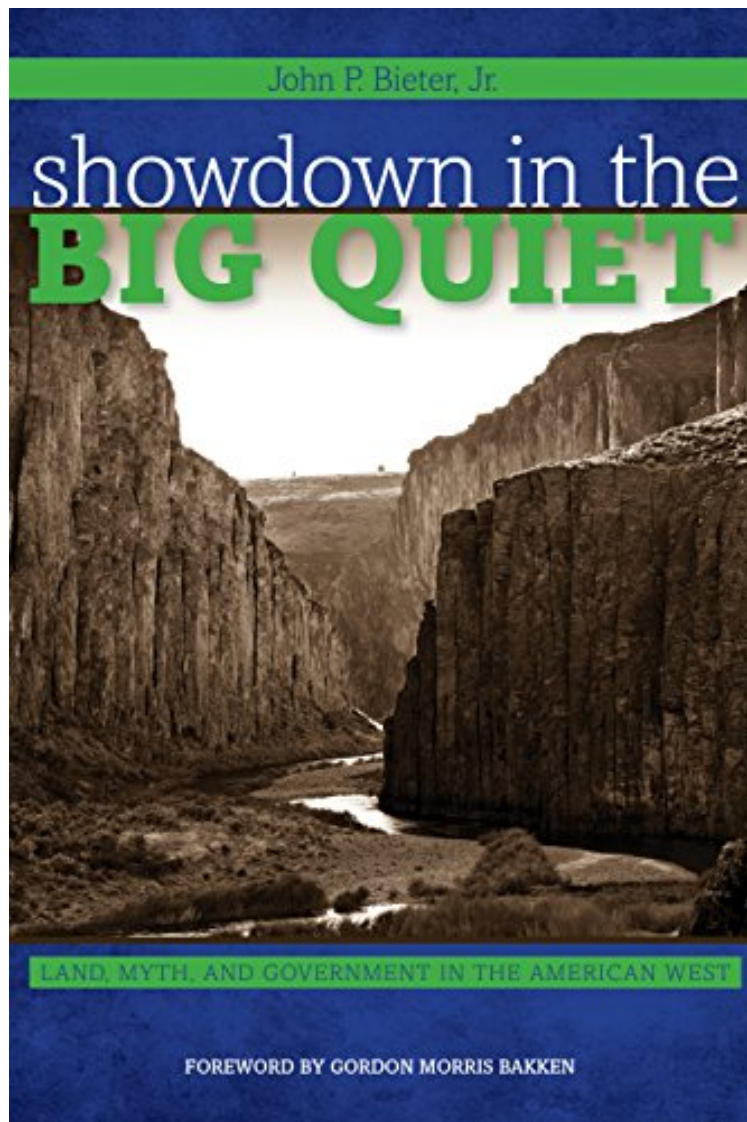


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## Showdown in the Big Quiet: Land, Myth, and Government in the American West (American Liberty and Justice)

*John P. Bieter Jr.*

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**John P. Bieter Jr. : Showdown in the Big Quiet: Land, Myth, and Government in the American West (American Liberty and Justice)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Showdown in the Big Quiet: Land, Myth, and Government in the American West (American Liberty and Justice):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For over 40 years I have annually hunted in Owyhee ...By D. R. Norris  
For over 40 years I have annually hunted in Owyhee County. Along the way I have made some friends. As a read about Owyhee County history this book generates five stars. But Dr. Bieter does not make clear his reason for writing it. He seems to try to make a point about decision making on the American Frontier which he defines as containing less than two souls per acre. And if you ask me what his point is am afraid I have not a clue. And in trying to make his point he has a longish chapter on Claude Dallas. While the history of Mr. Dallas may be found interesting, I fail to see what, if any relevance, it has to do with decision making on the American Frontier. This book will used as footnote material for those future writers who wish to comment on Idaho history. It is well written, but it is bloody expensive for what you get.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Learning something new on every page. Great reading both as an academic book and even "airplane reading"  
By Nina M. Ray  
Granted, I am biased as I personally know and work with the author. And, it is fun to read passages and think, "yep; this is John's style!" But, in addition, as a fellow academic, I am so very impressed with how obviously well researched and written the book is, but also just how readable it is for those who might not be history academics. I have lived in Idaho for 30 years, yet on every page, there is something new I learn about my adopted state and this great area of the country we call the American West.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great product  
By Kenny Millhouse  
Excellent reading and insightful history.

Myth and government clash and collaborate in one of Americas largest and most remote canyonlands Owyhee County, Idaho, also known as the Big Quiet, is the largest and least inhabited area in the lower forty-eight states. Who has decided how to use it? From violent mine wars in the mid-nineteenth century to environmental conservation disputes at the end of the twentieth, people in the West have battled over the role of government and notions of American identity to answer this question. Winners ultimately controlled the perception of their battles, often shaping the contours of the next conflict. Similarly, historians debated interpretations of the West. In the early twentieth century, Frederick Jackson Turner argued that interactions on the frontier formed American characteristics of rugged individualism, democracy, aggression, and innovation. The New Western historians of the late 1970s attempted to debunk this theory, revealing the racial and ethnic diversity of the West, reminding us of the role of the environment, and documenting how settlers and later corporations conquered land wrested away from Native Americans. While New Western historians shot holes in Turners thesis, the myths of the Old West prevailed. People craved the identity offered in western themed novels, films, and tourism more than historical facts. Showdown in the Big Quiet demonstrates how the Old West speaks to the New and proves how the power of western mythology moved from background to central character.

About the Author  
John Bieter is an associate professor of history and co-director of the Center for Basque Studies at Boise State University. He is the author of *An Enduring Legacy: A History of the Basques in Idaho*.