



The Trail of Tears: The Story of the American Indian Removals 1813-1855

Gloria Jahoda

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In this poignant and powerful book, Gloria Jahoda makes use of hitherto unpublished sources to relate in unprecedented depth and detail the history of Indian courage in the face of white expansion during the first half of the nineteenth century. She describes the violence, the wars, the meaningless treaties and political double-dealing that spread from Washington to the frontier. She portrays the suffering as thousands of Creeks, Choctaws, Cherokees, Chickasaws, Seminoles, Shawnees, Delawares, Senecas and members of other proud Native American nations perished from cold, hunger and white men's diseases. Here too are the monumental figures of the age, men of greed, hatred, honor and inspiration, including: Andrew Jackson, who created the policy and presided over its ruthless execution Sir St. George Gore, an Irish millionaire who, in slaughtering over 2,000 buffalo, helped speed the demise of the Native Americans newly arrived in the Great American Desert Sam Houston and Davy Crockett, former Indian fighters turned Indian advocates John Ross, the Cherokee statesman who represented his tribe before the United States government and later bitterly led his people out of Georgia Osceola, the brilliant military tactician and Seminole chief who gallantly waged war against Winfield Scott and Zachary Taylor.

History comes alive in the vivid prose and fluid anecdotal style of *The Trail of Tears*. It is a book that must be read by anyone interested in the evolution and development of America's history--and its destiny.

The Trail of Tears: The Story of the American Indian Removals 1813-1855 Details

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From Reader Review The Trail of Tears: The Story of the American Indian Removals 1813-1855 for online ebook

Lynne Belokopitsky says

I don't often quit a book, but I'm quitting this one. I found myself dreading reading it. Each chapter described a different tribe lied to by white people and dying as they headed West. It is disheartening and difficult to face that our nation was built on these lies. I'm glad to have a deeper understanding of the history of the Native Americans. Perhaps someday I'll be able to finish this book.

Krista says

Good book, although I admit not usually the kind I like (it was pretty well a history book). I didn't read all of it, but what I did get brought back history lessons I had gotten in school. Such a tragic event. Its another eye opener.

Michael Anderson says

If you are interested in how the American Indian lost their lands and were pushed out of the Eastern US, this book will provide an intimate, detailed, anecdotal history of the tribes affected by the Removal Act of the 1830's. I was only familiar with the Cherokee and Seminole stories, but the tragedy was much broader in scale. Many tribes, much greed and racist disregard for the natives. It's a sad book, with a sameness to the stories of the forced travels out of the East and deaths, that become overwhelming with the retellings. It's a disturbing tale, yet another disturbing tale.

Jim says

Even though I was well versed in the story of this American tragedy this book added some thought provoking context and dimension.

Peter Talbot says

Should be required secondary school reading, and should be read before Dee Brown's "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" as the first book in the story of the American White Man's ethnic cleansing and property grab. It must be read to appreciate the Jackson and Van Buren era and to set the stage for the later predations against the Plains Indians on behalf of the iron horse as well as the states-rights pablum that justified the Civil War. Brilliantly written and soulful, and dependent on sources not normally consulted by the historians among the long knives.

Tricia says

The inability of the European to recognize the wonder of other people and to learn from them and coexist appalls me! how horribly sad. I think that the British in Canada handled things better but they didn't- it was just different and both our nations are still dealing with some of the ramifications.

Charlene Mathe says

Why did our new nation fail so dismally this first(?) test of our founding principles? I think the catastrophe of this era was eclipsed by the Civil War. Would we have behaved differently? What distinguished those who stood up in opposition, and how could they have been more effective? These are the questions I have that motivate my purchase of this book.

Pollyanna says

I learnt about the Trail of Tears at university and became fascinated. I have always admired native americans and wanted to read more about this sad part of their history. I have to say it was a tough read, very wordy and at times I got lost with how the book went from one place to another.

It was very sad at times and shocking, the brutality of the Americans was disgusting and disgraceful.

I would recommend anyone interested in American History at least reads one book about the Trail of Tears.

Tania says

I attempted this after failing at 'Bury my heart at wounded knee', hoping I would find it more engaging, but I am ashamed to say that yet again I am sadly defeated. However, it has left me bereft of understanding at how Andrew Jackson made it onto the \$20 bill; one of the great Native American chiefs would be an appropriate replacement.

Kmkoppy says

This was an amazingly good book that was sensitively written, as factual as possible considering the scarcity of accurate information regarding the Indian removals. The author's description of the powerful chiefs and their dedication to their tribes was moving. She covered the good and the bad people that participated in the tragic removal of the proud Indian tribes. It's so horrible that our country cheated these innocent peoples by lying, stealing, encouraging alcohol, and literally starving the murdering them. Some of the book is difficult to read due to its honest portrayal of the disgusting practices that took place but it's so important for us to realize that the natives have suffered for many years due to the greed of the early white Americans. We have a lot of work to do to make up for what we've done to this race of people, and for many things there is no way we can make it up.

Kim says

A little hard to follow sometimes, but very interesting. In the Forward, the author explains that she tried to be an objective historian, but found it too difficult and failed. Considering the subject matter, I can see why.

readmuchrunfar says

Nicely written historical account--I found it hard to put down but hard to pick up at the same time because of the sadness of the story. Something I think I never quite grasped before is that in many cases the Indians were quite integrated into white life--they lived in houses, kept livestock, and tended fields...even owned slaves. They'd often converted to Christianity. Some fought back of course (Black Hawk is one I'm familiar with, having gone to college in the same area), but often they just wanted to live and let live. Instead they were cajoled, tricked, and forced to move, leaving only their names behind. It's a shameful story from an American white person's perspective, but one that must be told.

Jon Lawrence says

Trail of tears is surely an enlightening work though Jahoda has an annoying stylistic rhythm/cadence which makes it a burdensome read (a defect which I have not recognized in any other work).

If you choose only one book about the genocide and extermination of American Indians, I would recommend "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West" by Dee Brown, which is a masterpiece.

Bethany says

This book was a beautiful piece of work. Although difficult at times to keep my attention set on every page, I felt like I was reading an encyclopedia more than once. It was a challenge to put all 300+ pages away in a couple of weeks, but it was well worth the time. All in all it was a fascinating and detailed book that lets you voyage into what the trail of tears and the Indian removal act was about, the government involvement, the key players in the game, and how it built the ground for American history. However, if you're not sucked in by the time you've read the first chapter, you should just put down the book.

Taylor says

As I have noted in the past, I have a tough time with non-fiction. Although the subject matter made this one difficult to handle (turns out most of our early Presidents were somewhere on the spectrum between malicious racist and genocidal a**hole), Jahoda's rich storytelling makes the facts come alive. I'd definitely recommend this to anyone with an interest in the history of the U.S.' relationship with Native American tribes. I guess I knew it was horrific before I picked up this book, but knowing the details makes it so much worse. So, it's hard to say that I "really liked it," but I do think it's a valuable book to have read.

