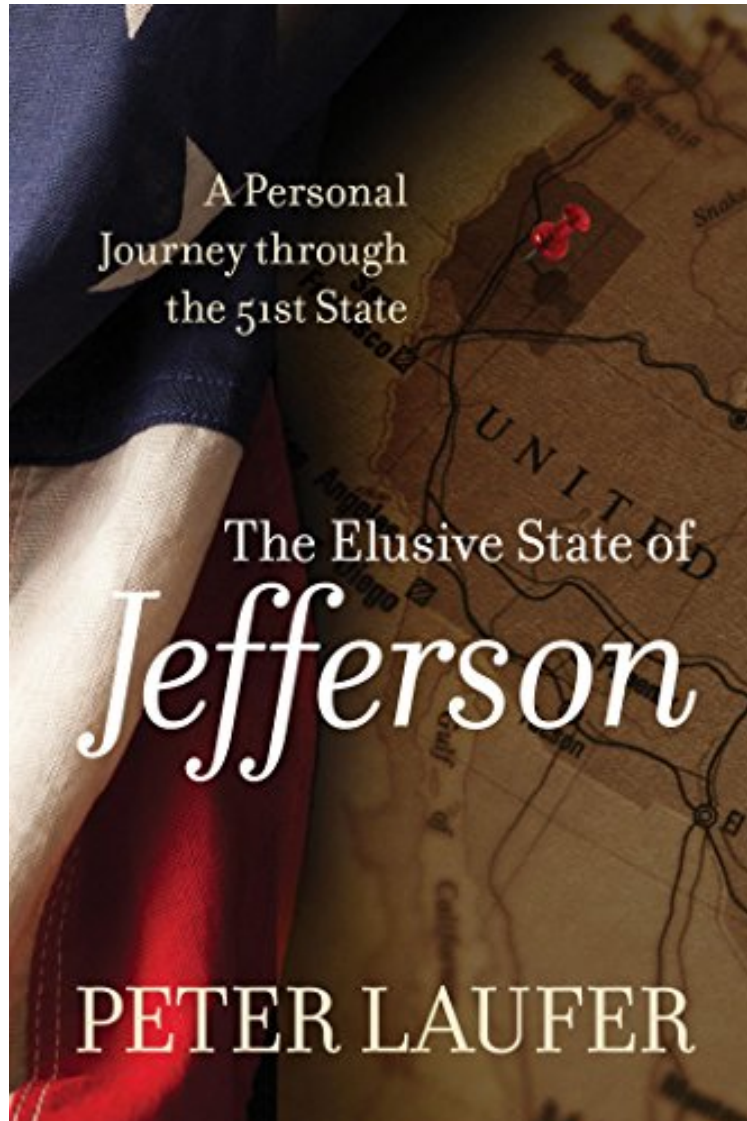


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Elusive State of Jefferson: A Journey through the 51st State

Peter Laufer

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Peter Laufer : Elusive State of Jefferson: A Journey through the 51st State before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elusive State of Jefferson: A Journey through the 51st State:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 51st of the Union: JeffersonBy Jane ZornThis was a book that can really open one's eyes. The 51st state that never was. It proves that if enough people get together and declare their territory a state, it actually may become one!! This one didn't pull through, however, but the trials and tribulations that they go thru on the way tends to lend credence to the fact that it cold possibly happen some day. Interesting book!!2 of 8 people found the following review helpful. It's a keeper !By JoyceI thumbed through it but was unable to read it as I lent it out the same day. They must like it cause I haven't seen it since.1 of 1 people found the following review

helpful. Useless By Wisteria Summer I detected a condescending tone early on, and it only got worse. This author never missed an opportunity to put down or insult anyone involved in the Jefferson movement. How many references to the sheriff's "girth" are really necessary, Mr. Laufer? Are countless details of Mayor Gable's drunkenness terribly relevant in helping readers learn the history of Jefferson? The author seems to believe that secession is a preposterous notion and I wonder if he thinks that The People should simply bow down and obey government, no matter how tyrannical and overreaching it has become. The theme throughout this book is mockery and ridiculousness. If you are seeking valuable and non-biased information on The State of Jefferson, look elsewhere. It's time for 51.

By 1941, a nascent statehood movement began to coalesce into an active and explicit secession campaign seeking to carve from Northern California and Southern Oregon a new State of Jefferson. Yreka, California, home of the secession movement, was named the temporary state capital. Local proponents, Members of the State of Jefferson Citizens Committee, began to stop traffic along Highway 99 at armed roadblocks to pass out political broadsides their Proclamation of Independence. And, in December of that year, Judge John Childs of Crescent City, California, was elected the first Governor of the State of Jefferson. The United States entry into World War II just days later interrupted this growing movement. News of the bombing of Pearl Harbor replaced the planned coverage of Childs election and overshadowed Jeffersonians perceived marginalization with a national sense of unity. But today what often is referred to as the mythical State of Jefferson remains as both an emblem of the north counties frustrations and as a cultural signifier that differentiates the region from the rest of California and the nation. Through interviews with residents and travels through the region, Laufer reveals the story of what could have been and the identity of the region that remains even more than sixty years after the apex of the movement.

Entertaining, lively, and astute, Peter Laufer's journey exposes the varied people and cultures composing the historical, mythical State of Jefferson. With uncanny skill and a sharp eye, he navigates all sides of the issues tearing at this region to ultimately reveal conflicts that resonate with all of us. A timely, sometimes humorous, and always fascinating read. Keith Scribner author of *The Oregon Experiment* and Oregon State University Associate Professor of English and Creative Writing "The Elusive State of Jefferson documents how a news story embellished and abetted by the reporter--went 'viral' long before the Internet. Peter Laufer's book is part history and part travelogue, providing a fascinating account of how the mythical 'State of Jefferson' began and how its spirit is still very much alive today for many who live there." Steve Bass, President, Oregon Public Broadcasting "A lively, vivid, and compelling story about unbridgeable cultures on the rural border between California and Oregon. Laufer reveals how the way we report on events has a profound effect on the events themselves and may, in some cases, create them."-- University of Oregon English and Classics Professor Steven Shankman, UNESCO Chair in Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace