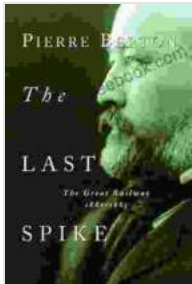


# The Last Spike: The Great Railway of 1881-1885



## The Last Spike: The Great Railway, 1881-1885

by Pierre Berton

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2793 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 498 pages
X-Ray for textbooks	: Enabled
Hardcover	: 340 pages
Item Weight	: 1.89 pounds
Dimensions	: 6.1 x 1.4 x 9.25 inches
Paperback	: 620 pages



The Last Spike was a major milestone in the history of Canada. It marked the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which spanned the continent from coast to coast. The railway was completed in 1885, and it played a major role in the development of Canada as a nation.

The railway was built in two phases. The first phase, from 1881 to 1883, saw the construction of the eastern section of the railway, from Montreal to Winnipeg. The second phase, from 1883 to 1885, saw the construction of the western section of the railway, from Winnipeg to Vancouver.

## Challenges of Railway Construction

The construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway was a major undertaking. The railway builders faced a number of challenges, including:

- **Harsh weather conditions:** The railway builders worked in a variety of harsh weather conditions, including extreme cold, snow, rain, and wind.
- **Difficult terrain:** The railway had to be built through a variety of difficult terrain, including mountains, forests, and swamps.
- **Financial difficulties:** The railway builders faced a number of financial difficulties, including delays in government funding and the high cost of materials.

## Importance of the Railway

Despite the challenges, the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed on time and on budget. The railway played a major role in the development of Canada as a nation. It:

- **Opened up the West:** The railway made it possible for settlers to travel to the West and open up new land for farming and settlement.
- **Boosted the economy:** The railway stimulated the growth of the Canadian economy by opening up new markets for Canadian goods.
- **Strengthened national unity:** The railway connected the eastern and western parts of Canada, which helped to strengthen national unity.

## The Last Spike

The Last Spike was driven by Donald Smith, the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, on November 7, 1885, at Craigellachie, British Columbia.

The driving of the Last Spike was a major celebration, and it marked the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Last Spike is now on display at the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, Ontario.

## **Timeline of Railway Construction**

1881

Construction of the eastern section of the railway begins.

1883

The eastern section of the railway is completed.

1883

Construction of the western section of the railway begins.

1885

The western section of the railway is completed.

November 7, 1885

The Last Spike is driven.

The Canadian Pacific Railway is a major part of Canada's history. It played a major role in the development of Canada as a nation, and it continues to be an important part of the Canadian economy.

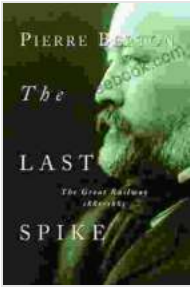
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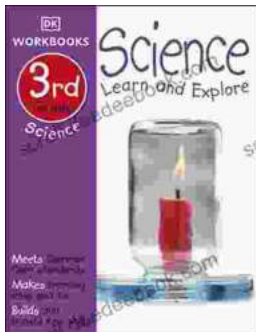
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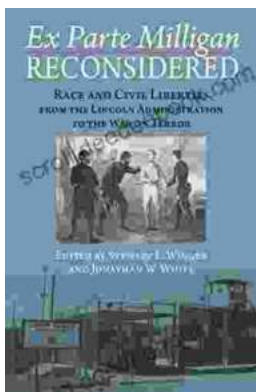


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