw Heroes in Myth and History is an overview and analysis of the global tradition of the outlaw hero. The mythology and history of the outlaw hero is traced from the Roman Empire to the present, showing how both real and mythic figures have influenced social, political, economic and cultural outcomes in many times and places. The book also looks at the contemporary continuations of the outlaw hero mythology, not only in popular culture and everyday life, but also in the current outbreak of global terrorism.

Readership: This book will be of use to academics of anthropology, history, politics and criminology, and anyone interested in bandits and their effect on contemporary society.

Contents

Preface; 1. Introduction: The Outlawed Hero; Part One: Myths and Histories; 2. Before Robin Hood; 3. Heroic Types; 4. Medieval Marauders; 5. Myth and History; Part Two: Politics and Identities; 6. Contested Frontiers; 7. Troubled Borders; 8. Identities; 9. Kingdoms in Miniature; Part Three: Legends and Commodities; 10. Afterlives; 11. Consuming Outlaws; 12. Lethal Legends; Part Four: The Global Outlaw; 13. The Robin Hood Principle; 14. The Common Good; Notes; Select Bibliography; Index

About the Author

Graham Seal is Professor of Folklore and Director of the Australia-Asia-Pacific Institute at Curtin University, Australia. He received his BA (Hons) in History from the University of New South Wales, Australia, his MA in Folklife Studies at the University of Leeds, UK, and his PhD from Deakin University, Australia. He has a distinguished national profile as a founder of folklore studies in Australia, and is also a leading and widely-cited international authority on the cultural traditions of the hero. He has had a substantial career in university teaching, research and management and previously worked in government publishing and the music industry.

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