

Surfing Through Time Two - A Journey into the History of Surfing

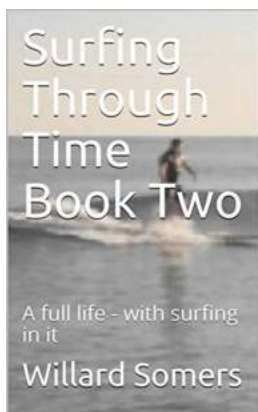


Have you ever wondered about the rich history of surfing? From its ancient roots to the modern-day phenomenon, surfing has captivated countless individuals around the world. In this article, we will take you on an exhilarating journey through time, tracing the evolution of surfing and exploring its cultural impact.

The Ancient Origins

Surfing, although commonly associated with Hawaiian culture, actually has much deeper roots. The earliest evidence of wave riding can be traced back to the ancient Polynesians, who inhabited the Pacific islands thousands of years ago.

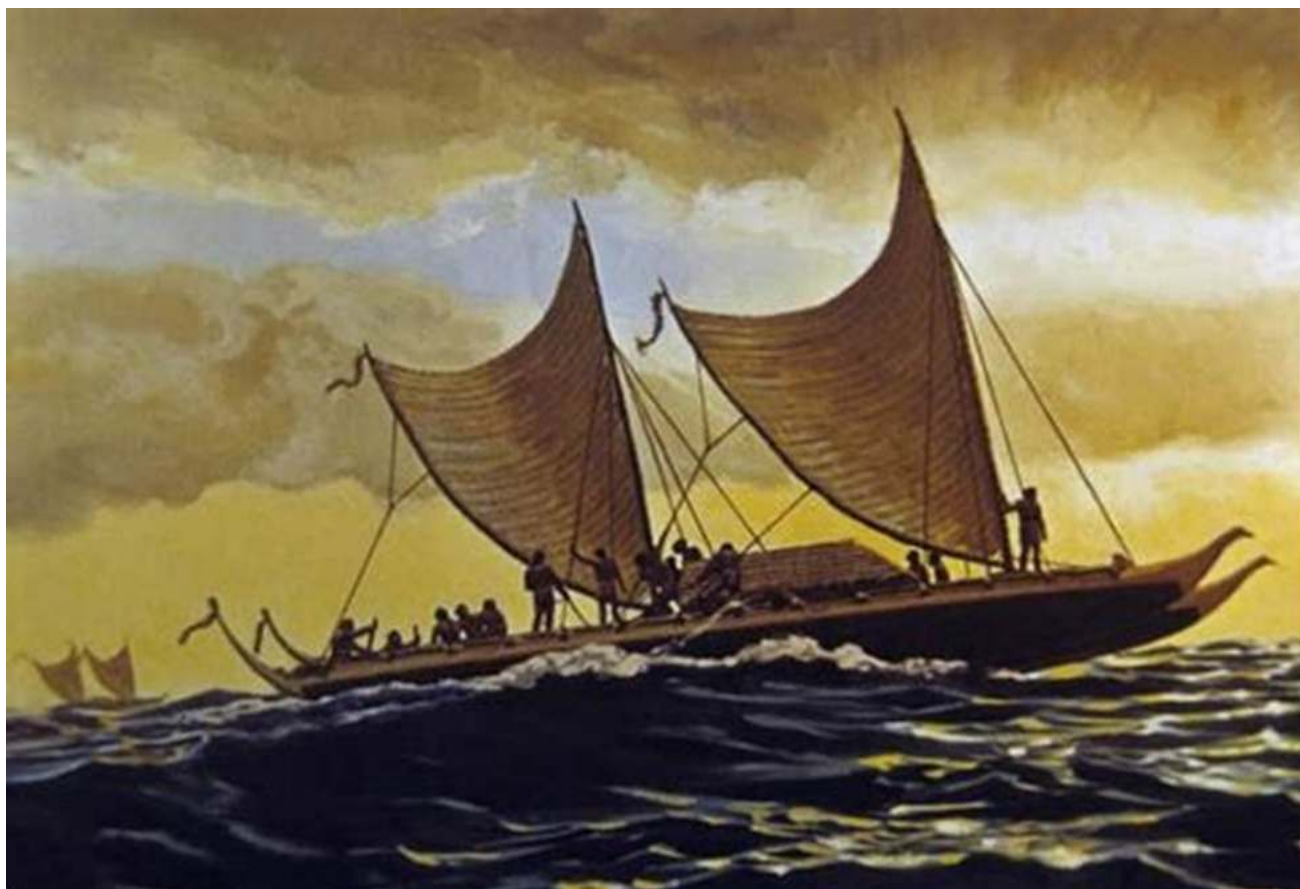
These skilled seafarers used their handcrafted wooden boards to navigate the powerful ocean swells and ride the waves with grace and precision.



Surfing Through Time Book Two: A full life - with surfing in it by Debora Ferraiuolo (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The act of surfing held a significant place in Polynesian society. It was not merely a recreational activity but also a spiritual and communal experience. Surfing was deeply intertwined with their belief systems, often symbolizing a connection between humans and the divine forces of the ocean. It served as a test of courage, strength, and balance, with skilled surfers earning respect and admiration from their communities.

The Hawaiian Renaissance

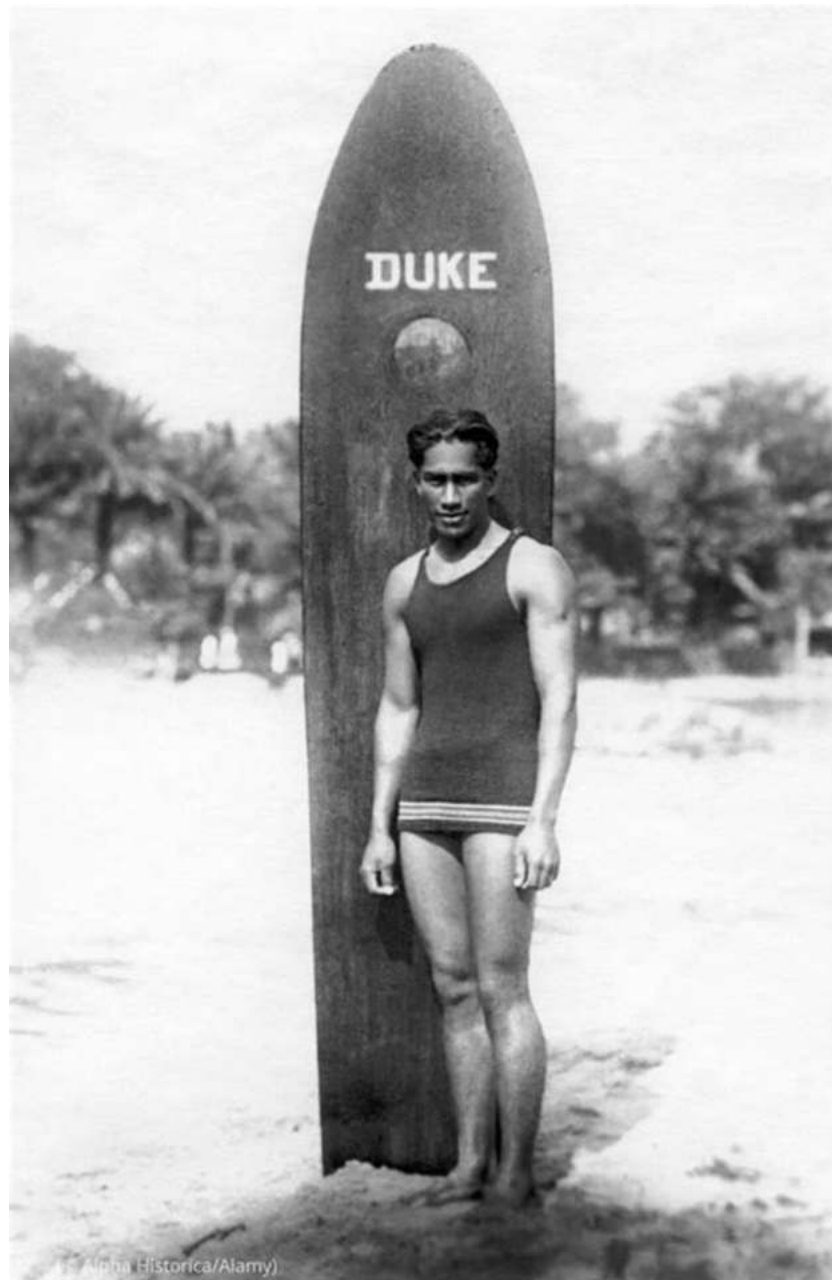
While surfing may have originated in Polynesia, it was the Hawaiians who paved the way for its global popularity. In ancient Hawaii, riding waves was not just a sport; it was a way of life. Hawaiian chiefs and commoners alike would venture into the waves on their long, asymmetrical boards, showcasing their expertise and skill.



