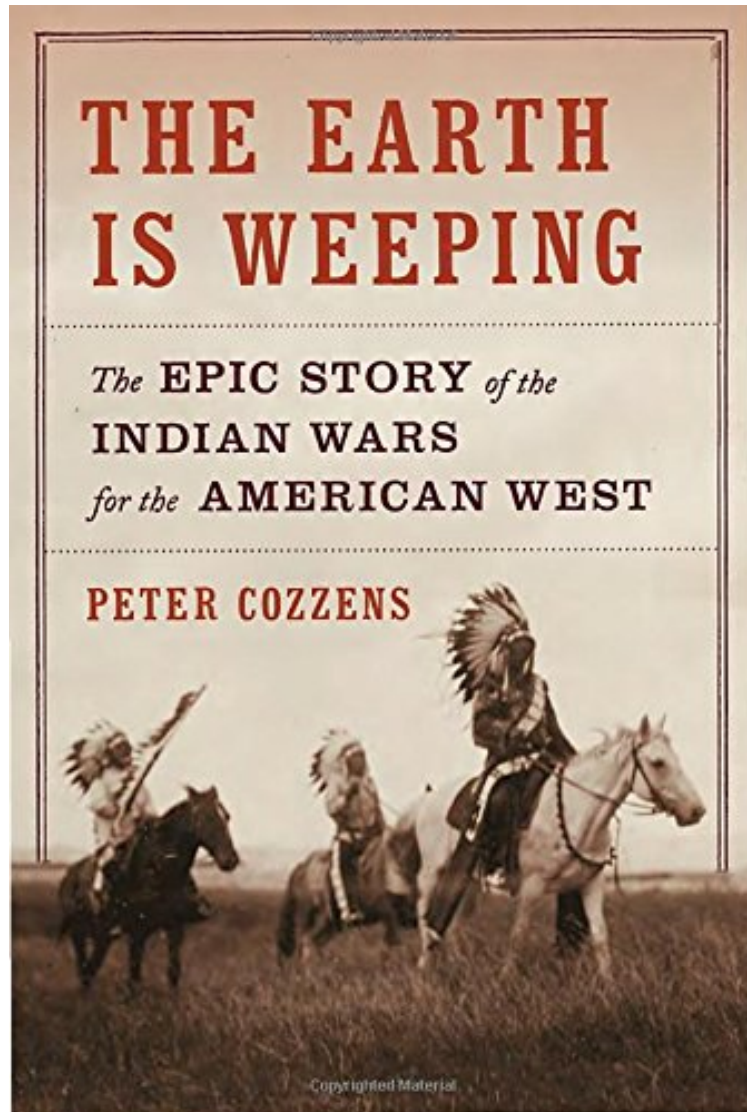


(Mobile pdf) The Earth Is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West

The Earth Is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West

Peter Cozzens

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#24979 in Books Ingramcontent 2016-10-25 2016-10-25Format: Deckle EdgeOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.60 x 1.70 x 6.70l, 2.30 #File Name: 0307958043576 pagesThe Earth Is Weeping The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West | File size: 61.Mb

Peter Cozzens : The Earth Is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Earth Is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West:

137 of 149 people found the following review helpful. The only good Indians I ever saw were dead"By Connie (She

