

relations, including how Sherman's fellow officers and how "Uncle Billy's" soldiers viewed him. Still, Reid has offered a comprehensive biography that attempts a fresh, invigorated analysis of William T. Sherman. Whether or not Reid's biography stands among the magisterial works on the general, namely John Marszalek's *Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order* (1993), remains to be seen.

*The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West*, by Megan Kate Nelson. New York: Scribner, 2020. xx, 331. Map, notes, bibliography, index. \$28.00 hardcover.

Reviewer Courtney E. Buchkoski is Assistant Professor of History at Texas Woman's University. Her research focuses on the American West, the Civil War era, and religion. Her current project is titled, "The Evangelicals' Western Vision: Union, Emigration, and Empire in the Long Civil War Era."

In *The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West*, Megan Kate Nelson weaves the experiences of nine characters together to tell the story of the Civil War in New Mexico. She asserts that the conflict over the territory was not only between Confederates and Unionists, but also included Indigenous peoples. Their battle was not strictly ideological, as was the Civil War in the East, but it was also a struggle over the control of resources.

Examining the lesser known Southwest Theater of the war, Nelson fills in the gaps between the sporadic skirmishes of the Civil War in the West. Arguing that New Mexico was central to the federal government's plans during and after the war, she regales her readers with stories of a remote conflict, marked by poor communication and meager knowledge of the local desert environment. From the Confederate takeover of Arizona Territory and their occupation of major city centers like Santa Fe to the Union's strategic victory at Glorieta Pass, Nelson highlights the diverse perspectives of ordinary soldiers, women, Native Americans, and army officers.

Nelson presents the conflict in the West as one over the land and its Indigenous residents. She demonstrates that after the Union Army overturned the Confederate invasion of New Mexico they turned to the genocidal project of clearing the land of Apaches and Navajos. The Union's involvement in the West was not just about the short term defeat of the Confederacy, but about the long term goal of Republicans, who wanted to pave the way for the transcontinental railroads and the project of Manifest Destiny.

Nelson's project is ambitious and, at times, unclear. The nine stories weaving back and forth in time and space can be difficult for the reader

to follow. Despite bold assertions of New Mexico's importance to the Civil War, questions about its significance nevertheless remain. Does the western theater's focus on resources, rather than slavery, make it a fundamentally different conflict than the eastern theaters of the war? Can New Mexico stand in for the entire West conceptually, or would stories about places like Oregon or Kansas complicate Nelson's argument? While it is evident that the war in the West was a consideration among high ranking politicians in the East, Nelson stops short of showing us that it was a priority.

Good historical work raises as many questions as it answers, and Nelson's work deftly explores the many facets of the Civil War in New Mexico. Readers interested in Iowa history will be particularly fascinated by the story of Alonzo Ickis, an Iowa farmer who went west in the Colorado gold rush and became a Union soldier in the Southwest Theater. After the war, Ickis returned to Iowa, bringing with him memories of the West and the war. The casual reader will find the stories compelling, the action exciting, and will appreciate the diverse perspectives Nelson provides. Students and professional historians can marvel at Nelson's extensive archival research, even as they long for a clear assertion of her historiographical intervention. Nelson's *Civil War West* is diverse, complex, and important. She demonstrates that a territory far from the major battles of the war nevertheless influenced its course.

*John Finerty Reports the Sioux War*, by John F. Finnerty, edited by Paul L. Hedren. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2020. xviii, 227 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, appendix, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Denny Smith is Associate Professor of History and Native American Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is the co-author of *The History of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation: 1600–2000* (2008).

In May 1876, *Chicago Times* senior editor Wilbur Storey dispatched trusted city reporter John Finerty to accompany Brigadier General George Crook's anticipated second campaign that year against Lakotas and Cheyennes. Crook's earlier winter campaigns, culminating in the March 1876 Powder River Battle, were widely acknowledged debacles. Finerty soon joined Crook's larger, but similarly inconclusive, summer 1876 Bighorn-Yellowstone Expedition.

In his magisterial 2019 study, *Rosebud, June 17, 1876: Prelude to the Little Big Horn*, historian Paul Hedren extensively cites Finerty's famous 1890 memoir, *War-Path and Bivouac*, which chronicled Crook's Bighorn-