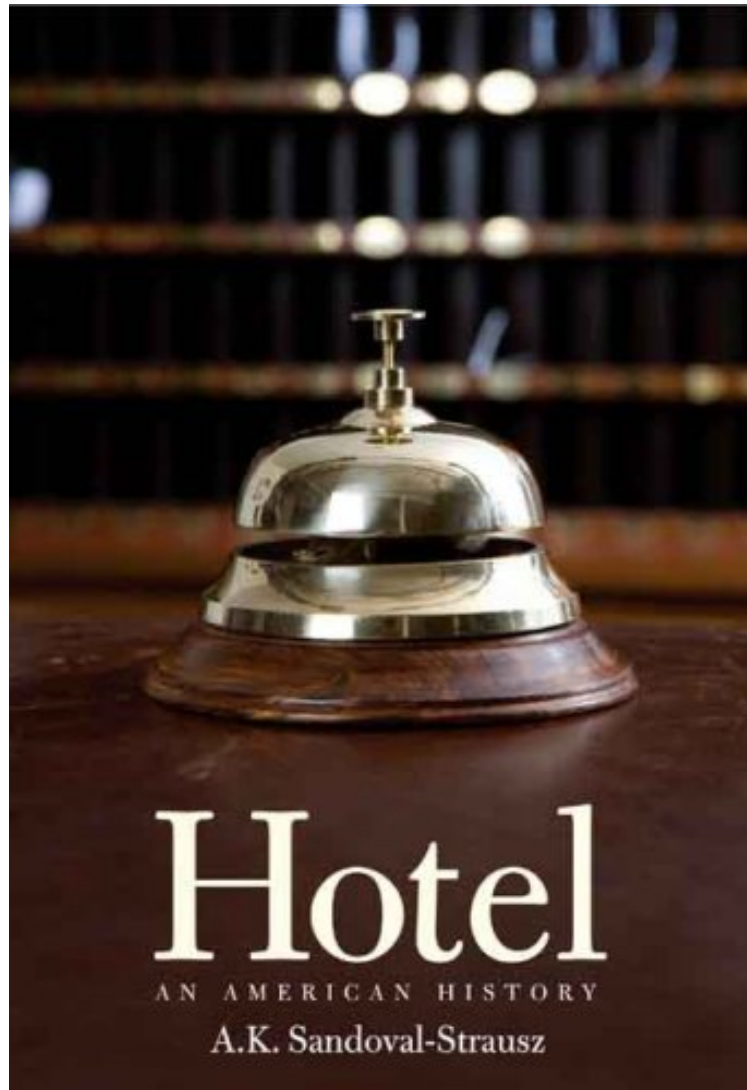


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## Hotel: An American History

*Andrew K. Sandoval-Strausz*  
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**Andrew K. Sandoval-Strausz : Hotel: An American History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hotel: An American History:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Superb ScholarshipBy JPHSynthetic and sophisticated scholarship. It is the definitive work on the subject, and offers a half-dozen approaches to a previously under-conceptualized subject.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful Book About the Rise of HotelsBy CALucky me. A friend gave me this wonderful book about the rise of hotels and the hospitality industry in the United States. What an eye-opener. The author, an academic, has done massive, serious research and has come to some extremely interesting conclusions. Who would have dreamed what an important part of our social history hotels are, or what they

have meant to us economically (including the rise of the railroads). As someone who has traveled extensively, I can attest that some hotels are more welcoming than others, some have better beds or better food, but being a guest in a hotel is almost always a treat. This book helped me relive childhood trips to Miami Beach, eating a glorious room service dinner during a blizzard in Richmond, Va., and hightailing it to a Motel 6 in Carlsbad, California. It taught me about a valuable part of our history I had never thought about. And the pictures are fascinating. I'm giving *Hotel: An American History* to my traveling cousin for Christmas. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love it. By nelsonpatoit is a good book. it explains very well the history of hospitality in America since the first hotel was built. I recommended it to students and teachers that are associated to tourism. a great book to read and read again.

When George Washington embarked on his presidential tours of 1789-91, the rudimentary inns and taverns of the day suddenly seemed dismally inadequate. But within a decade, Americans had built the first hotels—large and elegant structures that boasted private bedchambers and grand public ballrooms. This book recounts the enthralling history of the hotel in America—a saga in which politicians and prostitutes, tourists and tramps, conventioners and confidence men, celebrities and salesmen all rub elbows. *Hotel* explores why the hotel was invented, how its architecture developed, and the many ways it influenced the course of United States history. The volume also presents a beautiful collection of more than 120 illustrations, many in full color, of hotel life in every era. *Hotel* explores these topics and more: What it was like to sleep, eat, and socialize at a hotel in the mid-1800s; How hotelkeepers dealt with the illicit activities of adulterers, thieves, and violent guests; The stories behind America's greatest hotels, including the Waldorf-Astoria, the Plaza, the Willard, the Blackstone, and the Fairmont; Why Confederate spies plotted to burn down thirteen hotels in New York City during the Civil War; How the development of steamboats and locomotives helped create a nationwide network of hotels; How hotels became architectural models for apartment buildings; The pivotal role of hotels in the civil rights movement.