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## Review of *Indians and the American West in the Twentieth Century* By Donald L. Parman

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*Indians and the American West in the Twentieth Century.* By Donald L. Parman. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994. Foreword, preface, maps, black and white photographs, notes, bibliography, index. xviii + 235 pp. \$12.95 paper.

American Indians are governments' business, from municipal to federal. Recognizing this fact, Donald Parman offers readers a balanced view of how American Indians west of the Mississippi River were in turn exploited, coerced, and at times easily induced to cooperate with western interests in the economic development of the west. This is not a definitive study—the subject is much too broad and has not been sufficiently researched and explained. But through thoughtful selection of topics and perceptive analysis, Parman presents an outstanding overview of how American Indians contributed to western development.

Land divestment, the most significant means, is the focus of the first of the volume's eleven chapters. Once land taking policies were devised and American Indian populations concentrated on small plots, full exploitation was possible. The next nine chapters interpret major episodes in which American Indians were inexorably forced to participate, ranging from Progressive Era changes, the breakup of the Oklahoma Territory, assimilation, service in the wars, the depression, and the postwar era policies of termination and self-determination, to today's events involving problems of water, energy, and autonomy. Each chapter offers excellent narratives, some quite provocative in their contradiction of myths too often taken for granted. Many readers, for instance, will be shocked to read that serious protests against registering for the military draft during World War I occurred on several reservations. Chapters on the 1970s and 80s are especially appealing for their interpretive treatment of American Indian attempts to reestablish control over their own population, economics, and land base; indeed, to take command of their own lives.

Offering solid scholarship and impressive, fresh documentation, Parman contributes a tantalizing, sometimes scintillating overview of American Indian history as it unfolds through the twentieth century. Often rich in detail while describing Indian struggles for self-determination, the book also reveals the give and take tribes have experienced on their long trail of reasserting their place not only in the American West but on the national scene. All is not optimistic, but *Indians and the American West* draws a detailed map of the territory on which future disputes are likely to unfold; thoughtful citizens consulting it should be better prepared to make informed choices. Classrooms that have left nineteenth-century American Indian experiences and are now attempting to deal with contemporary problems from an informed viewpoint will find this volume a highly useful guide.

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