

DREAM
WEST



Dream West. In Fort Apache, a cavalry officer (John Wayne) recalls the way things once were. Director John Ford split the screen to present the man's romanticized memories in a manner that erases the distinction between past and present, collapsing the West of harsh realities with that of a nostalgic dream. Courtesy RKO Pictures.

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DOUGLAS BRODE

DREAM WEST

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IN COWBOY MOVIES

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*Frontiersmen acutely sensed that they battled wild country not only
for personal survival but in the name of nation, and race, and God.*

—RODERICK FRAZIER NASH,
WILDERNESS AND THE AMERICAN MIND, 1967

FOR MY SON,
SHEA THAXTER BRODE,

*whose own youthful enthusiasm for uniquely American
ideas rekindled my own long-dormant desire to discover
the essence of who we are as a people*