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0521793467 - The Plains Sioux and U. S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee

Jeffrey Ostler

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The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee

This volume presents an overview of the history of the Plains Sioux as they became increasingly subject to the power of the United States in the 1800s. Many aspects of this story – the Oregon Trail, military clashes, the deaths of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, and the Ghost Dance – are well-known. Besides providing fresh insights into familiar events, the book offers an in-depth look at many lesser-known facets of Sioux history and culture. Drawing on theories of colonialism, the book shows how the Sioux creatively responded to the challenges of U.S. expansion and domination, while at the same time revealing how U.S. power increasingly limited the autonomy of Sioux communities as the century came to a close. The concluding chapters of the book offer a compelling reinterpretation of the events that led to the Wounded Knee massacre of December 29, 1890.

Jeffrey Ostler is Professor of History and Department Head at the University of Oregon. He is the author of *Prairie Populism: The Fate of Agrarian Radicalism in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa, 1880–1892* (1993).

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“Without scrimping on close-up detail or native perspective, Ostler takes the most worked-over of American Indian historical sagas, the Sioux wars, and presents an absolutely riveting, utterly original and consistently persuasive narrative. Framed within the analytical perspective of colonialism, he employs his exhaustive research to demonstrate how little we know until we truly view history ‘from the other side.’ The story’s intense focus on particular actors and Indian decision-making never lets up, and Ostler’s concluding argument on the Ghost Dance as spiritual revolution is completely convincing and triumphantly written. With this book the bar has been raised for all historians of Indian–white relations.”

– Peter Nabokov, Professor, Department of World Arts and Cultures and American Indian Studies, UCLA

“Offering a compelling rereading of sometimes-familiar histories, Jeffrey Ostler’s *The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee* takes one inside both the military–political infrastructure of U.S. colonialism and the complex relations of resistance and transformation practiced by Sioux people. Along the way, Ostler brilliantly reveals the fissures, continuities, insufficiencies and power that characterize a century of colonial encounters. His powerfully narrated history offers crucial lessons for anyone considering the dynamics of colonial domination and resistance in Native North America – or elsewhere, for that matter.”

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This series is designed to exemplify new approaches to the Native American past. In recent years scholars have begun to appreciate the extent to which Indians, whose cultural roots extended back for thousands of years, shaped the North American landscape as encountered by successive waves of immigrants. In addition, because Native Americans continually adapted their cultural traditions to the realities of the Euro-American presence, their history adds a thread of non-Western experience to the tapestry of American culture. Cambridge Studies in North American Indian History brings outstanding examples of this new scholarship to a broad audience. Books in the series link Native Americans to broad themes in American history and place the Indian experience in the context of social and economic change over time.

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa
<http://www.cambridge.org>

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First published 2004

Printed in the United States of America

Typeface Sabon 10/12 pt. *System* L^AT_EX 2_ε [TB]

A catalog record for this book is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Ostler, Jeffrey.

The Plains Sioux and U.S. colonialism from Lewis and Clark
 to Wounded Knee / Jeffrey Ostler.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in North American Indian history)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-521-79346-7 – ISBN 0-521-60590-3 (pbk.)

1. Dakota Indians – History – 19th century. 2. Dakota Indians – Government relations.
3. Indians, Treatment of – Great Plains – History. 4. Ghost dance – History.
5. United States – Race relations. 6. United States – Politics and government – 19th century.
7. United States – Colonization. I. Title. II. Series.

E99.D1O85 2004

978.004'975243 – dc22 2003070009

ISBN 0 521 79346 7 hardback

ISBN 0 521 60590 3 paperback

Cambridge University Press

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For my teachers

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Abbreviations

- AAG Assistant Adjutant General
 AG Adjutant General
 ARSW Annual Report of the Secretary of War
 ARCIA Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs
 CIA Commissioner of Indian Affairs
 CRA Record Group 75. Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824–81. Cheyenne River Agency. National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publications, M234
 CR-KC Record Group 75. Cheyenne River Agency Records. National Archives and Records Administration, Kansas City, Mo.
 DMSF Record Group 393. Records of the United States Army Continental Commands. Division of the Missouri, Special Files Relating to Military Operations and Administration, 1863–85. National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publications, M1495
 DD Department of Dakota
 DM Division of the Missouri
 DP Department of the Platte
LT&T Ivan Stars, Peter Iron Shell, and Eugene Buechel, *Lakota Tales and Texts*, ed. Paul Manhart (Pine Ridge, S. Dak., 1978)
 MP James McLaughlin Papers. Assumption Abbey Archives, Richardton, N. Dak. (microfilm)
 OAG Record Group 94. Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General (Main Series), 1871–80. National Archives and Records Administration, Microfilm Publications, M666
 OIA Record Group 75. Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1881–1907. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

- OSI Record Group 48. Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Indian Division. Letters Received, 1881–1907. National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Md.
- PR-KC Record Group 75. Pine Ridge Agency Records. National Archives and Records Administration, Kansas City, Mo.
- RA-KC Record Group 75. Rosebud Agency Records. National Archives and Records Administration, Kansas City, Mo.
- RCA Record Group 75. Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824–81. Red Cloud Agency. National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publications, M234
- RCWK Record Group 94. Reports and Correspondence Relating to the Army Investigations of the Battle at Wounded Knee and to the Sioux Campaign of 1890–91. National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publications, M983
- RT Ricker Tablets. Eli Seavy Ricker Papers. Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln (microfilm)
- SC 188 Record Group 75. Office of Indian Affairs. Special Case 188 (The Ghost Dance, 1890–98). National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. (microfilm)
- STA Record Group 75. Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824–81. Spotted Tail Agency. National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publications, M234
- SI Secretary of the Interior
- SRA Record Group 75. Letters Received by the Office of Indian Affairs, 1824–81. Standing Rock Agency. National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publications, M234
- SR-KC Record Group 75. Standing Rock Agency Records. National Archives and Records Administration, Kansas City, Mo.
- SW Secretary of War

