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Aside from being declared prisoners of war and controlled by army personnel, their lot was not that different from that of most other Indian groups. Once they left Fort Marion they were only nominally prisoners of war. Indeed, being under War Department control was probably preferable to being under Interior.

The Chiricahuas did suffer forced removals and were promised things never delivered—tragically common Indian experiences. But to suggest that the Chiricahuas could have retained the Fort Sill military reservation, even if the army had decided not to locate its artillery school there, is to ignore what was happening to all other Indians. White neighbors of the Chiricahuas would have mobilized the same forces against them that they arrayed against the Southern Plains tribes, forcing them to accept allotments and sell most of their land to the United States.

The author, in addition to researching in depth the usual documentary sources, draws upon the recollections of descendants of the prisoners of war. These reveal the deep emotions aroused by memories of what their forbears were subjected to. But reliance on the Indian voice requires that this source be subjected to the same rigorous evaluation accorded other sources.

The well-chosen photographs add a valuable dimension to this volume.

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