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## The Plains Indians of the Twentieth Century.

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*The Plains Indians of the Twentieth Century.*

Edited and with an introduction by Peter Iverson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1985. Maps, illustration, notes, index. 286 pp. \$21.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

Peter Iverson's *The Plains Indians of the Twentieth Century* is an attempt to document some of contemporary Plains Indian life. Iverson's collaborators include a number of well-known writers on Indian history and social issues, but their contributions are drawn from previously published works rather than being written for this anthology.

As with all anthologies, the quality is uneven and the scholarship is disjointed and shallow. Anthologies are the literary equivalent of a house designed by a committee: while well-meant, the parts stand better by themselves than in the finished configuration. All of the articles in Iverson's anthology have useful information, however, and some are outstanding.

Loretta Fowler's article, " 'What They Issue You': Political Economy at Wind River," is an excellent example of thorough scholarship on

modern Indian political processes, although researchers would do better to read her book on this subject. Fowler concentrates her work on the Northern Arapahoes on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. She notes that the Arapaho tribal council operates within the community to encourage cooperation and to avert internal strife, but externally it is expected aggressively to defend Arapaho interests. The Arapahoes regard the Shoshonis who share Wind River reservation as aliens (a feeling returned by the Shoshonis) and there is little intermixing between the two tribes, but the Arapaho council, according to Fowler, works with the Shoshonis when both parties are threatened by non-Indian interests. The Arapahoes regard the white citizens of Wyoming as the real adversary. If the Indians' white neighbors regard them as lazy, drunken, and poor, the Indians see the white men as untrustworthy, "materialistic," and bigoted. The Arapaho tribal council struggles to maintain the tribes' interests against perceived threats from the white community. Fowler correctly sees two opposing characteristics at work: aggressiveness and a conciliatory nature are expected from council members.

Thomas Holm's excellent article on Indians in World War Two makes the point that this participation led to white liberal support for the policy of termination. An excerpt from Peter Powell's *Sweet Medicine* is welcome, as is William T. Hagan's article on the relations between the Comanches and the United States. *The Plains Indians of the Twentieth Century* is a useful desk reference for students of Indian studies, although the works from which the articles are drawn are more useful.

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