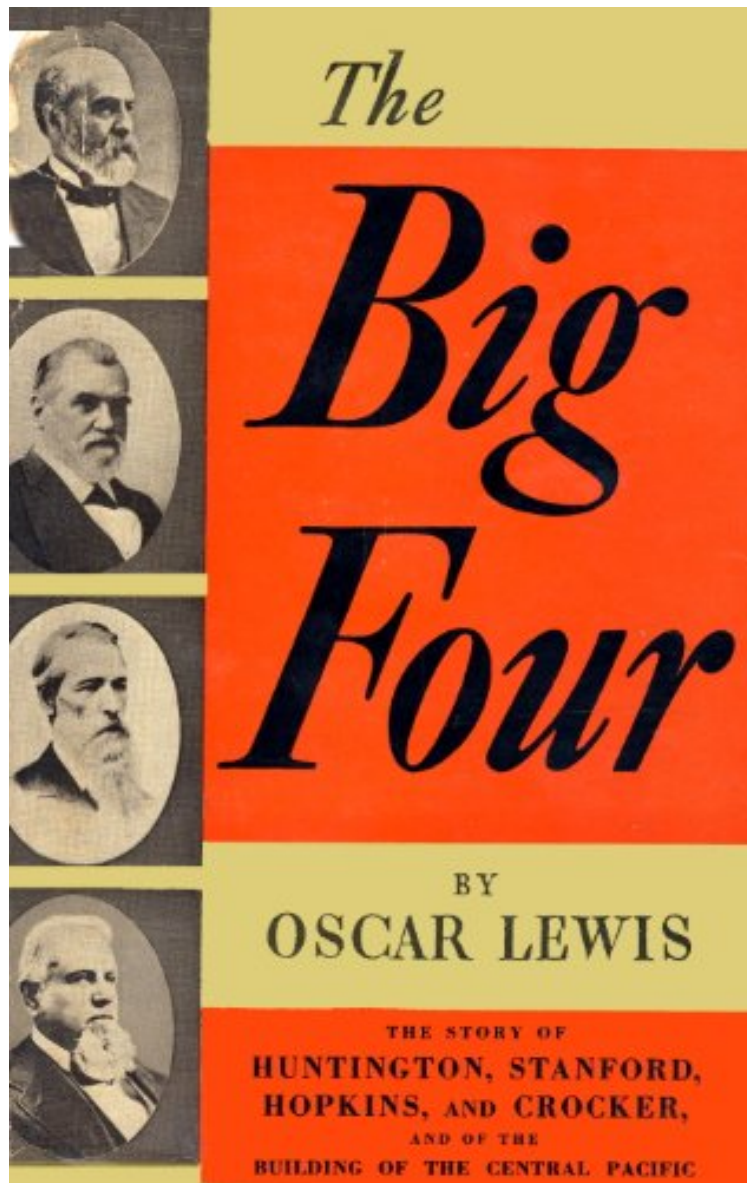


Big Four

Oscar Lewis

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Oscar Lewis : Big Four before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Big Four:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy ZLWQuick delivery, item accurately described. A++6 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Dated historyBy Michael J. ColbrunoUnfortunately this book was written some time ago and it misses our 21st century perspective on the Big 4. If you want to learn about Crocker, Huntington, Stanford and Hopkins this is a great starting point. But the book completely ignores important figures in

this history like Stephen Gage, their attorney and mastermind. Gage was the reason that their power extended into Nevada, he controlled Congress and he masterminded the monopoly on transporting coal. How someone like this is not in a Big 4 history is mind-boggling.

Here for the first time is told in a single volume one of the most remarkable stories in American history. An Easterner is never long in California without hearing something of "the big four": four Sacramento shopkeepers—Collis P. Huntington, Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins, and Charles Crocker—who got control of the newly organized Central Pacific Railroad property. These men are portrayed in Mr. Lewis's volume vividly and with a great wealth of pertinent anecdote. Thus their true characters are revealed and the grandiose era in which they lived and operated is re-created as well. Huntington, the shrewd manipulator and lobbyist in Washington, founded the great fortune which is responsible for the magnificent library at San Marino; Leland Stanford, Governor of California and United States Senator, created Leland Stanford Junior University; Hopkins, the cold, quiet watchdog of the railroad's treasury, kept himself out of the limelight, out of politics and scandal, yet, like the others, died enormously wealthy; while Crocker founded a dynasty of bankers still important in the affairs of California and the nation. Oscar Lewis, a longtime authority on Californiana and secretary of the Book Club of California, spent six years gathering the material for *The Big Four* and writing it. The result is a definitive telling of a story that is ever fresh and ever fascinating.