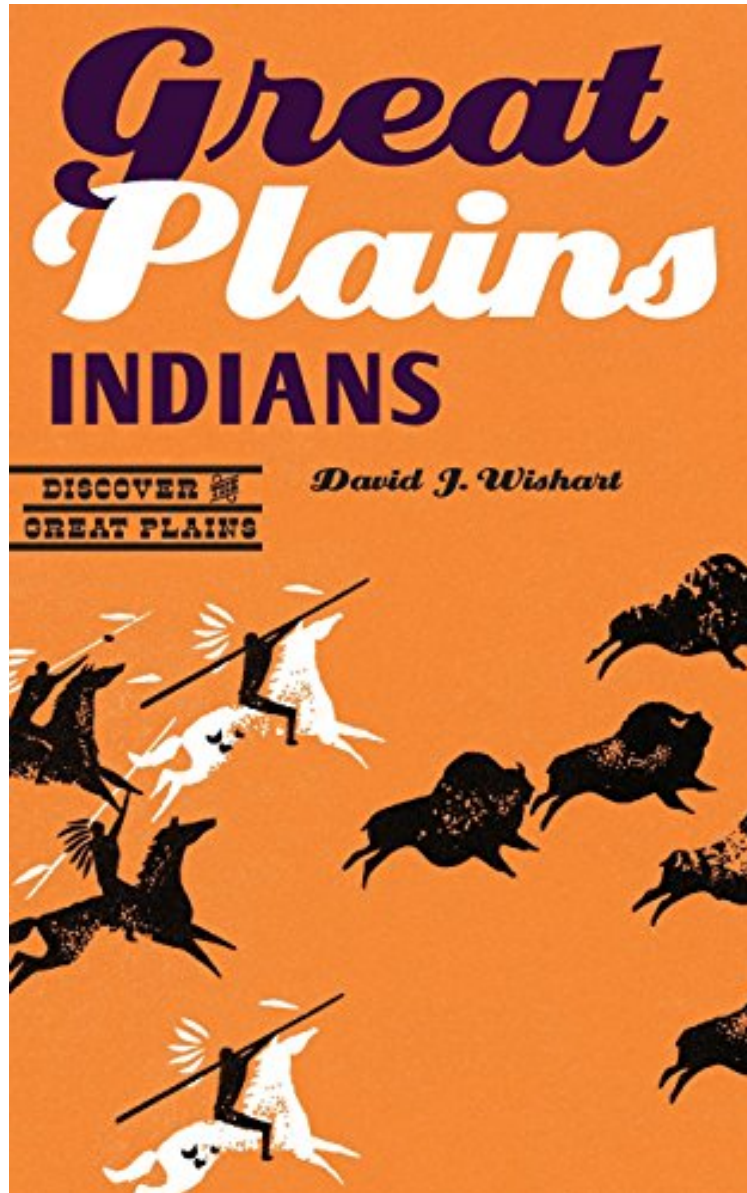


[Library ebook] Great Plains Indians (Discover the Great Plains)

Great Plains Indians (Discover the Great Plains)

David J. Wishart

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#795018 in Books 2016-09-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .36 x 5.00l, .0 #File Name: 0803269625168 pages | File size: 27.Mb

David J. Wishart : Great Plains Indians (Discover the Great Plains) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Great Plains Indians (Discover the Great Plains):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Plains Indians by David J. Wishart By Peeta This book gave me a good "overview" of the Indians of the plains. It just touches the history of the plains Indians, however I know more about the history of the plains Indiansthen I did before reading it. So thank you! 3 of 3 people found the following

