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Review of Indians of North America: The Creeks

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Indians of North America: The Creeks. By Michael D. Green. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1990. Photos, bibliography, glossary, index. 127 pp. \$18.95.

The admirable Chelsea House Publishers' series for young adults treats fifty-eight tribal groups and six additional subjects under the

general editorship of Frank W. Porter, III. Scholarly authorities and writers familiar with tribal affairs provide concise overviews of American Indian societies and policies.

The author, Michael D. Green at Dartmouth College, provides a brief survey of the Mvskoke (Muscogee or Creek) people. He has written numerous article on Creek history, as well as the well received *The Politics of Indian Removal: Creek Government and Society in Crisis* (1982). Green has mastered a vast amount of primary and secondary source material to give a clearly written account of the basic structure and evolution of Creek society. Beginning with the Mississippians, he pinpoints their pre-European life styles, then the successive impacts of the Spanish and European diseases, of British trade, and of the Americans upon the internal stresses of Creek culture. He highlights pressures in the Southeast for land cessions and the importance of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and internal conflicts for the evolution of the society.

Green is sensitive to the travail of removal and the complex forces that peaked in 1833, the subsequent rebuilding effort in the Indian Territory, and destructive divisiveness during the Civil War era, including the difficult aftermath with the internal divisions of the 1880s and the attempted tribal dissolution under allotment. He quickly concludes with the national revival under the impetus of the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act era, the infusion of federal money and diversification of programs after 1960, and the election of a principal chief in 1971.

Green's abbreviated discussion slights pre-Mississippian precursors of the confederacy, Creek connection of Tecumseh, and paternalistic court decrees that paved the way for forced allotment and leasing scandals. He points out the fundamental survival of tribal towns in an able survey, however.

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