Acknowledgments

When I first began working on this book, many scholars and colleagues offered me valuable advice and encouragement. I especially appreciate observations and suggestions given me by Bess Beatty, Tom Biolsi, Cynthia Brokaw, Tom Brossia, Richard Maxwell Brown, Ray DeMallie, Matt Dennis, Joe Fracchia, Shari Huhndorf, Peter Iverson, Jim Mohr, Steve Newcomb, Greg Smoak, Richard White, and the students in my fall 1990 seminar on Wounded Knee. The University of Oregon Office of Research and Faculty Development provided me with critical financial and other support. Fellowships from the Oregon Humanities Center gave me extended time to work on two pieces of the project. Support from the National Endowment for the Humanities came at an especially opportune time, allowing me to do the bulk of the research for the book and begin writing. The Stanley B. Greenfield fund at the University of Oregon enabled me to acquire critical library materials.

I was especially fortunate as the project was in its formative stages to have participated in two seminars sponsored by the Newberry Library. These seminars not only gave me the opportunity to learn from scholars and community leaders like Joe Medicine Crow, Victor Douville, Fred Hoxie, Janine Pease Windy Boy, Pat Albers, Brenda Child, Ray Fogelson, Tsianina Lomawaima, Bea Medicine, Ron McCoy, Jean O'Brien, and Tillie Black Bear, they also allowed me to take part in invaluable discussions about Indians' perspectives on their history. I also learned many important things about the Pequot Powwow.

As the book developed, many Lakota and other Sioux people generously talked with me about their history and culture, answered questions, and shared their hospitality. I am deeply grateful to Ben Black Bear, Tillie Black Bear, Leonard Brughier, Victor Douville, Steve Emery, Mario Gonzalez, Johnson Holy Rock, Craig Howe, Bea Medicine, Tom Short Bull, Albert White Hat, and especially Mike Her Many Horses, who not only invited me to Pine Ridge but came out to salmon country to share his knowledge with me

and my students. I'm also grateful to Kelly Morgan and Jerome Kills Small for helping me with translations, Mike Marshall for his assistance with photographs at the Buechel Museum, and Gloria Runs Close to the Lodge for granting me permission to use Calico's account of the 1868 Treaty.

Raymond Bucko, Ray DeMallie, Herbert Hoover, and Harvey Markowitz, each with much greater knowledge of Lakota history and culture than my own, also provided me with many valuable insights. I'm grateful, too, to Father Paul Manhart for providing me with an advance copy of his translation of a portion of *Lakota Tales and Texts* and Todd Kerstetter for his advice about translation.

The research for this book would never have been completed without the dozens of librarians and archivists who assisted me in using materials on-site and responded to written queries and phone calls about sources and reproductions. With apologies to those whose names I may have overlooked, I'd like to thank Joseph James Ahern, John Day, Coi Drummond-Gehrig, Paula Fleming, Ann Jenks, Kenneth Johnson, Susan Humble, Julie Lakota, Deb Lyon, Mary Frances Morrow, Susan Ott, Valerie Porter-Hanson, Richard Sommers, Carey Southwell, Ken Stewart, Mark Thiel, Vyrtil Thomas, Chad Wall, and Keith Winsell. I'm also grateful to Kingsley Bray for sending me copies of his fine, yet difficult to locate, articles; Gary Anderson for his advice about the Campbell Collection at the University of Oklahoma; Eli Paul for his help locating the depredations claims records; Carol Foster for transcribing materials on microfilm; and Mike Brodhead for his very generous hospitality in Kansas City.

As I was writing the book, I was fortunate to find many people who agreed to read drafts and offer advice. Jayna Brown, Phil Deloria, Alex Dracobly, Bryna Goodman, Jerry Green, Shari Huhndorf, Pat Hilden, Robert Johnston, Jim Mohr, Peggy Pascoe, Nic Rosenthal, Gray Whaley, and Richard White all gave me close readings of particular sections of the book (many of these more than once). Arif Dirlik, Joe Fracchia, Randy McGowen, Rosemarie Ostler, and Barbara Welke heroically slogged through the entire manuscript. Comments I received from Fred Hoxie, Neal Salisbury, Frank Smith, and one of the two anonymous readers for the Press were also enormously helpful. I've also appreciated the cheerful advice and hard work of Eric Crahan and Nancy Hulan.

As I complete this book, my thoughts finally turn to family and friends for their support and affection. In addition to those mentioned above, I'd particularly like to acknowledge my parents, Barbara and Don Ostler, and my wife Rosemarie. As well, I can't help but think of the many teachers who have influenced me over the years. I'll always be deeply indebted to Hugh Rush, Lewis Webster, the late Sylvia Scanland, Louis Cononelos, William Mulder, Bing Bingham, Richard Maxwell Brown, and Shel Stromquist for their inspiration and example. I've dedicated this book to them.