



# **The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull**

*Robert M. Utley*

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## **The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull** Robert M. Utley

Chronicles the life of the famous warrior, Sitting Bull, correcting many common misconceptions about the legendary native American. By the author of *The Last Days of the Sioux*. 35,000 first printing. \$35,000 ad/promo. History Bk Club Main. BOMC. QPB.

## **The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull Details**

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# **From Reader Review The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull for online ebook**

## **Alexander Anderson says**

Fascinating and certainly worth a read by anyone interested in obtaining vital yet unsentimental insight into a formative time in the history of the United States. Will also be helpful to the reader in catching a glimpse of the mechanisms by which conquering cultures often decimate the cultures whom they vanquish.

Utely in this biography manages his topic adroitly. He uses a relatively light touch to treat matters of a large, complex nature with unassuming poignancy and objectivity, while simultaneously bringing a bridled vitality to this undertaking.

Overall a compelling, soundly researched, sympathetic and tragic portrait of a man and his culture under siege; outgunned, outmanned, outmanoeuvred and ultimately overwhelmed by forces well beyond his control.

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## **Debbie Crossland says**

I work for the Fort Buford historical site in ND. I wanted to read more on Sitting Bull. This book tries to portray the indian way of thinking and part of their culture both from the Indian point of view and the whites point of view. What I have learned is a white nation that would lie and steal for greed. As sitting Bull vision revealed. The eagle would rule all. The eagle is on the American dollar. Money rules. And we are a nation that wants and wants and gets.

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## **Samuel Valentino says**

One of the things I liked about this book was the use of primary sources, especially the interviews with people who had actually known Sitting Bull. There were also the army accounts, interviews with Sitting Bull himself, contemporary news accounts, etc., that really made this a valuable resource.

One other thing that I liked, or rather, learned to my dismay, was how bad the Native Americans really had it. All my life I've known that the whites had treated them badly, but it was usually framed in a way that moralized about it, which somehow didn't convey it as well. In this book, the author is more intent on describing the historical events, rather than offering opinions on it, which throws into sharper relief how ruthless and relentless the whites were. It's a good book but very sobering and sad that it happened at all.

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## **Dennis says**

This felt like a tough read for me, but the overall story of Sitting Bull is important. I am glad to have read it. The book is footnoted and the author has background to garner professional resources to write this story of Sitting Bull. A friend loaned me the book which he purchased used for \$3.00.

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## **Jim says**

Fascinating insight into the fight of the Sioux, led by Sitting Bull, to keep their culture and lands against the theft by white settlers.

The actions of the U.S. government can be summed up by this quote from the book: "They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one; they promised to take our land and they took it."

The author describes Sitting Bull as the embodiment of the Hunkpapa tribe of Lakota Sioux: a fierce warrior, wise leader, generous, and a holy man. Yet, author Utley does not romanticize the Sioux; he details a culture which derives male identity significantly through warfare especially against traditional enemy tribes, a culture so engrained it was impossible for Indian tribes to unite against white settlers.

This book has caused me to think about a person never mentioned in the book: Abraham Lincoln. In 1862, the discovery of gold in the headwaters of the Missouri River caused a flow of whites to Sioux lands. Along with the whites were soldiers to protect them and enforce the theft of lands. I have been thinking how under Lincoln's administration during the Civil War, it was nevertheless seen as important to divert soldiers to ensure westward expansion.

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## **Bill says**

If you love stories of the Indian experience this is excellent. Sad and informative read. I have a hard copy that is destined for a library. Any one want it?

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## **Brian Andersen says**

I've had a paperback copy of this book in my possession for a couple of years. I picked it up second hand somewhere but never got around to reading it.

I actually haven't even finished the book but I'm on the last chapter and I felt compelled to write a quick review. This book is an amazing account not just of Sitting Bull and his times but of his way of thinking and the Sioux way of doing things. Popular culture has diluted this man and created a caricature of him that's hard to shake but the author does a good job, warts and all. The book is packed full of detail but is easy to read and heavily sourced. I do however wish the author included more about his time with Cody's Wild West Show.

Near the end, I learned of his friendship with Indian advocate Catherine Weldon and discovered there is a book about her and a movie based on that book has just been released in September 2012 but I'm having trouble locating the 2002 book *Woman Walking Ahead* by Eileen Pollack at a reasonable price. It also seems like the movie is currently seeking US distribution.

This is one of those books I'll be sad when it ends! Will we ever get a proper movie biopic of Sitting Bull?

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### **Thomas Isern says**

Re-reading a classic, impressed once again with the judgment and authority Utley brings to his subject. It is interesting to note how Utley re-threshes the Walter Stanley Camp material at OU and comes to his own conclusions with it. There are usages and sometimes positions expressed in the book that are a bit dated, and in some cases, I simply disagree, on the basis of alternative evidence, with positions taken by Utley, but what a landmark this work is! This is how a white guy should write Indian biography. For me, on this reading, the most interesting parts were late, dealing with the Canadian sojourn and the (mostly sad) reservation period. Now, on our next expedition to Saskatchewan, I want to go over some of the ground to which the work points. Likewise, on my next trip to Standing Rock, I will go with questions and destinations in mind.

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### **J. says**

This book is comprehensive, well researched, and highly documented. This book is an easy and fun read but took me a long time because I read each reference he cited. As a result I came away feeling that this book is probably one of the best written about Sitting Bull and the Hunkpapa Lakota Sioux Indians.

If you're interested in the Sioux Tribes I'd say this is one of the books you must read. It is loaded with historical and cultural information that I found highly creditable.

I have work extensively as a Senior Policy Advisor and Tribal Liaison for a federal agency doing goveremt-to-government consultation for seventeen years and this is the Tribe I've worked with most. The were also the first - I highly recommend this book.

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### **Lynny says**

The most comprehensive and thoroughly researched book about Sitting Bull out there. If you want to know the real story about this great leader, read this book!

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### **Randal Burd says**

This was an informative and enjoyable read.

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### **Todd Myers says**

Overall good book about the life and times of Sitting Bull. Utley relies on many sources to build the story of Sitting Bull, and puts together a pretty good account of his life in order. Though not all the facts are clear it tells so much about this legendary Native American. It's a bit of a slower read, as there is a lot of information packed in to the book, it shows as a 432 page book, but actually is 314 pages of actual story, the other 118 pages is source information and notes. I'd recommend this book to anyone interested in Sitting Bull and the struggles of the Lakota people in the mid to late 1800s.

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**Jeff says**

Best biography of Sitting Bull I have read. Exhaustively researched and well written.

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**Tamara! aka Amy G. Dala says**

I bought this book while on a semi-cross country tour with family in 1994. We toured the battlefield and all adults felt weary at such a waste of life. I read it immediately when we camped, then gifted it to my father, who read it so much it had to be repaired and rebound. His recent death meant that I got all my books back as well as the rest of his book collection. What a wonderful way to keep him in my life, I must say.

Back to the review. Heart-wrenching, insightful and remarkable is how I'd describe most of it. Wanting his people not to kowtow to white ways and become slaves to the government, he was a visionary and leader who truly believed in culture and holding on to the sacred ideas that were the foundation of his nation.

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**Iain says**

Utley does an excellent job of portraying Sitting Bull as a complex human being. His support of the case against Bull's murder is a bit weak, relying as it does on the testimony of the accused individuals. But as a whole the work is thorough, approachable, and engaging. Shedding light on both the man and his times. Extra points for covering Bull's time in Canada and on the reservation. Recommended for those interested in the American Indian Wars, Indians of the Northern Plains, and of course Sitting Bull and the Hunkpapa Sioux.

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