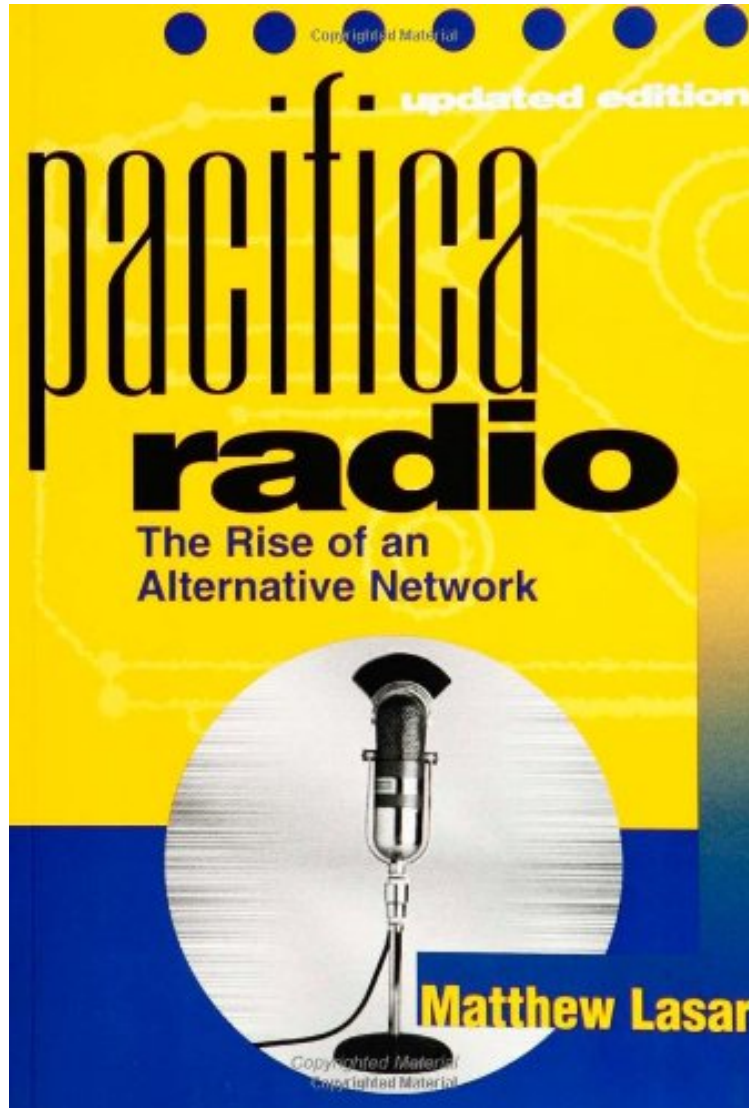


(Mobile ebook) *Pacifica Radio 2E (American Subjects)*

Pacifica Radio 2E (American Subjects)

Matthew Lasar

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Matthew Lasar : Pacifica Radio 2E (American Subjects) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pacifica Radio 2E (American Subjects):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent History of Radio Communications By The Peripatetic Reader This book describes the life and times of Lewis Kimball Hill and his efforts at starting the first listener-sponsored radio network, Pacifica. The Pacifica Foundation, the corporate structure of this radio network, survives today with FM radio markets in Berkeley, Los Angeles, Houston, and New York, and with satellite stations located throughout the United States. In the Age of the Internet, all these Pacifica stations may be streamed online. This book is

