

Nations Remembered: An Oral History of the Five Civilized Tribes, 1865-1907, by Theda Perdue. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1980. pp. xxiv, 200. Photographs, maps, index. \$23.95.

Nations Remembered is a collection of excerpts from oral interviews with members of the Five Civilized Tribes, and others, between the Civil War years and Oklahoma statehood in 1907. The interviews were originally conducted in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration and later selected and annotated by Theda Perdue. The collection provides a candid study of acculturation through the reflections of southeastern Native Americans in the years just before the land allotment in the Oklahoma Territory. Subjects touched upon include the role of the Five Civilized Tribes during the Civil War and Reconstruction, law and economic development, subsistence, entertainment, traditions, religion, and education in Indian Territory. The reader should be aware that this is a limited collection of comments concerning various aspects of Native American lifestyles and events occurring at the time. It is not a complete ethnography nor a history of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The value of the book is not in the amount but the kind of information obtained from it. First, oral histories are valuable, not only as detailed first-hand accounts of events and lifestyles, but also as gauges of human attitudes and emotions, which are driving forces behind major movements and confrontations. Oral histories offer a more fundamental level of historiography as they deal with inconspicuous individuals not usually known for their participation in major events. Many find these personal oral histories more interesting than the broad and sweeping analyses of the past. Second, Perdue offers candid interviews with Native Americans who, because of their rich cultural heritage, are of particular interest to modern scholars and many others. Perdue's collection centers on the Creek, Cherokee, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw tribes of the Southeast who have had less popular appeal than the Plains and Southwest Indian groups. The collection, then, provides an important perspective on the pressures of acculturation on Native Americans having histories different than other, perhaps more familiar, Indian groups. Traditional and progressive Native Americans of the Five Civilized Tribes are represented in the collection, although as Perdue admits, there are many more interviews with English-speaking Native Americans, who were generally more acculturated than those speaking little, or no, English.

The nature of this collection necessitates numerous explanatory and reference footnotes, as well as an introductory section at the

beginning of each chapter. These do not distract the reader and are generally helpful and interesting. In several places, in fact, explanatory notes would have been helpful, but were not included. Probably, those most interested in this collection would be persons already familiar with much of the history and lifestyles of the Five Civilized Tribes. Those having little knowledge about these groups may find many of the excerpts difficult to understand, although there are a few, such as those found in the chapter on economic development, which a noninformed reader would find interesting and entertaining. Perdue's collection contains fascinating, personalized accounts, which as a supplement to the ethnographies and histories we have about the Five Civilized Tribes, is informative and scholarly.

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ERIN CHRISTENSEN

Apaches: A History and Culture Portrait, by James L. Haley. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday and Co., 1981. pp. xxi, 453. Photographs, maps, bibliography, index. \$17.95.

In recent decades most writers of popular books about Indians have tried to combine the disciplines of ethnology and history and to avoid simplistic explanations of complex issues. They have rejected the older approach, which made ethnology the domain of specialists and based tribal histories wholly on government records and other primary sources written by whites. Unfortunately, they have usually discovered that the amalgamation of ethnology and history produced an unstable compound in which one of the two disciplines emerged dominant.

James L. Haley has tried harder than most of his confreres, and he has succeeded better than most. By subtitling his book "A History and Culture Portrait," he has, in effect, challenged his readers to find defects in the finished product. That defects can be found does not seriously vitiate the result, for which no claim to perfection is made. Given the prodigious amount of writing that has been done on the Apaches, Haley recognized that the justification for yet another book about them must rest on the uniqueness of his treatment rather than on the introduction of any newly discovered information.

After a preface in which Haley lays his cards on the table and tries to strike a balance between the Old School (the Indians got what was coming to them) and the New School (European occupation of North America was an unmitigated disaster), he offers in Book One a series of chapters that alternate between tribal legends and standard history.

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