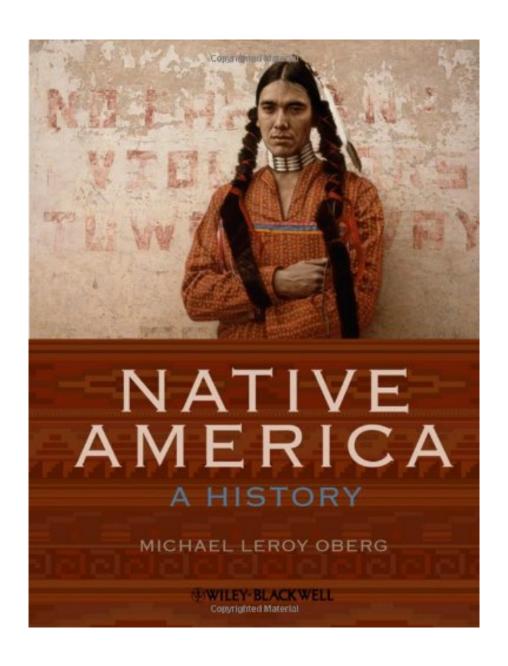


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Review

"Few areas of scholarship have changed as rapidly as the field of Native American history. Michael Oberg's eloquent new textbook, drawn from his sure command of a vast literature, distills the most important developments in the field and should find a place in every course focused on the history of America's indigenous peoples."

Peter C. Mancall, University of Southern California

"Oberg's work presents a readable narrative history of American Indian nations and their history in what became and is the United States. Written around issues that faced American Indians and following the individual chronologies of specific groups in different regions, it provides a text that communicates the breadth and complexity of American Indian history to students in a way that no other text achieves."

Carol Higham, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

From the Back Cover

Offering an important variation to existing studies, Native America: A Brief History places the lives and experiences of native communities at the center of the narrative. Chronologically organized and covering the period of first contact to the present day, Oberg focuses on 11 native communities in all parts of the United States, including the Mohegans, the Cherokee, the Powhatans, the Dakota Sioux, and the Pueblos, whose experiences encapsulate the principal themes and developments in Native American history. He describes the complex relationships they maintained with the colonial powers and, later, the United States and provides readers with an insight into the enormous diversity and varied experiences of Native Americans.

Written in a highly accessible style, Oberg provides an engaging and concise text that remains focused on Indian peoples and emphasizes their importance in the history of the United States.

About the Author

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Civility: English Imperialism and Native America, 1585–1686 (1999; 2003), Uncas: First of the Mohegans (2003; 2007), and The Head in Edward Nugent's Hand: Lost Tribes and Lost Colonies at Roanoke Island (2007; 2010), and editor of Samuel Wiseman's Book of Record: The Official Account of Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia, 1676–1677 (2005; 2009). In addition to teaching, Oberg received a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003.

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This history of Native Americans, from the period of first contact to the present day, offers an important variation to existing studies by placing the lives and experiences of Native American communities at the center of the narrative.

- Presents an innovative approach to Native American history by placing individual native communities and their experiences at the center of the study
- Following a first chapter that deals with creation myths, the remainder of the narrative is structured chronologically, covering over 600 years from the point of first contact to the present day
- Illustrates the great diversity in American Indian culture and emphasizes the importance of Native Americans in the history of North America
- Provides an excellent survey for courses in Native American history
- Includes maps, photographs, a timeline, questions for discussion, and "A Closer Focus" textboxes that provide biographies of individuals and that elaborate on the text, exposing students to issues of race, class, and gender

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A good general overview of Native American History, but with certain flaws

By Bobby Hami

Oberg's Native America: A History is a good view on the history of this people, but that is all it is. I read this book for an online class at the same University Oberg teaches and have to say enjoyed the book and its commitment to accuracy. Oberg's book is at the same time very readable and immensely frustrating. He takes immense effort to explain the origins of Native people, and their myths, religions, and interactions with Europeans. Obviously there was no United States of Indians, or really a central structure between all tribes/Indian Nations, so Oberg's history studies seven or eight Indian Nations, from the Iroquois League and Algonquians to the Seminoles and Cherokees. Despite a very readable history up to the late 19th century, Oberg does an awful job at really addressing Native-American affairs in the 20th century. We get a relatively short glimpse of Native-American legal successes during WWII and their efforts in the Civil Rights era. Yet, this last third of this history is simply rushed, abbreviated to a fault, and at its worst truly sophomoric.

However, the biggest shortcoming of this book is the relative absence of maps. Considering the tribes Oberg considers and the movement or displacement of these Native people and the wars they engage in, one would expect the book to be rich with maps tracing these events. In the 400pages of the book, I recall only seeing a dozen or so maps, and that for a history textbook is absolutely insufficient. This book is a good text if combined with a class that offers more information and is able to cover the 20th century history more appropriately. However, for a self-guided education, I would not recommend this text. However, if one is adamant to read Oberg's book I would combine it with "Like a Hurricane: The Indian Movement from Alcatraz to Wounded Knee" by Paul Chaat Smith and Robert Allen Warrior which is a wonderful book on the Native-American movement in the 1960's.

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Very informative history of Native American treatment by the U ...

By Lee Y. Woo

Very informative history of Native American treatment by the U. S. movement and white people to steal their land and cultural.

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