Plenty-Coups: Chief Of The Crows
Synopsis

In his old age, Plenty-coups (1848–1932), the last hereditary chief of the Crow Indians, told the moving story of his life to Frank B. Linderman, the well-known western writer who had befriended him. Plenty-coups is a classic account of the nomadic, spiritual, and warring life of Plains Indians before they were forced onto reservations. Plenty-coups tells of the great triumphs and struggles of his own life: his powerful medicine dreams, marriage, raiding and counting coups against the Lakotas, fighting alongside the U.S. Army, and the death of General Custer. This new edition allows readers to appreciate more fully the accomplishments and rich legacy of Plenty-coups. A previously unpublished essay by Linderman tells of his meeting and working with the chief. An introduction by Phenocia Bauerle and Barney Old Coyote Jr., both members of the Crow Nation, speaks to the enduring importance of Plenty-coups for the Crow people in the twenty-first century; an afterword by Timothy P. McCleary, also of the Crow Nation, highlights the pivotal role Plenty-coups played during the early reservation years after the buffalo had gone; an essay by Celeste River examines the special relationship between the old chief and Linderman; a map of Plenty-coups’s world highlights places named in the story; a glossary of Crow words and concepts found in the story draws upon the latest orthographic standards and contemporary translation; and a photo gallery showcases both Plenty-coups at different stages of his life and unforgettable scenes of his world.

Book Information

Paperback: 204 pages
Publisher: Bison Books; unknown edition (November 1, 2002)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0803280181
Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 8 inches
Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (23 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #236,349 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Native American #495 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies #677 in Books > History > Americas > Native American

Customer Reviews

I can’t say enough good things about this book. Originally written almost 70 years ago, here we
have the life story in detail of a key figure of 19th century Native America. There is no flowery, new-age like embellishment; no underlying PC romanticism or latent anti-Indian bias. The narrative is essentially a transcription of Plenty Coups own words describing his life and the culture of the Crows and other northern plains tribes. The good, bad, beauty and harshness of the times are vividly (and accessibly) captured for the reader. This is NOT DRY READING by any means :-) Plenty Coups tells it like it really was - tough people in a tough environment. A MUST for Native American history buffs. Highly Recommended.

To put it bluntly, this book changed my life! I found the old chief’s stories mesmerizing and this has inspired a life-long interest in Native American culture and its preservation. The story is well written and easily followed. I first read this book at about age 10, and still find it stirring now, at age 37. A MUST READ for folks wanting to know more about the plight and past of the Crow.

The book will crush the myth that The Native American People were savages. Plenty Coups had more wisdom, more courage, more character and integrity, and more concern for the welfare of his people, than any bag of garbage walking around in any political office in the United States. Plenty Coup’s story is the story of what a leader should be. It will make you wish that you had Crow Blood running through your veins.

I wouldn’t call this book your typical sequential biography, it’s just Chief Plenty Coup’s recollections of some of the personal events that occurred during his life. It’s like listening to the stories of your father, or grandfather. Mr. Linderman also adds in bits of information about the Crow way of life. I have read a few books on the general history of Native Americans, but I am finding myself leaning towards books that deal with specific tribes, or individuals. It is even more interesting when the book, like this one, has the views, or stories from someone who has actually lived the life. I highly recommend this book!

Oh yeah, ya gotta get this one...This is a rare gem and a good one at that as this is as close as we can get to having the Chief write a book himself. It is also very rare to have a Native who has pictures of himself taken throughout his life, a very special treat indeed. I found myself looking at his pictures frequently as he does not look remarkably big & fierce, yet accomplishes incredible deeds. Almost like a Brad Pitt movie, you almost want him to get whacked just once, because he’s just “too good”! But he is the real deal...and to think that there were thousands of men like him throughout this
country's early history. What a shame...

Plenty Coups: Chief of the Crow Indians, by Frank B. Linderman The interviewer starts off slow and mostly talking about himself. But he finally lets the old Indian speak and it's pretty good, and sometimes better, from there. I do wonder if it wasn't "helped" by the U.S. government in an effort to clean some of the stinky mud off itself re: the dealings with the Native Americans. But it's a good read anyway.

Fast paced read through the bulk of the later half of the 19th century Crow experience. Offers a timeless and precious look at tribal interactions prior to the reservation era. Reads like a 19th century action novel. Bonus of some historical pictures included that are worth a look. Plenty Coups was truly a fascinating leader and his opinions have stood the test of time.

This is a must have book for anyone wanting to learn what the Crow Indians life was like. He tells what his life was like as a young boy playing, then growing and learning to become more mature, and then the wars he fought in as a man. His account of fighting against Custer is fact proved according to what historians also wrote.

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