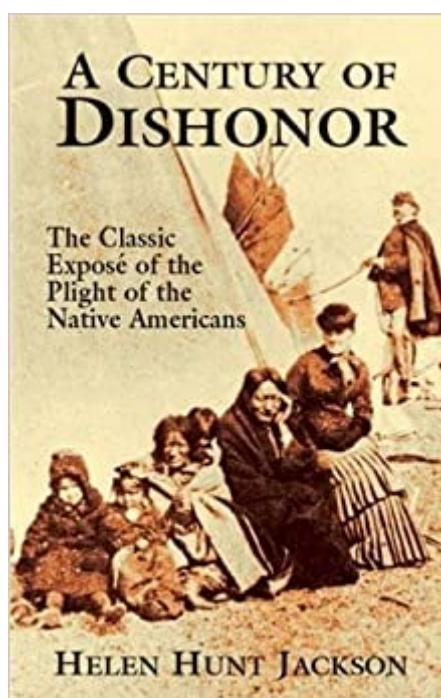


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A Century Of Dishonor: The Classic Exposé Of The Plight Of The Native Americans



Synopsis

Sharply critical of the United States government's cruelty toward Native Americans, this monumental study describes the maltreatment of Indians as far back as the American Revolution. Focusing on the Delaware and the Cheyenne, the text goes on to document and deplore the sufferings of the Sioux, Nez Percé, Ponca, Winnebago, and Cherokee in the process revealing a succession of broken treaties, the government's forced removal of tribes from choice lands, and other examples of inhuman treatment of the nation's 300,000 Indians. Stirring and eloquently stated, *A Century of Dishonor* was written in the hope of righting the wrongs inflicted upon this nation's first inhabitants. Within a year following its publication (1881), the book helped create the powerful Indian Rights Association. Decades later, author and critic Allen Nevins described the volume as "one of the soundest and most exhaustive works" ever written about Indian rights. Still a valuable reference, this book will be welcomed by students, historians, and others interested in the plight of Native Americans.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A good accounting of America's history with the Native Americans. The title is apt.

A Century of Dishonor • A Sketch of the United States Government's Dealings with some of the Indian Tribes by Helen Jackson. Pub'd first in 1881 By 1881 the American Indian was

no longer a serious threat to settlers and no longer "in the way" of Manifest Destiny since we had already stolen all their land, wrecked their culture, slaughtered the buffalo down from 9 million to 55 and reduced 99% of the Indians to pauperism on reservations. So now our society could quit demonizing them and start romanticizing them by constructing the "Noble Red Man" image and discarding the "bloodthirsty savage" image. Doing so was a balm to our deservedly guilty conscience. Jackson's book was intended to raise a voice for the Indian just as Stowe's novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had done for slaves. Jackson's goal was to publicize the plight of the Indian and the long history of illegal underhanded dealing by the U.S. Government (and U.S. Citizenry). The reader must remember that, though the corruption of the government and their rip-off of the Indians is very "old news" to us in 2016, it was headline material in 1881 "the beginning of what has been termed the Progressive Age when social do-gooderism reached the national stage. Chapter One is a lengthy treatise on Law: International, national, personal and Biblical... it is Jackson building the cross that she will hang the government on in the following chapters. Casual readers today who already know about the sinful ways of the government can skip this tedious chapter. Subsequent chapters are some interesting "case histories" of the bad treatment given to an assortment of tribes as a means to convict the government. About Jackson's case histories... Anyone who has delved even casually into tribal histories will see immediately that she has had no personal day-to-day, live-next door experience with "wild" Indian. She bases all her descriptions of Indians and events upon the reports of others and is very, very selective in her choices. Of course this leaves her writing with a very, very pro-Indian skew to Indian nature and behavior and a very anti-white man taint to events and character. Of course, she was writing a book she hoped would influence politics in favor of the red man so the reader won't be surprised at the bias. Had Jackson stuck with her expose of the government's corruption and illegal treatment of the Indians her book would have been largely unarguable by anyone. But when she chose to try to also paint the Indians as some noble, innocent, long-suffering, peaceful, pacifistic group she opened herself and her book to massive attack from the couple million or so Americans who knew better and could prove it... especially those west of the Mississippi. In short, had she stuck to the Truth her position would have been much, much stronger. This book is interesting for the same reason some quaint antique is interesting. Not that it is interesting, or useful today, or even of high quality, but just because it had a place in the sun at some bygone time. Many more modern books on these topics will be of greater value to the reader... and more objective than this one. The excellent works of Robert Utley come to mind. All that said, this is an interesting book simply because it is what it was... a Progressive

attempt to get the government to stop being so corrupt and heartless. Good Luck with THAT !

Not an easy read. Reads more like a research paper. Patronizing attitudes of the time period in which it was written made it hard to continue. However, it offers insight into how and why the current relationship between Native Americans and the US government evolved over the past 2-3 centuries. Not for beach reading...

Very shameful tales of early mistreatment of Native Americans.

An informative read.

Awesome woman - awesome account of atrocities and moral bankruptcy of a country that hasn't improved much since then. The Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee of 1881 & curiously omitted mention in Dee Brown's book. Give a white girl a break. One of Colorado's Rad Red Femmes.

Helen Hunt Jackson did a great job in assembling documents and treaties that cover international law as well as treaty law. In the end she proves without a doubt that what we did the Native Americans and continue to do to this day is horrific. And we wonder why our country is falling apart.

Awesome.

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