

***Cherokee Removal: Before and After*. Edited by William L. Anderson. (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1991. Paperback, Pp. 176, \$22.95)**

William L. Anderson's book *Cherokee Removal: Before and After* does not offer new information about one of our nation's largest and most influential tribes. However, it does provide the reader with an understanding of the history of the Cherokee Nation, one whose importance is rarely stressed in secondary or collegiate education.

Anderson, who serves as Editor of the work, compiles six essays from experts in the study of the history of the Cherokee Nation. His compilation provides an interdisciplinary review of the life of the Cherokee Indians from roughly the seventeenth century to the time following *Nunna dual Isuny*, or, as translated into English, The Trail Where We Cried.

The Cherokee Nation, which originally consisted of a large portion of the Southeast United States, eventually shrunk to only small pieces of a few Southern states. The first chapter of *Cherokee Removal* documents the manner in which the Cherokee utilized their land. Throughout the course of this chapter, the reader understands that the Cherokee adopted Anglo culture and agrarian methods in order to survive a loss in wild game, and to assimilate to Euro-American culture, one way to avoid removal. The chapter includes maps and figures that help the reader understand the Cherokee's transition to a more agricultural-based society.

Subsequent chapters center on the political and social methods that led to the removal of the Cherokee by the federal government. This study focuses on the policies of President Andrew Jackson, and examines the theory that Jackson was a devil with a deep-seeded hatred of Indians. The book also discusses the eventual split of the political and social culture in Cherokee Country, and the unauthorized individuals who signed the Treaty of New Echota on behalf of the Cherokee Nation, which effectively removed the Cherokee from their homeland, forcing them west.

Importantly, *Cherokee Removal* examines the Trail of Tears and the federal government's inhumanity, which resulted in the deaths of at least four thousand Cherokee, a number that the author argues, may be much higher. In order to help the reader grasp the magnitude of the proceedings, Anderson includes personal accounts, maps, and other information. Finally, Anderson incorporates two chapters that discuss the outcomes and consequences of the Trail of Tears on Cherokee life in what is now Oklahoma.

Cherokee Removal: Before and After includes historical information for readers of all academic backgrounds and interests; although many readers may find multiple portions of this book uninteresting. Because the book is a compilation of multiple authors, the text sometimes repeats itself and reads like a textbook.

That being said, I would recommend anyone who lives in the Southern United States to read this book. The culture and history of the Cherokee people is one that is historically significant to the creation of this country, our states, and even some of our families. There are so many questions about the Cherokee Nation; expect many of these to be addressed in subsequent texts. Moreover, although this book is not lengthy, it could be used for study in a secondary or collegiate level classroom. To say the least, *Cherokee Removal: Before and After* is an important read about American history.

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