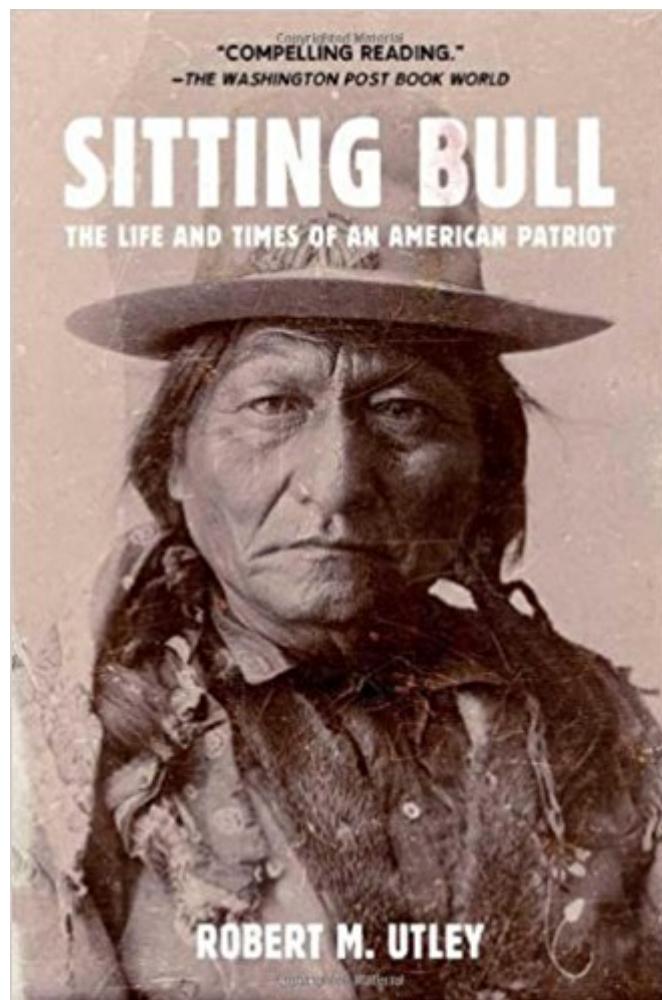


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Sitting Bull: The Life And Times Of An American Patriot



Synopsis

The definitive, award-winning biography of the legendary chief and his dramatic role in the history of westward expansion. Reviled by the United States government as a troublemaker and a coward, revered by his people as a great warrior chief, Sitting Bull has long been one of the most fascinating and misunderstood figures in American history. Distinguished historian Robert M. Utley has forged a compelling portrait of Sitting Bull, presenting the Lakota perspective for the first time and rendering the most unbiased, historically accurate, and vivid portrait of the man to date. The Sitting Bull who emerges in this fast-paced narrative is a complex, towering figure: a great warrior whose skill and bravery in battle were unparalleled; the spiritual leader of his people; a dignified but ultimately tragically stubborn defender of the traditional ways against the steadfast and unwelcome encroachment of the white man.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert L. Utley's *Sitting Bull: The Life and Times of an American Patriot*, written in 1993, provides an authoritative account of the life of Sitting Bull from a historian's perspective. His primary source material was taken from the Walter S. Campbell Collection at the University of Oklahoma Library in Norman, Oklahoma along with official government records from the US and Canada. According to Utley, prior to his book, the standard biography of Stanley Vestal approached Sitting Bull from a literary rather than a historical perspective. In the book, Utley portrayed Sitting Bull as a real person as opposed to the larger-than-life "romanticized caricature" of the 1960s "red power" movement or the ultimate Sioux warrior leader and archenemy of the US Army. There was a real Sitting Bull, and

Utley largely succeeds in presenting him, the good with the bad, the leader and the warrior. Utley, a historian with many significant books on the American West, is well suited to the task. Sitting Bull stands as the last key Lakota chief who resisted the reservation system and clung to the old ways until he could do so no longer. From an early age, Sitting Bull was recognized as a leader, first in battles with traditional Lakota enemies. His reputation grew based on battle exploits, and later based on his strength and persistence demonstrated in opposing the whites. Much of American history has lauded Sitting Bull based on his actions at the Battle of Little Bighorn, but Utley's book shows his significance to be much more. A major focus of the book deals with Sitting Bull's role as the last Lakota holdout opposing the reservation system. Attempting to preserve his people's freedom and culture, he took them to Canada to escape the US Army's attempts to force them to a reservation.

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