During the 18th century, Western contact brought significant changes to the Hawaiian islands. Missionaries frowned upon the practice of surfing, deeming it a sinful and pagan activity. Consequently, the popularity of surfing plummeted, and the ancient tradition almost disappeared entirely. However, the 20th century witnessed a revival of Hawaiian culture, and with it came the reawakening of the art of surfing.

The Dawn of Modern Surfing

In the early 20th century, surfing experienced a resurgence as Hawaiian surfers such as Duke Kahanamoku introduced the sport to the world. Duke, an Olympic swimmer and an ambassador of aloha spirit, traveled extensively and astounded people with his exceptional surfing skills.



The popularity of surfing gradually spread beyond Hawaii's shores, reaching the coastlines of California, Australia, and many other surf-rich destinations. Surfing culture evolved, with new board designs and techniques being experimented with. The development of lightweight materials, such as fiberglass and foam, revolutionized surfboard construction, allowing for increased maneuverability and performance in the water.

Surfing Today - An Engaging Lifestyle

In recent decades, surfing has transcended its boundaries as a mere sport or pastime. It has evolved into a vibrant subculture that encompasses fashion, music, art, and environmental activism. Surfing has become a symbol of freedom, adventure, and connection to nature.



Surfing's popularity has soared, with countless individuals around the world embracing the thrill and joy of riding waves. Annual surfing competitions draw millions of spectators and viewers, showcasing the extraordinary talent and dedication of professional surfers. Surfing has also become a tool for healing and therapy, with organizations using it to empower individuals facing physical and mental challenges.

The Future of Surfing

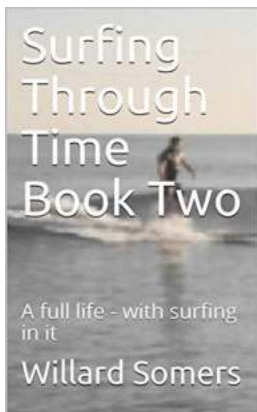
As we look ahead, surfing continues to evolve and adapt to the changing times. The emergence of artificial wave parks and advancements in wave-generating technology have made the sport more accessible to those residing far from the ocean. Surfing has also become an integral part of sustainable tourism, with coastal communities recognizing the economic potential of attracting surf enthusiasts from all over the world.



Furthermore, the impact of climate change on wave patterns impels the surfing community to become fierce advocates for ocean conservation and environmental protection. Surfers have become guardians of the marine environment, initiating beach clean-ups and promoting eco-friendly practices both in and out of the water.

Surfing Through Time Two has allowed us to delve deep into the captivating history and cultural significance of surfing. From its ancient origins in Polynesia to its resurgence in Hawaii and subsequent global expansion, surfing has evolved into a way of life and a symbol of freedom and connection. Today, as we witness surfing's continued growth and the resilience of its community, there is no doubt

that surfing carries with it a profound impact that will endure for generations to come.



