



## The United States of Beer: A Freewheeling History of the All-American Drink

*Dane Huckelbridge*

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From the author of *Bourbon*, “the definitive history” (Sacramento Bee), comes the rollicking and revealing story of beer in America, in the spirit of *Salt or Cod*.

In *The United States of Beer*, Dane Huckelbridge, the author of *Bourbon: A History of the American Spirit*—a Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance bestseller—charts the surprisingly fascinating history of Americans’ relationship with their most popular alcoholic beverage. Huckelbridge shows how beer has evolved along with the country—from a local and regional product (once upon a time every American city has its own brewery and iconic beer brand) to the rise of global mega-brands like Budweiser and Miller that are synonymous with U.S. capitalism.

We learn of George Washington’s failed attempt to brew beer at Mount Vernon with molasses instead of barley, of the 19th century “Beer Barons” like Captain Frederick Pabst, Adolphus Busch, and Joseph Schlitz who revolutionized commercial brewing and built lucrative empires—and the American immigrant experience—and of the advances in brewing and bottling technology that allowed beer to flow in the saloons of the Wild West. Throughout, Huckelbridge draws connections between seemingly remote fragments of the American past, and shares his reports from the frontlines of today’s craft-brewing revolution.

## The United States of Beer: A Freewheeling History of the All-American Drink Details

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## **From Reader Review The United States of Beer: A Freewheeling History of the All-American Drink for online ebook**

### **Mo Coghlan says**

This book gives a fantastic overview of the history of Beer in America and the economic and political causes of its evolution. This book has the most clear, evidenced explanation for the growth of American Lagers that I have ever read.

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### **Mona says**

**TITLE:** The United States of Beer: A Freewheeling History of the All-American Drink

**WHY I CHOSE THIS BOOK:** It met my reading challenge criteria, being connected to the book before it, Health at Every Size, both being about "food" consumption

**REVIEW:** I really don't care about beer all that much. I will drink it from time to time, especially if I get an opportunity to drink something a little bit different. I mainly picked this because it allowed me to continue the flow of my reading challenge. But it turned out to be more interesting than I thought. This history of beer in America went back to Europe since most things really aren't American made. Immigrants (whether they were from England, or Germany or somewhere else) brought their ways to the new world. Once foods, practices and inventions come to the United States, the distinctive America stamp gets put on them - so it is about the history of beer in America. The most surprising "fact" I learned was that the Volstead act, which started prohibition, was an anti-immigrant measure. I put "fact" in quotes because I think this is more the authors theory, although quite a valid one. Makes a lot of sense given our history. The author states that many of the beer companies were started by immigrants especially the most successful companies. They started to have a lot of power and needed to be smacked down. I learned a lot about the elements of beer making and the terminology. Reading this book made me want to have a beer and maybe even make a beer. So that's a good recommendation for it.

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### **Jon Tyler says**

A really great read about the rollicking history of beer in (and out of) the United States. Any beer lover or history buff would enjoy.

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### **Ron S says**

A light, frothy and fairly satisfying look at the history of beer in America. Don't expect a definitive encyclopedia, or much coverage of the craft beer explosion of the last decade though. Author Dane Hucklebridge is also the author of Bourbon: the Definitive History.

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## **Joshua Gentzler says**

Fun read. It centers around the peoples who brought their version of beer to the US (the Germans, Dutch, and English) and traces the beer we drink today back to the styles made in Europe.

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## **David says**

As can be judged by the title, the book is a history of *Beer* in the United States. There are, of course, a few sidetracks to Germany and England. Different regions of the US have different beer histories, and this is discussed.

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## **Matthew Philips says**

A very well-written story of the history of the US in parallel with beer. I really like the concept of starting in the east and moving west as the country expanded with beer's impact along the way. I've read several booze books at this point and I rarely fail to pick up some new piece of info. Keep them coming!

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## **Mjverostko says**

### **Great read.**

Very interesting read. Learned a lot, and always interesting to see how various beverages (beer, rum) have impacted our lives as they change through the times.

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## **Joe says**

This is a very enjoyable read through the history of beer in the US and in the old world. Interesting story about how it progressed across the the country and then in reality back again.

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## **Shawn Dvorak says**

An informal, free-wheeling history of beer making (and drinking) in the United States. More a collection of individual stories, Hucklebridge covers our history region by region as well as through time.

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## **Nathan says**

I'm not sure how truly detailed the book could have gotten, but I thought it was a fantastic overview of the

story of how beer got to where it was in the US of A. Lots of great history on old-world beer origins, too. Learned a lot, and it gives me a better appreciation for how beer and world history are connected.

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### **Tim says**

A fun read! I learned quite a bit about the history of beer in the United States (and beyond). I especially liked the attention paid to different regions throughout the country. I listened to the audiobook, so hearing the descriptions of drinking at a particular bar or getting up during a Yankees game came across a little corny. But I appreciated the personal narrative. An interesting overview of beer's influence throughout American history.

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### **Kevin Payne says**

Entertaining and informative. The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock because they ran out of beer. The importance of beer in the colonial era and in early Britain had to do with the fact that beer was safer than water since the water was boiled. Early beer was very low in alcohol so it could be consumed in relatively large quantities and by children ("small beer"). Many early brewers were women ("alewives") who brewed for the family. American Indians had alcohol including beer but it was mostly consumed during rituals so they weren't ready for the high alcohol beverages that the Europeans spread around.

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### **Steven Peterson says**

This is an enjoyable book. It is sprightly, well written, and the author does not take the subject too seriously. The book is organized around different regions of the country and their predilections and contributions to the evolution of beer. Among regions considered: New England, New York and the Mod-Atlantic, the South, the Midwest, the West, and--finally--the West Coast. Along the way, we get a history of beer, from early origins thousands of years ago. It is fascinating to see the different substances that were used to make beer.

Some things that stand out: The story of Boston Beer Company (producer of Sam Adams as a counterweight to the macrobreweries with their bland product; the story of Anchor Steam in San Francisco and why normal cooling techniques were not used; the Midwest and the dominance of German brewers and their companies--Miller, Busch, Pabst, and Schlitz. And why their beers were so generic--even more so after the end of Prohibition; the decline in competition among breweries in the 20th century--and the increase in competition with microbreweries and more interesting and tasty beers.

Anyhow, an easy and enjoyable read. . . .

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### **Felisa Rosa says**

The title is self-explanatory. I enjoyed that this is a book for beer-lovers and history buffs more than it's a book for beer snobs. Hucklebridge has a knack for picking out interesting facts, stories, and details, and thus manages to weave an engaging history that wouldn't bore or alienate the casual reader. He's a good writer,

though I was occasionally annoyed by questionable syntax and the sort of folksy/hokey turns of phrase that are common to periodicals. (As a writer for periodicals, I'm guilty of the same, so I can hardly rail on him for it.) My only real bone to pick is that I do not know how you can write a history of American beer and only include about 4 pages on the upper Pacific Northwest. Come visit me in Oregon Dane Huckelbridge--I'll show you some real beer.

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