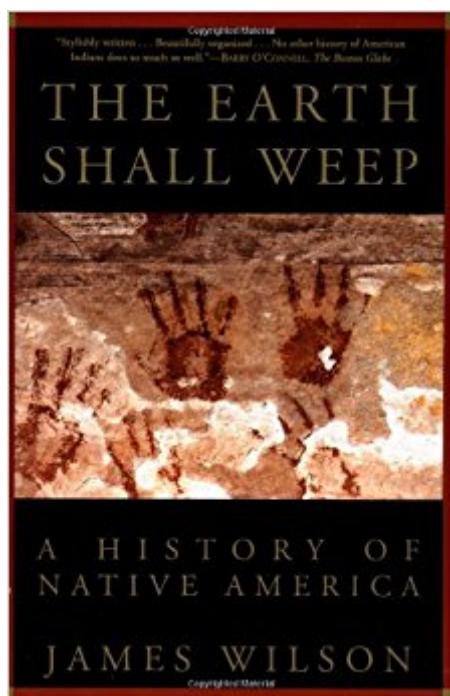


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# The Earth Shall Weep: A History Of Native America



## **Synopsis**

Now available in paperback, *The Earth Shall Weep* is a groundbreaking, critically acclaimed history of the Native American peoples. Combining traditional historical sources with new insights from ethnography, archaeology, Indian oral tradition, and years of his original research, James Wilson weaves a historical narrative that puts Native Americans at the center of their struggle for survival against the tide of invading European peoples and cultures. *The Earth Shall Weep* charts the collision course between Euro-Americans and the indigenous people of the continent, from the early interactions at English settlements on the Atlantic coast, through successive centuries of encroachment and outright warfare, to the new political force of the Native American activists of today. It is a clash that would ultimately result in the reduction of the Native American population from an estimated seven to ten million to 250,000 over a span of four hundred years, and change the face of the continent forever. A tour de force of narrative history, *The Earth Shall Weep* is a powerful, moving telling of the story of Native Americans that has become the new standard for future work in the field.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Native Americans continue to hold a special place in the modern imagination. Images of the Native American as "noble savage," as grunting Hollywood brute, or even as nature lover reinforce what author James Wilson describes as "the principal role of Indians in US culture throughout the twentieth century: helping America imagine its own history." Wilson hopes to rescue them from this

role and place Native Americans within their own context by attempting to view the Indian-European encounter through their eyes. The result is an engaging history of North America and its peoples--and a welcome addition to the already voluminous literature on the subject. Wilson weaves Native American oral traditions and archeological, ethnographical, and historical evidence into a compelling narrative. Chapters on regional groups and their histories--from the Algonquians of the Northeast to the Zuñi of the Southwest--emphasize both their differences and their similarities. Wilson also traces the shifting relationships between Indians and non-Indians and investigates the reasons behind their misunderstandings. As Wilson points out, the image of the Native American as spiritual guide and Green Party spokesperson, while more romantic, is no more realistic than the image of the ignorant savage. Frequent excerpts from personal interviews allow Native Americans to speak for themselves and remind us that, far from ending at Wounded Knee, the Native American experience continues to evolve. Wilson's clear prose, command of the subject, and detailed suggestions for further reading make this book valuable to scholars and general readers alike.

--C.B. Delaney --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Wilson has been actively involved with indigenous North Americans for almost 25 years. Here he presents a comprehensive, imaginative overview of Native American history that is exceptional in its concept: Wilson has gathered information not only from historical sources but from ethnographic and archaeological works as well as oral histories. He looks at social issues such as intermarriage and language loss in addition to the political and environmental issues faced by present-day Native American communities. Wilson begins with the first English settlements on the Atlantic coast in the 1500s and moves from century to century, focusing on various geographic areas through the massacre at Wounded Knee in 1890. He then addresses today's social, political, and economic issues while trying to examine the legacy of ignorance and misunderstanding that has reduced the Native American population from 7 to 10 million people to 250,000 in four centuries. Because it encompasses so many facets of the Native American situation, this volume will appeal to a broad spectrum of readers. Vicki Leslie Toy Smith, Univ. of Nevada, Reno Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

The condition of the book was great, no shelf ware.... and great price for a college student.

This is a heart-breaking story that needs to be told. Fortunately, the author's dry irony helps relieve the sadness of the tale, told with no punches pulled.

This book is so well researched. I truly feel that the American Indians to this day are the neighbor whose suffering we are ignoring as American citizens. Reading the heartbreak history of those who were here before us makes me realize why some people are so scared of illegal immigrants, it's because illegal immigrants came here and pushed out the natives. We must do better, we must somehow make things right. I strongly recommend this book to every citizen of the United States. It will change you, it will make you more compassionate and see American from the perspective of those who were here before the white man. This section from the book sums up much of the problem of what the havoc the white man has brought to this land and its indigenous people. "The white man adopted two basic approaches ... He systematically excluded blacks from all programmes, policies, social events, and economic schemes ... With the Indian the process was simply reversed ... Indians were ... subjected to the most intense pressure to become white. Laws passed by Congress had but one goal - the Anglo-Saxonization of the Indian... The white man forbade the black to enter his own social and economic system and at the same time force-fed the Indian what he was denying the black. Yet the white man demanded that the black conform to white standards and insisted that the Indian don feathers and beads periodically to perform for him."

An overview of hundreds of years is impossible but this book exceeded my expectations. It really helps get a perspective when trying to come to terms with what happens during the passing of time.

This book tells the truth about what happened to the Natives and is still happening.

Should be mandatory reading....as much for Europeans as for Americans

The most historical insight into the cultural and political growth and destruction of this country.

Although I knew the history in general, the book gave me a good deal of new information.

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