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Chronicling the Nez Perce War, Green uses both Nez Perce and US Army sources in describing the origins of the conflict and the skirmishes taking place throughout Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana Territories during the summer of 1877. US government policies and white settler mistreatment of the Nez Perce culminated in three and a half months of warfare. Following the definitive Battle of Bear's Paw, the Nez Perce surrendered and experienced disease and death during their relocation to northeastern Oklahoma.

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The provinces of Alberta and British Columbia serve as the focal point for eleven essays describing Mormon life in Canada. Covering a wide variety of topics, the essays illustrate historical and modern-day attitudes toward plural marriage, the relationship between Mormons and the Alberta irrigation industry, Mormon saints’ conceptualizations of southern Alberta, and the Canadian Mormon Trail.

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A biographical treatment of Major Marcus Reno, In Custer’s Shadow examines the extent to which George Armstrong Custer’s subordinates influenced the US Army failure at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Nichols tackles the controversy surrounding Reno’s role in battle and his subsequent demonization by those determined to depict Custer as martyr.

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In challenging the stereotype of environmental writings as overtly serious, Peiffer presents evidence that renowned writers such as Rachel Carson imbedded a sense of playfulness and humor within their work. The Native American trickster coyote serves as a unifying metaphor, slinking his way through the collected poems and essays.