who hikes with dogs) These were words spoken by General Philip Sheridan in 1869. Thankfully, not everyone in charge of fighting wars with our native Indian tribes shared that sentiment. This book by Peter Cozzens is perhaps the most concise and yet detailed historical narrative of the US government's plan to conquer the American West from the native Indians. Covering thirty years, from 1861 through 1891, Cozzens retells the events that helped shape myths and legends from both sides: the land-hungry whites and the land-holding natives. His mission is to show that much of what is printed in history textbooks about our Indian Wars is inaccurate and romanticized, and the many tribes within our growing boundaries were not always the "barbarians" or "savages" that they were depicted as being. Many tribes fought wars with other tribes. There were good and bad people on both sides. There were rivalries between native tribes over hunting grounds and natural resources before white settlers came in to distract the warring parties. Cozzens starts out his 459-page book summarizing the situation between natives and whites after the Civil War. This is important for the direction of how Indian issues were dealt with, and how they ended up on reservations by the 1880s. President Lincoln, hailed as the Great Emancipator of the African slave, was far less tolerant toward the native Indian. The post Civil War US Army was downsized, many generals were now out of the service or had returned to their previous ranks (usually captains if they were officers) and money was now set aside for post-war Reconstruction. There was no longer a Confederate enemy and daily battles were no longer a part of a soldier's routine. Soldiers coming in after the war were paid at best \$10 a month and supplemented their income with gambling or trading. Uniforms weren't standardized and new recruits didn't spend much time on marksmanship until it was regulated by the War Department in the 1870s. It's important for the reader new to this genre of history to understand the enlisted man's daily life after the Civil War, stationed along the frontier guarding immigration routes, railroad routes, or mining claims. Alcoholism and sexually-transmitted diseases were rampant among officers and enlisted. A former Civil War officer considered duty on the western frontier as punishment while a young enlistee, who may have been a new recruit from Germany or Ireland, as a new adventure and a steady income. Cozzens's writing style is concise and lacking any flowery prose. He can state more in one paragraph than some writers say in an entire page. Each chapter is around 20 pages, and the narrative is chronological for the most part. He divides the 30 years into three parts with overlapping years among the three regions: 1861-1873 in the Great Plains, 1870s in the Northwest and the final battles with the Southwestern tribes until the last chief surrendered in 1891 and life as the Indians knew it was altered forever. He is cautious to depict both chief and general as unbiased as possible. While former Civil War heroes like Generals Sherman, Sheridan and Crook had a general contemptuous attitude about the Indians, there were many Indian Bureau agents who worked with the Indians and witnessed senseless carnage. This is how Cozzens wants the readers to see the Indian Wars: as a battle of trust and mistrust played by chiefs and generals who didn't always honor peace treaties, who lashed out in revenge, or who simply hated one another. Cozzens also stresses that a lot of the blame for some of the senseless massacres such as Sand Creek, Hancock's War, Camp Grant, etc on the profiteering contractors who often followed westward-moving troops to make a living. These contractors knew the life of a frontier soldier was remote and often boring, so they were there to sell them whiskey, clothes and items from the East Coast. They were often the ones making up stories to incite the old generals to conduct sweeping attacks across Indian villages, when the victims were then often women and children unable to escape. Some of these stories are quite heart-wrenching because Cozzens explains his cause-and-effect between the generals and chiefs very well. The generals wanted obedient Indians away from immigrant routes or mining claims, but often did not differentiate between an Indian raid (for coveted items like horses and cattle or guns) to outright attacks of war. When the Union Army's weaponry improved in the 1870s with more reliable rifles, canons (which the Indians feared) and artillery, many tribes now were realizing that they were losing their homeland and living in peace with the white man was no longer possible. But here again Cozzens wants to stress that the US government did not have a policy of extermination in mind. The general consensus was simply to move the tribes out of White man's way and to hopefully Christianize them and teach them to be passive and productive farmers. Most tribes were not stationary farmers and were content with their own Creator and farming was not a lifestyle their traditions dictated. This difference of intent of course was complicated with the discovery of lucrative gold mines in Montana and Colorado, and the ever-expanding movement west of the American people in general. Some of the many stories in this book can bring one to tears at the wanton injustice, but there is blame on both sides. The largest tribes today in this country are the tribes that were willing to consent to the White man's plan, who did not wage constant war, and were willing to accept some western ways. Cozzens's research is impeccable. He traveled to some sites for a first-hand feel of what a massacre sight must have felt like (many are now on private land). He also sought the cooperation of other historians, notably James Donovan (author of "A Terrible Glory" and "The Blood of Heroes"). This volume is also replete with archival black-white photographs of Indian chiefs and generals, maps, immigration routes and summarized battle plans. For anyone interested in the history of US-Indian relations post Civil War, this is one book I highly recommend.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Coverage of Topic
By John L. Caso I really had very little knowledge about this subject. For that reason i liked the straight forward presentation. Not a real page turner, but I wasn't looking for that. Seemed even handed and factual with no particular agenda being preached. For one knowledgeable on the subject it may seem old material. I found it instructive.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book. Shows many tragic instances where tragedy occurred ...
By

Bucky BadgerExcellent book. Shows many tragic instances where tragedy occurred through terrible judgement, randomness, fueled by hate. Good and bad people on both sides in what was an inevitable conflict considering the times. I highly recommend this book.