an exhaustive, detailed account of the creation and development of the Pacifica Foundation, and its encounters with the administrative and political conflicts, from the beginning through the early 60s. Lasar's account and writing style are at times dense, sometimes painfully so, and the minutia may not interest the general reader. Lasar's book is still worth the read because, not only does it give the reader the flavor of Berkeley in the 1940's -- which incidently was not the hotbed of political activism present in the 60's -- but Lasar's account is a fascinating social history of America and the Bay Area cultural scene in the pre-WWII, and Cold War years which has rarely been seen in such detail. Among others, Lasar describes the pacifist student movements in the 1930s, the development of FM radio from the beginnings, the administrative history of the FCC, the McCarthy years, encounters with HUAC. The world of radio in the 1940s was not unlike today's. Radio stations were supported by advertising revenues, and the content of the programming was dictated by those advertisers. Hill saw the danger and influence the advertisers presented. From the start, Hill conceived of an alternative radio station based entirely on listener contributions and not from advertising revenues. There were also many aspects of American society which concerned Hill. He decried the increasing isolation of society, with families self-enclosed in their nuclear-family residences in suburbia. The move toward the individual, atomized families destroyed, in Hill's estimation, the collective sense of community and cohesiveness which he perceived had existed and was fast becoming extinct. To revive this sense of community Hill sought to include programming encouraged the community voice of locality in which the station was found and feature a broad array of programs which reflected that community. The purpose of Pacifica was to provide a radio forum where those ideas could be heard. Hill profoundly believed that ideas informed society's actions. Hill, having registered as a Conscientious Objector from his Quaker roots and having witnessed the consequences of the Second World War, with like-minded individuals, conceived and developed the Pacifica Foundation to effect real change and promote peace not war. The "Pacific" in Pacifica reflected the principle supporters, ideological and otherwise, of the foundation: pacifists and other political mavericks. Pacifica was created as an alternative to the other radio stations which dominated the airwaves, then and now. The reason the Pacifica stations chose to broadcast over the FM radio band, then in its nascent stage, is that the commercial stations had saturated the AM markets. His account is at times dry, but becomes more interesting when Lasar describes the early programers such as Alan Watts, William Mandell, Pete Seeger, Pauline Kael, members of the early music scene in the Bay Area, such as Phil Lesh, Jerry Garcia and John Forgerty, all of whom started their professional careers at Pacifica. The book has its limitations. His account ends in the mid 60s, so the notable events at Pacifica which followed are not described, such as the George Carlin "Seven-Words-You-Can't-Say-on-Television" lawsuit that went to the Supreme Court and established the standards for offensive speech, the programmer strikes of the mid 70s, and the corporate struggles in the 90s. Some of these themes were explored in Lasar's companion volume. Congressional pressure, lawsuits and inter-office struggles were present in the years covered by Lasar's book, and are characteristically described with the same meticulous detail that pervades in his book. It is not a hagiography for the foundation, however. The faults and blemishes of Hill and the foundation are presented. The corporate in-fighting, bickering and elitism, are there, so it makes for a balanced read of the station. Lasar's book is well worth the read. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Radical Radio By Robbie`Pacifica Radio: The Rise of an Alternative Network' recounts the fifty-year history of the nation's first listener-sponsored and only politically left radio network. A previous reviewer laments the book's `failure' to critique the content and style of Pacifica's present programming. But this book's purpose is deeper and, it seems to me, much more interesting. It follows Pacifica's internal discussions, debates, and internecine battles through fifty years of its staff, board, and activist listener's efforts to maintain an American media institution that is not owned by or beholden to corporations, the government, or wealthy donors and thereby remains free to produce and broadcast challenging and controversial radio. When Pacifica's first station, KPFA, began broadcasting to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1949 it was unlike any radio station before it. Its founders were pacifists and anarchists some of whom had spent time during WWII incarcerated as conscientious objectors. The station's agenda was radical. Its format was groundbreaking. And its means of support (listener-sponsorship) was, at the time, unheard of. Also, in 1949 its audience was tiny. An FM license could be had for little more than the cost of an application because most radios of the day were able to receive only AM signals. KPFA had to distribute FM receivers to its prospective listeners. Today the market value of the five Pacifica stations (in New York, Los Angeles, The San Francisco Bay Area, Houston, and Washington D.C.) approaches half a billion dollars. The dangers posed by McCarthyism, the challenge and promise of the Southern Civil Rights struggle, the intense and tumultuous Vietnam years, the movements for racial and gender equality, and the struggles at home and abroad for personal, political, economic, national, and sexual liberation all have left their mark on Pacifica Radio and Pacifica has shaped those movements and events as well. Through it all Pacifica has managed to remain, as the motto of its signature program, `Democracy Now' puts it, "the exception to the rulers". Whether one is inclined to describe the present programming as conventional or courageous (and it has elements that are both) Matthew Lasar's thoughtful account of how this `mission driven' network has reflected, responded to, and shaped our times will interest anyone who works with others to make progressive social change possible. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Insightful and Provocative By A Customer Considering the pervasive myths around Pacifica's origins, the ferocity of the recent struggle over the network's future, and the continuing disappearance of alternative

