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Review of "William Clark: Indian Diplomat." By Jay H. Buckley.

University of California, Los Angeles and Autry Institute for the Study of the American West

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William Clark: Indian Diplomat. By Jay H. Buckley. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. xx + 306 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.

For decades, radio commentator Paul Harvey broadcast a program called "The Rest of the Story." Six times a week, Harvey recounted stories that put a surprising twist on familiar episodes. Often the rest of the story involved constructing epilogues that followed the careers of well-known persons *after* they had left the spotlight. In some ways Jay Buckley's study of William Clark can be seen as a contribution to Harvey's series. Although the book includes chapters on Clark's earlier life and his cocaptaincy of the Corps of Discovery, three-quarters of it involves what Clark did after he came back from that celebrated (and much chronicled) expedition. In sharp contrast with most books about the journey of Lewis and

Clark, which treat the aftermath as little more than an insignificant postscript, Buckley's main concern is with Clark's service, principally as an "Indian diplomat," from 1807 to his death in 1838.

Readers of Buckley's book will come away with a much greater appreciation for the significance and complexity of Clark's postexploration career. As Buckley points out, Clark was "responsible for divesting Indians of more land than any other American." In retrospect, it is easy to condemn Clark's role in the conquest of American Indians. If not the architect of removal, Clark was nonetheless deeply implicated in the process of convincing Indians to cede lands, and then in the process of overseeing their affairs in the Great Plains territories to which they had been relocated. Yet Buckley understands that Clark's contributions were more complicated (and sometimes contradictory). He explores how Clark navigated between his own sympathies for Indians and his duties in executing federal policy, underscoring Clark's steadfastness in upholding treaty obligations and his belief in Indian assimilability, while also emphasizing the Superintendent's commitment to the dispossession of Indians and the destruction of their "traditional" cultures. Could Clark have been more vigilant in his protection of Indian rights? Perhaps, acknowledges Buckley. But as he makes clear, the politics of the day and the pressures from various interests severely constrained how effectively Clark could turn private sympathy into public policy.

In Clark's case, the rest of the story may not be the best of the story, but, after finishing Buckley's book, readers will know that Clark's impact on the history of the American West hardly ended when the Corps of Discovery completed its mission.

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