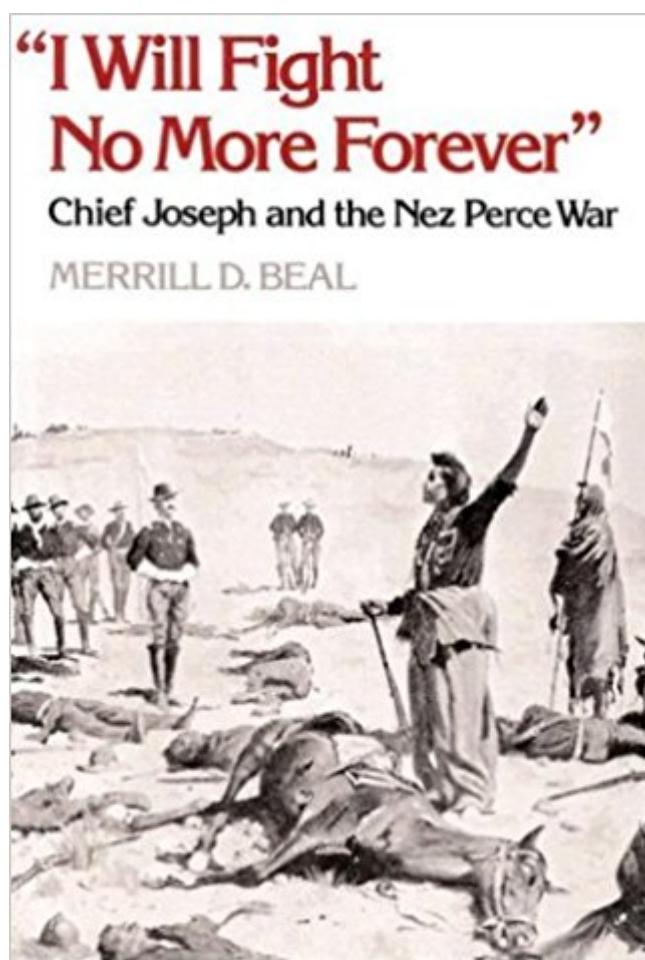


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I Will Fight No More Forever: Chief Joseph And The Nez Perce War



Synopsis

Unpublished letters and diaries by eyewitnesses, interviews with decedents, an intimate knowledge of the country enrich this narrative of the heroic Nez Perce Indian War waged in 1877 against relocation. The result is a well documented chronicle offering new perspective on prewar Indian-white relations, United States government pressures and nontreaty rebellions, the five battles, subjection and surrender, and on the character of the leaders on both sides. "From where the sun now stands I will fight no more forever," Chief Joseph said in surrender. But as a guardian and protector of his people he at last succeeded in bringing back the remaining members of his tribe to their beloved valley. Calling Professor Beal's book, "definitive, but not final," Herman J. Deutsch, professor emeritus of American history at Washington State University, writes in the foreword: "Joseph and his band remain an example and inspiration to those who today are seeking recognition as human beings, equal in the sight of God and therefore entitled to like status among men. Those who recognize that such aspirations must not for long remain unfulfilled can derive from Nez Perce history examples of the consequences of policies conceived in ignorance and colored with disdain of the culture and way of life of minority peoples. ...A world surfeited with deceptive success stories can ill afford to forget a people and their leader who attained their true moral stature as they were facing their doom."

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: University of Washington Press; New Impression edition (June 28, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0295740094

ISBN-13: 978-0295740096

Product Dimensions: 8 x 5.3 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #256,693 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > History > Americas > Canada > First Nations #596 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies #797 in Books > History > Americas > Native American

Customer Reviews

In this superb summation of the ethnohistory of the Nez Perce tribe containing also careful analyses

of the military campaigns and political events and a wholly balanced review of facts, opinions, and previous evaluations of the situation and circumstances within have colored the evidence, we have what seems to be the last word...

Bought this for my elder grandson for his high school English paper. It had all the details he needed and he received a "B." We were very pleased.

A great revelation of the true situation the Native Americans faced five generations ago.

This book is very well written. It is touted as one of the most accurate accounts of Chief Joseph and his people.