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This is Book Two of Surfing Through Time, covering the period 1969-2009. It covers where I was able to “take my stands” (In the words of the Eagles), and how surfing helped create a sturdy and stable foundation for business and family life.

Is surfing special? I know we surfers think so, and the broad global culture has seemed to support us on this. As said, surfing is both participative and visually attractive. You can do it, and you can watch it as well. It has had an incredible number of spin-offs; stand-up paddle, snowboarding, skate boarding, wind surfing, kite boarding, etc. It has absolutely captured the lexicon; We surf the Internet, we “Channel surf” on TV.

As in Book One, each chapter starts with a brief lyrical quote from a song which fits the story in the chapter. Music of all kinds was always the sound track to

“Surfing Through Time.” Some are happy tracks, some less so; Even the surfing life isn’t always perfect.

On the other hand, the effect of anything one does when young which is healthful and joyous ought to stand one in good stead as one ages, don’t you think?

With the above as background, I’d like to dig deeper into some of the ideas, (“precepts”) that the above suggests. In each case, I’ll try to show linkages; maybe present a theory of cause and effect. Because, I would say that the following are my views of the reasons it worked for me.

Precept 1) What one tries has an effect on one; sometimes the effect is deep and ineradicable. Each of our actions (as well as failures to act) have consequences. More to the point, passions have deep consequences.

Precept 2) Completeness – What’s the full picture (over a lifetime)? How does (did) surfing affect one's ability to understand and deal with the whole picture?

Precept 3) Consider the endurance and impact of ideas - why and how surfing became a foundational meme

Precept 4) What does and doesn’t matter (surfing business vs. business business).

Precept 5) Surfing as a metaphor for the human condition (you’re only on the wave for a while).

Precept 6) Truth of “Something worth leaving behind.”

Precept 7) Continuity – How early experiences shapes later life.

Precept 8) “Three-legged stool” – for a stable life.

Precept 9) Life is always at the “crossroads” – who you know and who matters to you.

Precept 10) Accommodating to conditions in the world immediately around you.

Precept 11) Music as central – Words / lyrics shape things.

Should be interesting. What do you think, and how does this relate to surfing, and what I've said above? Great questions...

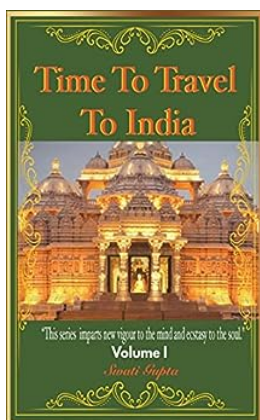
I hope you like Surfing Through Time - Book Two.

Will Somers



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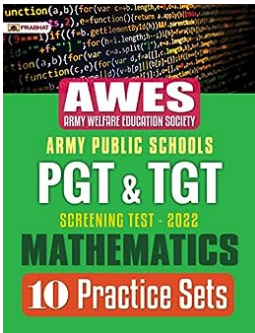
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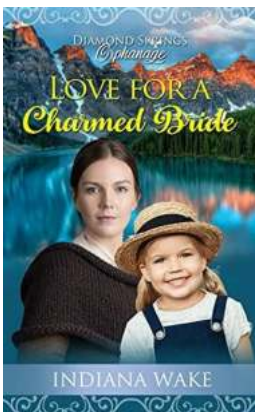
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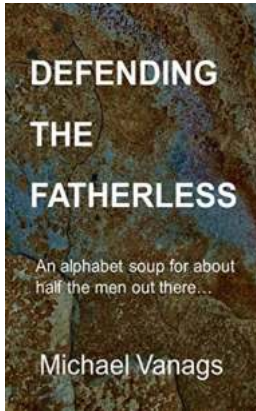
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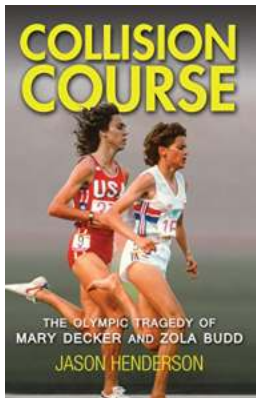
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