Clyde Warrior: Tradition, Community, and Red Power

During the 1990s, both academic and popular discussions of the Red Power movement typically cited the occupation of Alcatraz in 1969-1971 as a jumping-off point and focused heavily on the activities of the American Indian Movement (AIM). The organization’s facility for the limelight and a bevy of memoirs by members such as Dennis Banks, Russell Means, and the Crow Dogs bolstered AIM-centric narratives. To this day, AIM dominates pop-culture discussions of Red Power.

Scholars and Indian activists have long been aware of important pre-Alcatraz Red Power developments such as the National Indian Youth Council and grassroots activism among tribes in New York State and the Pacific Northwest. Only recently have authors including Sherry Smith, Daniel Cobb, and Bradley Shreve written extensive studies of early Red Power developments. Paul McKenzie-Jones’s biography of seminal Youth Council leader Clyde Warrior, a Southern Ponca who died in 1968 at only twenty-eight years of age, is a welcome addition to this literature.

Unlike many better-known AIM members who had grown up in urban areas, Warrior had been reared in the heart of the Ponca nation. This upbringing fostered his strong consciousness and dedication to “traditional” Indian ways. Brash and insightful, Warrior pioneered the sharply critical and unapologetic rhetoric that soon became a hallmark of Red Power, targeting both United States and tribal bureaucracies and historical forces he saw as keeping Indian nations marginalized and impoverished. During his lifetime, Warrior was often compared to Black Power advocate Stokely Carmichael. He is one of the most important post-World War II native activists yet to receive substantial scholarly treatment, making this biography an important contribution.

On its own merits, Clyde Warrior is a fine book. The writing is clear, and although the narrative runs fewer than two hundred pages, McKenzie-Jones covers Warrior’s brief life in some detail. The author’s aggregation of primary sources is one of the book’s strengths. Beyond the usual archival work, he also interviewed twenty people who had substantial interactions with Warrior, including family members and fellow activists. Utilizing both archival and oral history resources, McKenzie-Jones charts Warrior’s life and political activities from his Oklahoma childhood to his maturation as a serious and influential commentator on Indian affairs.

Unfortunately, the impressive primary research is not complemented fully with references to the scholarly secondary literature. Although the work is flush with important and illuminating primary materials, its paucity of secondary sources leaves it lacking sufficient context at times. Additional references to the literature on Indian affairs would have been helpful, as would a more thorough incorporation of prior research on issues from the wider domestic and international context of the 1960s, such as the Cold War and the civil rights movement. Consequently, the book seems a bit narrow at times. This criticism aside, Clyde Warrior is a valuable and important contribution to the burgeoning scholarship on the Red Power movement and a must-read for serious students of the era.

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Black Hills Forestry: A History

Despite a caveat about being “neither an ecologist nor an environmental historian” (p. x), John F. Freeman has provided an adept history of the Black Hills National Forest. Having already ventured into environmental history with *High Plains Horticulture* (2008), Freeman further demonstrates his ability to negotiate and narrate human interactions with varied environments with this work.

Moving along a roughly chronological path from early forest explorations to contemporary forest management, Freeman examines several topics. He reviews how the voracious timber appetite of mining operations initially fettered but ultimately facilitated the establishment of a federal forest reserve. Key users and residents of the forest eventually came to accept the vision of Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the United States Forest Service, to manage forest resources for sustainable use. Freeman’s coverage of early federal forest management includes analysis of pioneering reports on the mountain pine beetle. He also dedicates a chapter to regional tourist developments promoted by South Dakota governor and United States senator Peter Norbeck that reduced Forest Service control of public lands and challenged the timber industry’s primacy. The conservation and infrastructural work of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s receives attention in a transitional chapter that concludes with the dawn of a new era of multiple use in 1950. From the 1960s on, federal legislation enshrined environmental priorities and increased public input in Forest Service decision-making processes. Environmental and recreational interests catalyzed the establishment of Black Elk Wilderness and the George S. Mickelson Trail, but environmental groups also obstructed timber management through procedural and legal challenges, creating a situation that some critics would blame for enabling the Jasper Fire of 2000. In the disaster’s wake, however, various forest interests forged compromises that cleared the way for overall forest health as the goal of management. Freeman acknowledges the nuances of strategies that integrate timber thinning and harvesting not as ends, but as means for maintaining a resilient forest in the face of such threats as the mountain pine beetle. “One might go further,” he concludes, “to suggest that the only way to save the forest and commercial timbering is to create and manage for a biologically diverse forest” (p. 224).

The work’s evidentiary foundations largely rest upon a substantial range of Forest Service administrative and research materials. Freeman also gleaned valuable community perspectives from Custer, South Dakota, newspapers, while some personal communications with important players enrich coverage of the contemporary period. Although the author’s use of historical evidence is impressive, it might have been enhanced by a critical integration of insights from Martha Geene’s *Common Ground: The Struggle for Ownership of the Black Hills National Forest* (1996) and more systematic coverage of regional newspapers. Considering the overall breadth and depth of sources, these points indicate no serious flaws in Freeman’s work. *Black Hills Forestry* should find a significant and diverse readership and serve as an essential reference for any subsequent histories of the Black Hills National Forest. It should also be important reading for scholars interested in the history of the region and forest management in the United States.

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History of Nebraska

Readers will be pleased with the most recent iteration of the classic *History of Nebraska*, whose first edition by James Olson appeared in 1955. Ronald Naugle, who has since retired as professor of history at Nebraska Wesleyan University, last revised the work in 1997. Nebraska Wesleyan professor emeritus of library and information technology John Montag joined Naugle to create this fourth edition of the standard history of the state. The authors have largely achieved their goals of broadening the subject matter, addressing