



A Century Of Dishonor - A Sketch Of The United States Government's Dealings With Some Of The Indian Tribes

Helen Jackson

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In 1838, the state of Georgia compelled 17,000 Cherokee Indians to undertake a forced march west from Georgia to Indian territory. The march, later known as the Trail of Tears, claimed thousands of lives through exposure and starvation. A CENTURY OF DISHONOR is the classic account of the American government's scandalous treatment of Native Americans. Author Helen Jackson also recounts the unfair and immoral treatment of other tribes, including the Oglala Sioux who were moved eight times in less than twenty-five years, and the Nez Perce, who were thrown off their reservation during the gold rush of the 1860's and 1870's. The American government left behind a virtual trail of broken promises and violated treaties. Even more compelling reading is her account of some of the atrocities inflicted by the "civilized" white man. In 1864, at Sand Creek, Colonel John M. Chivington and his Colorado Volunteers spurned Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle's offer of peace. They attacked the camp in a surprise dawn raid and indiscriminately slaughtered and mutilated hundreds of men, women, and children. Then there was the massacre of Apaches in the Arizona Territory by Captain Penn, who commanded Fort Lowell. On the morning of April 30, 1871, his company of infantry surprised a small group of Apaches and murdered and mutilated over one hundred women and children. The incidents in A CENTURY OF DISHONOR encompass appalling examples of official government policy toward Native Americans, the very policy which caused Benjamin Franklin to cry out, "Look upon your hands! They are stained with the blood of your relations."

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