



"The Utes Must Go!": American Expansion and the Removal of a People

Peter R. Decker

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The complete drama of a proud Indian people swept away by the 19th-century tide of pioneer settlement, racism, and greed.

"The Utes Must Go!": American Expansion and the Removal of a People Details

Date : Published April 1st 2004 by Fulcrum Publishing

ISBN : 9781555914653

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Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review "The Utes Must Go!": American Expansion and the Removal of a People for online ebook

Charles says

There are a number of books written about the Ute people and their forced removal from Colorado, but this one ranks among the best. Decker, a historian by trade, tells the rich back story of the Colorado Ute bands from prehistory through the Spanish and Mexican era before delving into the final chapters wherein America takes the land from Mexico, gold is discovered in the region, and white settlers demand the removal of the Ute from the state, something they eventually get following a battle between Ute warriors and the US Cavalry, and the killing of the Indian agent Nathan Meeker by the Indians he was struggling to turn into farmers.

Decker examines each of the players in this tale, and explores their motives, beliefs, and possible reasons for acting as they did. While the book is certainly sympathetic to the plight of the Ute people, it takes great pains to thoroughly examine the issue from all sides. The story was a clash of individuals--Ouray, Meeker, Colorow, Governor Pitkin, General Thornburg and many others--but it was also a clash of two very different cultures, one of which was unable to coexist with the other. Decker delves into these competing worldviews, and explores how these underlying belief systems drove both the Ute and the Americans to the inevitable(?) and sad ending.

Anyone interested in western history will enjoy this well researched and well written book. ANY COLORADO RESIDENT should be required to read it.

Clif Smith says

A good historical treatment of the expulsion and confinement to reservations of the Ute tribes in Colorado.

David Martin says

3.5 stars. Very well researched and comprehensive. Perhaps the best part is the end where we hear directly from the author. Not 4 or 5 stars simply because I read "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee" just before this and it felt more hard-hitting. Perhaps that's simply because it was my first time learning history from the Native perspective.

Nevertheless, if you're a Coloradoan, this is a very good read since you'll gain new perspective on your state. If you're like me and the author and you found an arrowhead on your property and you want to know where it came from, read this book.

Alissa says

Peter Decker does an excellent job using a multitude of primary sources and not just other author's opinions to shed a critical light on the United State's obsession with Manifest Destiny, and the human cost of opening the American West to white settlement at the expense of the peoples who had lived there for hundreds of years. It was also interesting to consider and contrast the poorer treatment of American Indians by the US as compared to their treatment under the Spanish and later, Mexico.

As someone who lives in the Grand Valley, the area initially set aside for the Uncompahgre Utes, it is important to understand the history of Colorado and to better understand at what price it was taken from the Utes.

The only negative issue I had with this book is that some of the later chapters seem to have a few typos that got in the way of the reading.

Allan says

Let's give it back. Western Colorado, that is.
