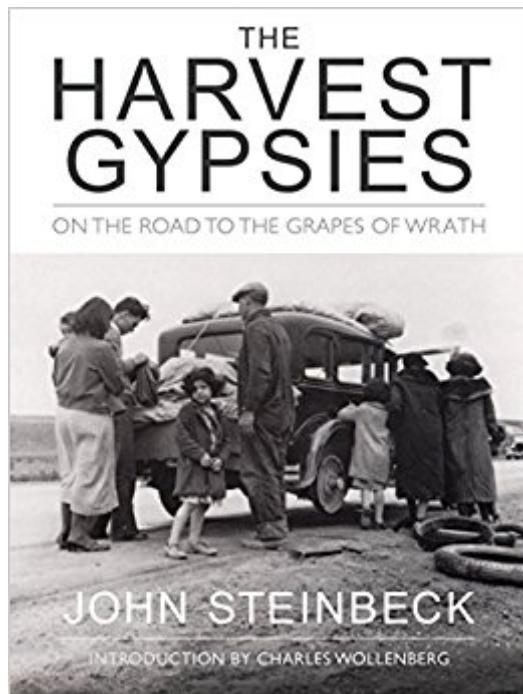


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# The Harvest Gypsies



## **Synopsis**

Selected by NYU as one of the century's best books of American journalismGathered in this volume are seven long-form articles that John Steinbeck wrote in 1936 about the plight of migrant farmworkers during the Dust Bowl, accompanied by photographs by Dorothea Lange and others. Steinbeck toured the squatters' camps and Hoovervilles of California, creating unforgettable portraits of once strong, independent farmers reduced to misery. The inquisitiveness and outrage of an investigative reporter combined with the expressive powers of a novelist in his prime fueled *The Harvest Gypsies*, which in turn furnished the factual and emotional roots for *The Grapes of Wrath* and has long been hailed as an American classic in its own right.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Heyday; New edition edition (July 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1890771619

ISBN-13: 978-1890771614

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.8 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,243 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Business & Money > Economics > Labor & Industrial Relations #10 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Specific Topics > Labor & Industrial Relations #15 in Books > Textbooks > Communication & Journalism > Journalism

## **Customer Reviews**

In 1936, a San Francisco newspaper commissioned Steinbeck to write a week-long series of articles about California's underclass of white migrant farm workers, who became the models and the inspiration for *The Grapes of Wrath*. Reprinted here, Steinbeck's observations of migrant families and of their exploitation by wealthy agriculturists have not lost their potency. And as Wollenberg, a history professor at Vista College, Berkeley, Calif., points out, the plight of the newly destitute and newly homeless has particular relevance today. Steinbeck's journalism shares the enduring quality of his famous novel (but critics of Steinbeck will beware; his heavy-handed style is only slightly less obtrusive here). Especially interesting are the final articles, which analyze the history of California's migrant populations and propose federal programs to alleviate their distress.

Steinbeck's outrage leads to an emotional indictment of then-current farm management as "a system of terrorism that would be unusual in the Fascist nations of the world." Certain to engage students of both American literature and labor history. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

"Steinbeck's journalism shares the enduring quality of his famous novel." --Publishers Weekly"Steinbeck's potent blend of empathy and moral outrage was perfectly matched by the photographs of Dorothea Lange, who had caught the whole saga with her camera--the tents, the jalopies, the bindlestiffs, the pathos and courage of uprooted mothers and children." --San Francisco Review of Books"Contains some of Steinbeck's best journalism." --The Nation"Written in the best tradition of advocacy journalism" Steinbeck moves among the migrants, pen in one hand, fruit pail in the other, alternately picking and penning his way to literary glory." --The Village Voice

News paper articles by Steinbeck from his touring of migrant worker's camps doing research for The Grapes Of Wrath. Prime example of compelling, activist, journalism. Moving and well written. A nice piece of history told first hand. A portrait of the Workers Camps and the anglo agricultural workers in the central valley in the middle of our Great Depression.

A must if you have ever read The Grapes of Wrath. Steinbeck does a great job describing life for agricultural workers in 1930's California.

Steinbeck clearly makes it understandable how harsh life was for the Okie migrant workers in California. There are lessons from this book that all American students, high school and college, should take into consideration when treating fellow Americans.

Part of my family is in this and this is the way I grew up. This is some good reading and tells the story of truth. Must read!

Interesting book by a great writer.

Perfect condition & a great insight to the mind of Steinbeck's Grapes of Wrath Novel

The experiences written by the author were great, telling the truth about the people coming from the east to escape the depression and the lives they lived and lost during that time was a reality.

Its a very good book to read and especially for your college history class.

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