*Winner of the Gilder Lehrman Prize for Military History**A Smithsonian Top History Book of 2016**Finalist for the Western Writers of America 2017 Spur Award in Best Western Historical Nonfiction*Bringing together a pageant of fascinating characters including Custer, Sherman, Grant, and a host of other military and political figures, as well as great native leaders such as Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, Geronimo, and Red Cloud, *The Earth is Weeping* is a beautifully written work of understanding and compassion, the fullest account to date of how the West was won and lost. "[S]ets a new standard for Western Indian Wars history..." Stuart Rosebrook, *True West Magazine*With the end of the Civil War, the nation recommenced its expansion onto traditional Indian tribal lands, setting off a wide-ranging conflict that would last more than three decades. In an exploration of the wars and negotiations that destroyed tribal ways of life even as they made possible the emergence of the modern United States, Peter Cozzens gives us both sides in comprehensive and singularly intimate detail. He illuminates the encroachment experienced by the tribes and the tribal conflicts over whether to fight or make peace, and explores the squalid lives of soldiers posted to the frontier and the ethical quandaries faced by generals who often sympathized with their native enemies.

.com An Best Book of November 2016: Why write a book about the Indian Wars when we already have Dee Browns seminal 1970 account *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*? It turns out there's a very good reason. While Dee Browns' book greatly informed our modern view of the conflict between Native Americans and the United States government, it didn't get everything right. Put very simply, the Indians weren't all good and the white people weren't all bad. In fact, especially with the Native Americans, it was much more complicated than that. As an example, inter-tribe rivalries led to strategic decisions like siding with the U.S. government that made sense given the landscape of power. This is a story of survival, one that unfolds under the shadow of a predetermined tragedy. If you're at all interested in the Indian Wars, this scrupulous and even-handed account is essential reading. --Chris Schlupe, *The Book* "A detailed recounting of random carnage, bodies burned, treaties broken and treachery let loose across the land Cozzens admirably succeeds in framing the Indian Wars with acute historical accuracy [D]emonstrates vast knowledge of American military history." Douglas Brinkley, *The New York Times Book* "[S]ets a new standard for Western Indian Wars history [T]he most comprehensive, insightful synthesis of the conflict between the Western tribes and the United States government and citizens published by a popular New York press in decades Like William Manchester's *The Glory and the Dream* [Cozzens] brilliant thesis and detailed narrative will sustain the reader from the prologue to the conclusion... [S]uccinctly seeks a sharper understanding of the cause and effects of the American government's policies, citizen relations with the tribes, intertribal history and warfare, and the United States massive immigration into the West during and after the Civil War." Stuart Rosebrook, *True West Magazine* A] valuable contribution [S]weeps across 25 years of U.S. Indian policy, gives clear accounts of battles and raids and introduces generals and chiefs, foot soldiers and warriors. While Cozzens doesn't say he wrote *The Earth is Weeping* to supplant [*Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*], he does express his hope that it will bring balance and better understanding of the Indian Wars of the American West. In that, he succeeds. John B. Saul, *The Seattle Times* [S]corching vividness [C]risp, muscular prose that offers clear pictures of men at war. A sweeping work of narrative history that synthesizes the work of countless historians, the book recognizes fragments of nobility and humanity amid epic tragedy. Without implying any false equivalence, Cozzens emphasizes history's tangled complexity. Dan Cryer, *The San Francisco Chronicle* "A comprehensive look A striking and thorough explanation The structure of the book allows the interweaving of timelines and historical context in a way that makes the heavy subject matter extremely readable and also thought provoking. Cozzens stakes to heart his own words of warning about the myths that pervade pop culture This is a history book, but it is also a present-tense book, full of ironies about how we're not so different from 19th century Westerners." Erin H. Turner, *Big Sky Journal* "[S]nappy prose, a strong narrative cadence, and admirable clarity. Cozzens is a gifted writer It's one of the strengths of the book that Cozzens lets none of his cast of characters Euro-Americans, Native Americans, political figures, military officers, and all the rest off the hook for responsibility for what happened. Written briskly, it draws you in; its maps are unusually numerous and clear; its comprehensiveness, making it useful to anyone wishing to know the facts of the many, distinct Indian wars, is unlikely to be surpassed. For those wishing to learn the story of the Indian wars of the American West, this is the book to turn to." James M. Banner Jr., *The Weekly Standard* "An evenhanded and smoothly written volume that is no less ambitious in scope than *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*." Andrew Graybill, *The American Scholar* "Cozzens does an exceptional job of examining the viewpoints of both sides, making heavy use of previously untapped primary sources This is a timely and thorough book, presenting the story without hyperbole or histrionics of this controversial chapter in American history, providing an excellent one-volume history of America's actual longest and most tragic war." Jerry Lenaburg, *New York Journal of Books* "I've been waiting for an up-to-date, objective, and well-researched book on the Indian Wars, and Peter Cozzens' *The Earth Is Weeping* is

