

*American Indians in World War I: At Home and at War*, by Thomas A. Britten. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997. x, 254 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY MICHAEL L. TATE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

One of the most neglected aspects of this nation's military history is the performance of American Indian servicemen and servicewomen during its twentieth-century wars. Alison Bernstein's *American Indians and World War II* (1992) and Tom Holm's *Strong Hearts, Wounded Souls: Native American Veterans of the Vietnam War* (1996) have offered recent analyses of two important conflicts by concentrating on events from both the battlefield and the home front. Now Thomas Britten attempts a similar treatment for "the war to end all wars." Using a vast array of archival materials, published government documents, American Indian oral history interviews, and articles from contemporary Indian newspapers and journals, he has crafted a unique and balanced synthesis that is important to today's generation.

Following a background chapter in which Britten discusses nineteenth-century antecedents for the enlistment of Indian soldiers, a second chapter includes an examination of the fiery debate about what kind of regimental organization was best suited for Indian recruits. While some military and political leaders concluded that Indians should be integrated as individuals directly into existing white units, others argued that they should be segregated into all-Indian units just as African-American regiments had been segregated since their creation in 1869. Even American Indian opinion was divided in this matter, but the integrationist philosophy carried the day. Discussion of the draft debate further illustrates the unique status of Indian people at that time. While slightly more than half of the Indian population held citizenship by 1917, the rest who did not were not subject to the draft. Yet they volunteered in far higher percentages than other groups, and fully ten thousand saw military service, including approximately one thousand in the navy.

Three additional chapters analyze the battlefield record of Indian members of the Allied Expeditionary Force in France. Unlike African-American and Hispanic servicemen, Indians faced little overt racism. Stereotypes certainly abounded, but these generally stressed "innate warrior qualities" and praised Indians for their martial accomplishments. Even the War Department and other agencies of the federal government played up this dimension and offered a laudatory view of their performance.

In the two final sections, Britten wisely examines the impact of the war on the home front. He documents how liberty bond drives, Red Cross volunteer activities, expansion of reservation crop and ranching operations, and migration to cities for defense industry jobs affected the reservations. Unfortunately, these historical events were marred by the government's use of force and misinformation to attain its goals.

By focusing on the experiences of individuals on the battlefields and on the home front, Britten has captured the human side of the story. Indian residents of Iowa and surrounding midwestern states make their appearances in the book, but southwestern, northern plains, and Oklahoma tribes dominate the story because of their larger populations and greater numerical participation in the war. Britten well documents his contention that for American Indians "World War I was a catalyst for change" (186), and he reminds us that the Second World War would provide even greater impetus to the cycle of change.

*Power at Odds: The 1922 National Railroad Shopmen's Strike*, by Colin J. Davis. The Working Class in American History Series. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1997. xii, 244 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY COLIN GORDON, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The 1922 strike by railroad shopmen marks an important watershed in American labor history. In one sense, it was the last of the great nineteenth-century labor battles marked by state repression, craft unionism, and a fierce managerial defense of property rights. In another sense, it stood alongside the 1919 steel strike as the first salvo in the modern battle over bargaining rights, state arbitration, and welfare capitalism. Colin Davis's *Power at Odds* captures this moment and offers both a compelling narrative of the strike and a tightly argued analysis of the intersection of state, labor, and managerial power.

In the early chapters, Davis gives us both a rich description of the work process and the work force in the nation's railroad shops and an overview of the slow collapse of railway labor relations in the wake of World War I. Without the natural bargaining clout of the operating brotherhoods, the shopmen leaned heavily on the Wilson administration through the war in an effort to knit together a national organization capable of representing workers separated by firm, region, and skill. The American Federation of Labor's Railway

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