

Book Notices

The Great Sioux War, 1876-77, edited by Paul L. Hedren. Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 1991. xii, 293 pp. Illustrations, maps, index. \$27.50 cloth; \$11.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY HERBERT T. HOOVER, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

The Great Sioux War, 1876-77 reprints articles that have appeared in *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*; most are by writers of military history and regional specialists. Paul Hedren interspersed the articles with numerous illustrations for publication with an index. The book is hardly "a major contribution," as one advertising blurb indicates, to literature regarding nearly a half-century of military confrontation between Sioux and non-Indian troops over territorial and cultural preservation. Most serious students of Indian-white relations already have perused the articles. Hedren's introduction supplies only the military setting without other context or perceptive interpretation. His anthology will little influence public attitudes about Indian-white relations. It is important mainly as a handy reference for anyone with an interest in George Custer and his fateful expedition of 1876.

Neither the articles nor the illustrations in this anthology provide any new insight into the roles of such central leaders as Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, or for that matter even recognize the issues they represented. They speak little about the suffering and losses endured by the tribes involved. They do even less to explain the roles of non-Indian immigrants who precipitated the war. In other words, Hedren missed a golden opportunity to supply new insight into perhaps the most famous regional confrontation between Native American and non-Indian forces on the continent north of Mexico.

As a reference work, this anthology is highly recommended, nevertheless, especially to military buffs and regional historians. It gives efficient access to a reliable series of articles regarding the 1876-77 war. With careful explanation for students, it might be adopted as a university classroom text. Mainly for these reasons it is likely to earn favorable attention among historians of military affairs and academicians who specialize in the American frontier or Indian-white relations.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.