review helpful. Did the Great Plains Indians Kill the Giant Sloths? By Anna Faktorovich A brief, condensed version of thirteen thousand years of the history of Great Plains Indians. It looks at the cultural shifts in their lives after colonialization in terms of their religion, heritage, as well as warfare and their own health and the health of the land of the Great Plains. I reviewed a thick volume on Native American people across North America in the last round, but this study only looks at a portion of this landmass, so it might really look more closely at the culture of these particular people. Culture is best studied regionally, as generalizing or grouping all Native American people into a single identity is likely to be a disservice to their individual traditions. Though the Great Plains take up a fourth of America's landmass, it's a section that is less populated by non-native Americans. The map Wishart presents shows the distribution of Native Americans across America, and I was surprised to discover that they are actually even more numerous in the south-western edge of the country, whereas I assumed the Great Plains was the area with the biggest reservations. Another interesting fact, .9% of the US is Indian; while this isn't high, it is interesting to consider that around 1 in 100 people in America have a culture that dates back to before Europeans' arrival. While this is a short book, it refrains from the standard go-to of books for youths that attempt to simplify histories to known facts. Instead, in the chapter on the origins of the native people of the Great Plains, Wishart digresses into the various disproven theories about how these people came to live in this region and the impact they had. He mentions the legends the Great Plains Indians tell about how they think they came into the land. He mentions the archeological evidence of tools found that seem to suggest that they were big game hunters, and that there seemed to have been a massive extinction event around the time of their migration from Asia onto the North American continent. But, then he proposes that these giant sloths and beavers that went extinct might have done so before humans arrived for another environmental reason. There are few certainties other than that the people who lived in the Great Plains left few written or drawn records of their experiences and beliefs. Dates and names of both native and European chiefs and generals start to appear once the Europeans begin an invasion of this region. Then, Wishart freezes the history in 1803 and describes the condition of Land and Life of the Plains Indians in this moment of early colonialization. A map of the region shows that the land was split into territories, some the size of states, that belonged to different native tribes, with the bigger chunks belonging to the Comanche, Arapaho, Crow, Mescalero, Assiniboin and Pawnee. I recall reading only about the Pawnee and Comanche previously, so the history related here shows a much more complex political grouping than what is depicted in school textbooks. Curiously, Wishart also spends more time focusing on these more known tribes, perhaps because they left a stronger record of evidence. He explains that the Pawnee were grouped into large villages, so that a single Pawnee village in this year had more people than St. Louis, the largest western town (34). He also explains that in contrast to Pawnees' set villages, the Comanches moved their camps every few days in an unceasing search for pasture and water for their innumerable horses (37). Each of the tribes had their own annual cycles that were based on the part of America that they inhabited. If the land was dryer, they might have needed to move more frequently to find good pasture, while if the land was fertile, they might have been motivated to stay and defend their spot against any invaders with fortifications. Then, Wishart describes the century of dispossession, a time when the reservations were formed and the native people were forced to move into unnatural for them areas that did not inherently belong to each of the tribes, as there were fewer reservations than the number of tribes that previously settled the region. The land disputes, sales, treaties, and constant re-shifting are detailed with great precision. Then he moves into the present and explains the current high unemployment rates and low incomes across the reservations. The final chapter offers some hope as the Indian population is growing as is the revenues in reservations that have opened casinos. This is probably not a great book for high school students or college students, as the long chapters of conflicting evidence is likely to confuse them and make it difficult for them to stay with the book. This is really a book written for the Great Plains Indians, intended as a manual to incite rebellion or rather peaceful protest among them, with the hope of regaining their rightful power in the region. Graduate classes on Native American history and some undergraduate students writing research papers in this area should benefit from the complex explanations in this study. This book is also helpful to academics like me who are teaching Writing Cultural Studies or other classes that touch on the culture of the Americas, and have to explain what American culture is in its essence and certainly this explanation has to include the native American culture.--Pennsylvania Literary Journal: Interview with a Marketing Guru: Volume VIII, Issue 3

David J. Wishart's *Great Plains Indians* covers thirteen thousand years of fascinating, dynamic, and often tragic history. From a hunting and gathering lifestyle to first contact with Europeans to land dispossession to claims cases, and much more, Wishart takes a wide-angle look at one of the most significant groups of people in the country. Myriad internal and external forces have profoundly shaped Indian lives on the Great Plains. Those forces—the environment, religion, tradition, guns, disease, government policy—have written their way into this history. Wishart spans the vastness of Indian time on the Great Plains, bringing the reader up to date on reservation conditions and rebounding populations in a sea of rural population decline. *Great Plains Indians* is a compelling introduction to Indian life on the Great Plains from thirteen thousand years ago to the present.

"[Wishart's] clear and succinct overview of Plains culture and history will enlighten the casual reader." Publishers Weekly