Good history

Great item and shipped in timely manner

"I Will Fight No More Forever" Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce War by Merrill D. Beal is a book that opens up the reader's eyes to the challenging life of the Nez Perce. Beal's reason for writing this book was to deepen modern Americans view of past Native Americans and show the Indian-white relations of the past. The author also hoped to clear misconceptions and myths about Native Americans, in particular the Nez Perce tribe. The author's contribution to our understanding of Pacific Northwest history was intended to make us see the vital role Native Americans played in shaping history around this region. Therefore, if it wasn't for the Native Americans in this region, we wouldn't have much of a human history in this part of the world. This book is essentially about the life of the Nez Perce tribe in the 1800's and their famous chief, Chief Joseph. The Nez Perce were a Pacific Northwest Indian tribe who were pursued by the U.S government because they desired to live like their ancestors had previously before for thousands of years on their own land. However, this nomadic way of life--which seemed to go unchanged for thousands of years for these people--would begin to change drastically in the 1800's. The East Coast of the U.S became crowded and so many white Americans felt it was their calling to eventually own all the land from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Therefore, it was only a matter of time before Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest would experience what Natives of the East Coast experienced, massive removal or extermination. What made this group of Nez Perce stand out among other tribes is their willingness

to avoid conflict, even with the encroaching of white settlers on their land. When the U.S government sent the U.S Army to forcefully remove them, they decided to flee north to Canada, rather than fight to death. They knew that their small number of people wouldn't stand a chance against their enemy, so they wisely chose to run in order to not be forced to do something they felt was wrong. What followed was the Nez Perce having to take a journey of some 1600 miles through Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Their journey was similar to which the Cherokee Nation had to go through when they went on the Trail of Tears. As a result, many of their fellow men died from such a long journey, it progressed into the coldest months of winter. In spite of it all, the Nez Perce only used armed force in self defense. This book's thesis: Chief Joseph was a Nez Perce leader who--in spite of facing incredibly difficult circumstances--did all he could to peacefully fight for the well being of his people. Beal's description of the turmoil the Nez Perce had to go through is unbiased; he describes the good, bad, and ugly on both sides. Beal also very wisely doesn't just set a positive limelight on Indians; he gives examples of different Indian tribes cooperating with the U.S Army to pursue the Nez Perce. In some of the descriptions, it's hard to believe that even the Native Americans helped in taking part of exterminating one another. Therefore, with all the details unbiasedly laid out--all the reader needs to do is soak it all in. Beal does a phenomenal job making this 300-page book come to life. He does it in a way that could almost make one feel as if they were there witnessing the battles and life of the Nez Perce tribe, as they read along. This book has many historical records and eye-witness accounts which include statements from U.S. Army officials, Nez Perce tribal elders, and personal statements from Chief Joseph. Beal stated in the beginning of the book that he was to prepare an accurate, documented historical account of the Nez Perce campaign of 1877. He used great sources like survivors or descendants of those who participated in the action, the Library of Congress, National Archives, and contacted all historical sources in general. Beal did acknowledge that some of the sources were biased, but in order to present all sides he included this information. As a result, this book is unbiased because it shows both sides of the story. Chief Joseph would utter these famous words, which still live on to this day. "I am tired of fighting. Our chiefs are killed.It is cold and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing. ...Hear me, my chiefs, I am tired; my heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever." These powerful words really do describe, in essence, the dire situation this chief and his people were in. Also they reflect the great inner anguish he felt. Therefore, even to this day many find these words piercing their heart, as they read them. Overall, this book is well-written, it gives readers the opportunity to see for themselves what happened--through the eyes of those who witnessed this tragic event. Beal's style of writing makes the book readable for anyone who is

interested in Native American history. This book is certainly valuable, it has many historical records and eye-witness accounts, which include statements from U.S. Army officials, Nez Perce tribal elders, and personal statements from Chief Joseph. Therefore, this book is a must read for those who want to better understand Pacific Northwest history.

I found this book quite interesting on the Indian issues in general and Chief Joseph in particular. If one is from the Pacific Northwest, you'll find this book interesting in that it centers in Idaho with involvement in WA, OR and Montana. Prior to reading this book I had thought that Chief Joseph was the aggressor (and I'm from Idaho) but found that he was quite the opposite in that he never was looking for a fight. An interesting read that will leave the reader with a much different perspective of the Indian issue. Little known fact: Chief Joseph in his later years, attended a University of WA football game, 1901 as I recall.

Written in a vivid way which allows you to follow the flight of the Nez Perce as they struggled to survive, Mr. Beal keeps you reading until the heartbreakingly end. This story of how a people were forced into battle, chased by the army and eventually shipped away, shows the errors of our past and adds perspective to the present. Mr. Beal's writing not only presents history, but helps to identify a culture that America tried to destroy within our own boundaries. A must read for anyone interested in the history of the American West.

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