all that and more an elegantly written narrative of one of the great sagas in American history, and better than *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*." James Donovan, author of *A Terrible Glory* and *The Blood of Heroes* "[A] magnificent single-volume account of the post-Civil War conflicts that shaped our history and the mythology of the frontier In examining the various Indian tribes and subgroupings within them, Cozzens does an admirable job of conveying their complexity and political divisions. This is a beautifully written work of understanding and compassion that will be a treasure for both general readers and specialists." Jay Freeman, Booklist (STARRED review) "[A]dds a missing perspective on the lives of ordinary people on both sides. Grand plans descended into confusion and cross purposes, alliances and loyalties shifted momentarily, and soldiers and warriors and their families spent most of that quarter-century tired, hungry, discouraged, trying just to survive the next drought or winter. No wonder their earth wept." William C. Davis, author of *Three Roads to the Alamo* and *An Honorable Defeat* "Peter Cozzens reminds us that tragedy, not melodrama, best characterizes the struggles for the American West. *The Earth Is Weeping* is the most lucid and reliable history of the Indian Wars in recent memory." Victor Davis Hanson, author of *Carnage and Culture* "A comprehensive assessment of the wars for control of the American West. Highly recommended for the intertwined history of Native Americans and the post-Civil War frontier U.S. Army." Nathan Bender, *Library Journal* "Peter Cozzens, one of our finest working historians, has taken on a massive chunk of Native American history and delivered it with power, style, and insight. There is much wisdom here, and much good writing." S.C. Gwynne, author of *Empire of the Summer Moon*, and *Rebel Yell* "[A] thorough history of the 1860-1890 Indian Wars." *The Week* "The uninterrupted succession of armed conflicts between the U. S. army and Indians on the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains from the 1860s to 1890, with fatalities mounting into the thousands, were truly America's longest and most tragic war. In sobering detail, Peter Cozzens has chronicled this dark chapter in our history." James M. McPherson, author of *The War That Forged a Nation* and *Battle Cry of Freedom* "A valuable panoramic view. Treachery on such an epic scale can bear many retellings, and this account stands out for its impressive detail and scope." Priyanka Kumar, *The Washington Post* "[S]cores of fascinating characters [V]ivid descriptions of ordinary people on both sides... [A] sweeping, sharp and stylish history of the Indian Wars of the second half of the 19th century and their tragic consequences for the native people. Cozzens retells familiar stories... with panache." Glenn C. Altschuler, *Star Tribune* "In this comprehensive, well-researched and beautifully written book, Peter Cozzens weaves together the many particular histories of the Indian Wars to present a multifaceted view of the era." *Foreign Service Journal* "[V]eteran historian Cozzens brings verve and a mastery of the era as he chronicles the personalities, politics and bloody clashes... [D]oes full justice to the complexities of this history." Matthew Price, *Newsday* About the Author PETER COZZENS is the author or editor of sixteen acclaimed books on the American Civil War and the Indian Wars of the American West, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Lincoln Prize. In 2002 he was awarded the American Foreign Service Association's highest honor, the William R. Rivkin Award, given annually to one Foreign Service Officer for exemplary moral courage, integrity, and creative dissent.