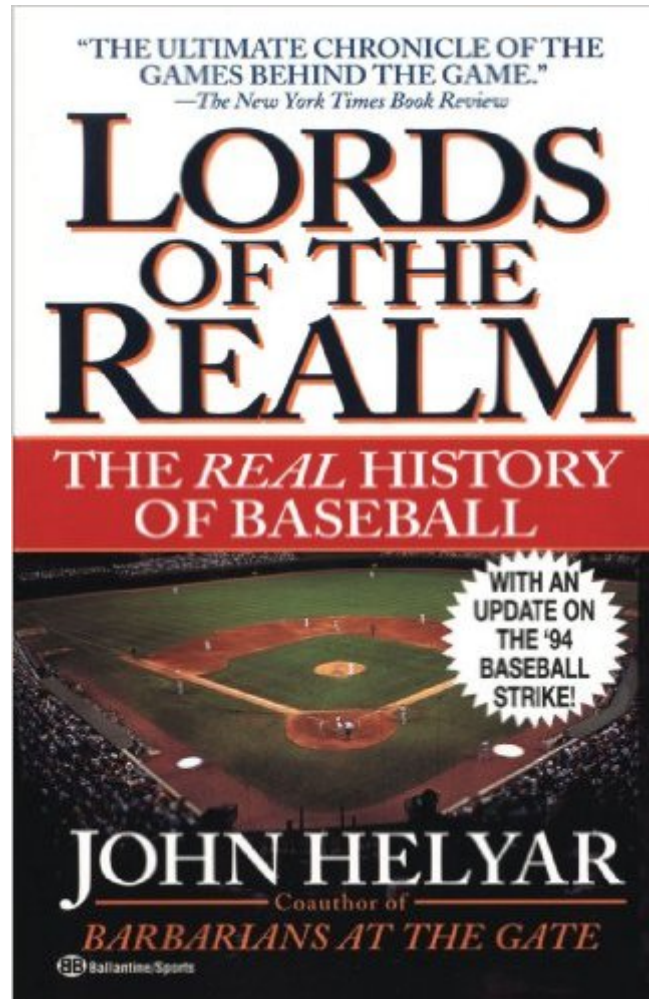


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The Lords Of The Realm: The Real History Of Baseball



Synopsis

Chronicles the history of the baseball business, from the creation of a multimillion-dollar industry, to the despotic owners and the rise of the union, to the relationship of baseball and television. 75,000 first printing. \$75,000 ad/promo. Tour. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

One of my biggest complaints about the sports section of most newspapers these days is that it has more crime and business news than sports. I normally don't like reading about the business of sports, but this book is outstanding. It's a history of labor negotiations through the history of baseball, and exposes the owners as some of the greediest and stupidest people you'll ever read about. Marvin Miller made them all pay for their stupidity, getting exactly what he wanted from his negotiations with them. The book is full of great anecdotes. One of my favorites was when Jimmy Foxx won the American League Triple Crown and they tried to cut his salary the next season, because he hadn't hit as many homers as he did the year before. He actually had to hold out just to get the same pay he made the year before. All baseball fans should read this book.

If you want to know about baseball, this is the one book you MUST read. From the early days of robber-baron owners, to the formation of the most powerful union in the world, this book tells it all in great detail. I cannot recommend it enough to fans of the game as well as anyone interested in the history of business in America. It has been said that to know the history of America, you must know the history of baseball. This book exemplifies that thought. Its out of print, but try as hard as you can

to find a copy. You will not be dissapointed.

Heylar has written a detailed, sometimes complicated, book that fully explains the state of baseball in 2000. Perhaps, some readers will find the narrative slow and plodding but if you are interested in baseball, the rich detail, of the book, that omits no information that would help explain a particular point is most welcome. Heylar weaves the familiar of baseball history such as Cobb, Ruth, Mantle, and the major historic games of the sport with the economics that really drove the game but was kept out of sight until Marvin Miller stepped onto the stage of baseball. The book is valuable and unique because of the coverage of the economic underside of baseball and how the power structure within the game has shifted since the early 1970s. The book is a must read for someone who is interested in the real "history" of baseball.

Helyar's book dives into the long, tumultuous history of the business of baseball. He shows the evolution of the game from a sport completely dominated by the owners to a struggle between the owners and the labor union. Most chapters show an evolution from this standpoint, with a few asides about popular baseball issues during their time (i.e. the suspension of George Steinbrenner and Pete Rose). Lots of interesting tidbits can be found in this book, such as why Dodgers Stadium serves only Miller beer products and how Catfish Hunter got his nickname. One downside is the book is slightly lengthy (over 600 pages), but a large majority of it is relevant, interesting, and easy to read. I strongly recommend this for any fan of baseball.

Maybe one of the best books I have EVER read. If you are a basbeall fan and have NOT read this book, you only know half of the story. This book contains all of the history that explains the present. Get past the dogma of "greedy ballplayers" and understand how baseball got to where it is.

Starts slowly -- the first century of baseball history is covered in just one chapter. May be initially disappointing if the reader expects stirring on-field accounts rather than baseball in the boardroom. But read on to find a fascinating, epic history full of strategy, tactics and colorful characters. Marvin Miller the saint, Peter Ueberroth the genius and Fay Vincent the politically incompetent are just a few who march across its stage. For one thing the owners and labor reps are more intelligent than the jocks out there on the field so their thoughts and reflections are more interesting as well. Overall, one draws the conclusion that no one ever really owned a baseball team to make money, a reflection on the intelligence of the owners. Ironically, the book ends in 1994, just before what we

know now was to be the most incredible labor action of them all, and its subsequent rejuvenation courtesy of Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and the new-style ballparks. A supplementary volume would be great to see.

This is my favorite baseball book. I'm a huge fan of the game, and like the nostalgia aspect of it (the first three innings of Ken Burns baseball are perfect to me), but this book takes you behind the public face of the game. There are plenty of books that focus on individual players, seasons, and teams, but few that focus on baseball from the business and particularly labor aspect of the game. After reading this, you can see why the MLBPA and MLB enjoy relative peace after their epic battles while the other leagues still ride roughshod over their respective unions. It has all the characters that make baseball history so entertaining; Kenesaw Mountain Landis, Bowie Kuhn, Charlie Finley, Marvin Miller... and related interesting stories, Catfish Hunter getting free agency because Charley Finley was sloppy with payments is the most amusing to me. The book is primarily written from a pro-player/labor view point, so if that doesn't appeal to you, this might not be the best read other than that, it holds up.

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