media at a time when we need a range of information sources, this book is particularly timely. Written in a witty and accessible but intellectual style, the book puts the pacifist beliefs of Pacifica's colorful founders in context, while also tracing the evolution of programming of the first station, KPFA, from its initial day of broadcast to the early 1960s. Down and dirty internecine struggles are described, each with valuable lessons for contemporary non-profits, progressive media organizations as well as Pacifica today. If you're interested in understanding the challenges of maintaining independent media voices, this book is a must read.

Examines the external pressures and organizational problems within the Pacifica Foundation that led, in early 1999, to the police shutdown of network stations KPFA. This title calls it the worst crisis in the history of community radio. It is the story of Lewis Hill and the small band of pacifists who in 1946, set out to launch KPFA.

From Publishers Weekly
In the first book-length study of Pacifica Radio, Lasar recounts the history of "our nation's only independent nonprofit [radio] network." In 1946, activist Lewis Hill and four other conscientious objectors formed the Pacifica Foundation to offer California pacifists a public forum. Pacifica was denied an AM frequency but soon began broadcasting on FM as Berkeley's KPFA. As a subscription-based station, it was forced to "aim at a smaller more exclusive audience than originally envisioned," Lasar reports. Quickly stigmatized as "eggheaded," it courted the Bay's affluent, college-educated community by offering alternative journalism, storytelling, classical music (with a smattering of blues and folk) and forums on topics ranging from radical politics to Eastern thought. By the early 1950s, influential commentators such as Pauline Kael and Kenneth Rexroth filled Pacifica's airwaves. Under the pressures of operating budgets and McCarthyism, the station began to tone down its provocative programming. It aired controversial discussions of Howl, in 1957, for instance, but edited a tape of Ginsberg reading the title poem (KPFA explained that it had excerpted segments "for radio broadcast... simply as a matter of taste"). Lasar concentrates on the conflicted early years of Pacifica's development without elaborating on the network's later achievements, such as its expansion and crucial Vietnam coverage, in which the network supported Bertrand Russell and I.F. Stone and sent the first American news correspondent to Hanoi. Lasar's emphasis on administrative squabbles makes this history more useful as a behind-the-scenes account of Pacifica's growing pains than as one that clearly establishes a historically significant media company's vital role in the nation's public discourse. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Lasar has an eye for paradox, irony and contradiction, but he is first and foremost an able and astute historian . . . " -- Jonah Raskin, *The Santa Rosa Press Democrat* "Matthew Lasar's Pacifica Radio is a tremendous book, combining superb scholarship with an intoxicating story of vision, creativity and heroism." -- Robert McChesney, author of *Rich Media, Poor Democracy: Communications Politics in Dubious Times* "Pacifica Radio . . . outstrips anything that has ever been produced not only about the Pacifica experience, but about American cultural radio . . . " -- Lorenzo Milam, *The of Arts, Literature, Philosophy and the Humanities* "[Pacifica Radio] offers fresh insights on a host of issues essential to understanding modern American culture. . . . " -- Eric Foner, author *The Story of American Freedom* and editor for *The New American History* (Temple)
About the Author
Matthew Lasar was a reporter for KPFA's news department through most of the 1980s. His essays on the social history of free speech debates have appeared *The Journal of Policy History*, *The Journal of Radio Studies*, and *Pacific Historical* . He has a Ph.D in United States History from the Claremont Graduate University.