



# The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States

*Charles River Editors*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States

*Charles River Editors*

## **The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States** Charles River Editors

\*Includes pictures \*Includes accounts written by newspapers, railroad workers and executives \*Includes a bibliography for further reading \*Includes a table of contents “The necessity that now exists for constructing lines of railroad and telegraphic communication between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of this continent is no longer a question for argument; it is conceded by every one. In order to maintain our present position on the Pacific, we must have some more speedy and direct means of intercourse than is at present afforded by the route through the possessions of a foreign power.” – 1856 report made by the Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad and Telegraph of the U.S. House of Representatives The Transcontinental Railroad, laid across the United States during the 1860s, remains the very epitome of contradiction. On the one hand, it was a triumph of engineering skills over thousands of miles of rough terrain, but on the other hand, it drained the natural resources in those places nearly dry. It “civilized” the American West by making it easier for women and children to travel there, but it dispossessed Native American civilizations that had lived there for generations. It made the careers of many men and destroyed the lives from many others. It was bold and careless, ingenious and cruel, gentle and violent, and it enriched some and bankrupted others. In short, it was the best and worst of 19th century America in action. As settlers pushed west and the Gold Rush brought an influx of Americans to California, the need for something like the Transcontinental Railroad was apparent to the government in the 1850s, and with the help of private companies, government officials conducted all kinds of land surveys in order to plot a course. Of course, even once a route was chosen, the backbreaking work itself had to be done to connect railroad lines across the span of nearly 2,000 miles. This required an incredible amount of manpower, often consisting of unskilled laborers engaging in dangerous work, and the financial resources poured into it were also extreme. J. . O. Wilder, a Central Pacific-Southern Pacific employee, described a typical scene: “The Chinese were as steady, hard-working a set of men as could be found. With the exception of a few whites at the west end of Tunnel No. 6, the laboring force was entirely composed of Chinamen with white foremen and a ‘boss/translator’. A single foreman (often Irish) with a gang of 30 to 40 Chinese men generally constituted the force at work at each end of a tunnel; of these, 12 to 15 men worked on the heading, and the rest on the bottom, removing blasted material. When a gang was small or the men were needed elsewhere, the bottoms were worked with fewer men or stopped so as to keep the headings going.” Ultimately, the project was considered so important that work on it progressed throughout the Civil War, and it took the better part of the 1860s before it was finally completed. Once the railroad was in place, it proved a boon to building up the American West, especially the Southwest and Pacific Northwest in places like Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon and Washington. The Transcontinental Railroad chronicles the construction of the railroad that connected America’s coasts. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Transcontinental Railroad like never before, in no time at all.

 [Download The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Leg ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and L ...pdf](#)



## **Download and Read Free Online The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States Charles River Editors**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Charles Killough:**

In other case, little persons like to read book The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. As long as we know about how is important a book The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, due to the fact from book you can understand everything! From your country until finally foreign or abroad you may be known. About simple point until wonderful thing you could know that. In this era, we are able to open a book or maybe searching by internet system. It is called e-book. You can utilize it when you feel uninterested to go to the library. Let's read.

#### **Susan Ross:**

You could spend your free time to learn this book this book. This The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States is simple to bring you can read it in the park your car, in the beach, train in addition to soon. If you did not have got much space to bring the actual printed book, you can buy often the e-book. It is make you easier to read it. You can save typically the book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

#### **Lori Gravitt:**

You will get this The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States by look at the bookstore or Mall. Merely viewing or reviewing it may to be your solve issue if you get difficulties for your knowledge. Kinds of this book are various. Not only by simply written or printed and also can you enjoy this book simply by e-book. In the modern era similar to now, you just looking by your local mobile phone and searching what their problem. Right now, choose your personal ways to get more information about your book. It is most important to arrange yourself to make your knowledge are still update. Let's try to choose proper ways for you.

#### **Joseph Robison:**

As a college student exactly feel bored to help reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library in order to make summary for some guide, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's soul or real their interest. They just do what the teacher want, like asked to go to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that examining is not important, boring and also can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever we would like. Likewise word says, ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States can make you experience more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States Charles River Editors #X508FGTEVA1**

## **Read The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States by Charles River Editors for online ebook**

The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States by Charles River Editors Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States by Charles River Editors books to read online.

## **Online The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States by Charles River Editors ebook PDF download**

**The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States by Charles River Editors Doc**

**The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States by Charles River Editors Mobipocket**

**The Transcontinental Railroad: The History and Legacy of the First Rail Line Spanning the United States by Charles River Editors EPub**