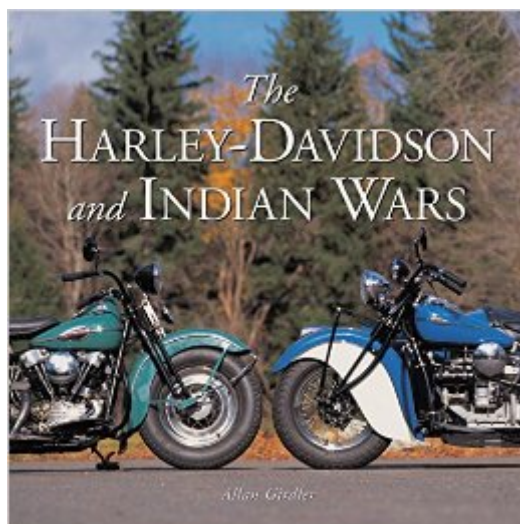


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# The Harley-Davidson And Indian Wars



## Synopsis

In *The Harley-Davidson and Indian Wars*, author Allan Girdler takes you on a colorful tour of the men and machines that competed to dominate the American motorcycle industry. This book chronicles the legendary machines such as the Knucklehead and the Four, as well as motorcycles like the Hummer and the Model CZ whose times came and went or, perhaps, never came at all. The racing history is also told with a flourish, from the days of total-loss oiling, wooden race tracks, and high mortality rates to the cataclysmic times of Class C racing, when roaring V-twin -powered beasts were manhandled on dirt tracks, asphalt, and through the nastiest terrain the country has to offer. *The Harley-Davidson and Indian Wars* tells the story of these two makers, from the days when Harley-Davidsons were built in the Davidson family's back yard to the tragic demise of the Indian Motorcycle company.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As someone who is interested with the people racing the machines I was a little disappointed with the book. While it gives a very good, concise history of the two brands and the men that ran the companies it really does not focus that much on the racers who played out the rivalry on the boards, dirt tracks and hills. The book also seems to focus on the Indian Company more than the Harley company. Naturally one finds themselves rooting for the underdog Indian to find them loosing out in the end. I definately recommend this book for people interested in the history of these companies.

If you could choose only one American made motorcycle, what side would you be on?

Harley-Davidson and Indian motorcycles went head to head as rivals on the American motorcycle market and the feud was fierce. By sharing a true-life story of two friends with opposing bike-loyalty, this book offers a look at both sides of the coin."Back in 1903 or so, when Indian was the King of motorcycle manufacturers and Harley-Davidson was an upstart working out of a shed, an Indian rider met a Harley rider on the open road. They looked each other in the eye, chorused, "Bet mine's faster," and set out to settle the issue. For the next 50 years, the two makes raced, fought, won, lost, and traded insults."Allan Girdler has written a multitude of books on Harley-Davidson and has the knowledge that does this book justice. (See also:Â Harley Davidson SportsterÂ andÂ Harley-Davidson Racing, 1934-1986) Written with humor, accuracy, and ferocity, this book details the war between the two companies in a unique way that is entertaining and insightful. The book doesn't much talk about those who raced the bikes, however; it highlights the bikes and those who made the companies what they are. The storytelling is real and speaks to the characters of those that were involved in the real-life saga. Harley or Indian fans alike will love this book look into this period of excitement and adversity in motorcycle history.

My husband who is a photographer was completely blown away by the excellent photography. He said you would expect to pay \$40 for a book of such quality. He liked how the photographer shot different angles of the bikes so that you could see them from another perspective. The author has written many other books on Harley-Davidson and his expertise makes him an appropriate authority on this subject matter. It is hard to choose sides in this war!

Very fun book about, as the title quite clearly states, the early rivalry between Milwaukee and Springfield, MA. Not being 109 years old I have to admit that my knowledge of the Indian marque is somewhat limited. I see one once in a blue moon, if that often. It is a darn shame, as according to this book, they were certainly a fantastic part of American motorcycle history. The research into the book is quite extensive. Certainly far more information than this Vespa owner would ever need to know, but fun nonetheless. The author does have a very clever and dry sense of humor. Unfortunately some of the Chinese proofreaders were not quite as good. Harley is certainly an evolutionary company. No revolution in Milwaukee or York, but we see which brand is still around. Great background as to why Indian folded. Also good insight into the British and Japanese invasions that actually had the Motor Company looking in its rear view mirror. For those who have been around a while or who may have a relative who had the good fortune of owning an early

example of either make, this book is great fun. For me it was quite educational and a fun read as well. Worth your while.

Loved the book and wanted to read more. Ends the Indian story with the company effectively going out of business in 1953/1954. I ride a Gilroy era 2003 Indian Spirit bike and she makes me dream of the open road. Not like my 2010 Harley who has the Harley growl, but seems a bit like my older sister-telling me what I should think! Anyway, I can hope the author would consider the next chapter in the Indian Motorcycle story for all us Gilroy era and Kings Mountain, North Carolina riders. The book makes me think the author is a really a deep down inside rider and the book intro says as much. For that I'm thankful for those eyes see beyond the content and into the character of the men, the engineers, owners, and racers/riders who pioneered these incredible machines. A good read especially when you can't be on the bike, but can enjoy the story of all those who have made this experience live through the pictures and words.

I bought this for a real hardcore Harley Davidson lover. He is obsessed with this book. Not only does it have amazing pictures, but really tells you some "inside scoop" and so many facts about the wars between two huge motorcycle groups. This book is nice and "heavy" you can tell it is made of the best quality. The pictures are so clear and nice, I loved seeing his face light up!

The history of the two companies is fairly deep, and involves a lot of back and forth. Insight on the ownership is deep and interesting. But it is set up like a, "they did this, so the other guy did this" type of format. That is fine since it is basically an ongoing battle once the others like Excelsior were out of the way, but at times gets tedious. My main complaint is the person who wrote this either has no formal writing experience, or just is unable to put more than a few sentences together. The narrative is such that it is similar to being talked to rather crudely, rather than the companies being written about. I often found silly phrases, broken sentences, and other incorrect usage that made it much harder to read. The history is covered well, the writing, not so much. And no, there is not too much on racing save for the obvious, like who took any particular year.

I actually purchased this book before for a family member. The book was borrowed and disappeared. I feel fortunate to have purchased it yet again. It is as good as I remember, a great reference for old Harley and Indian lovers.

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