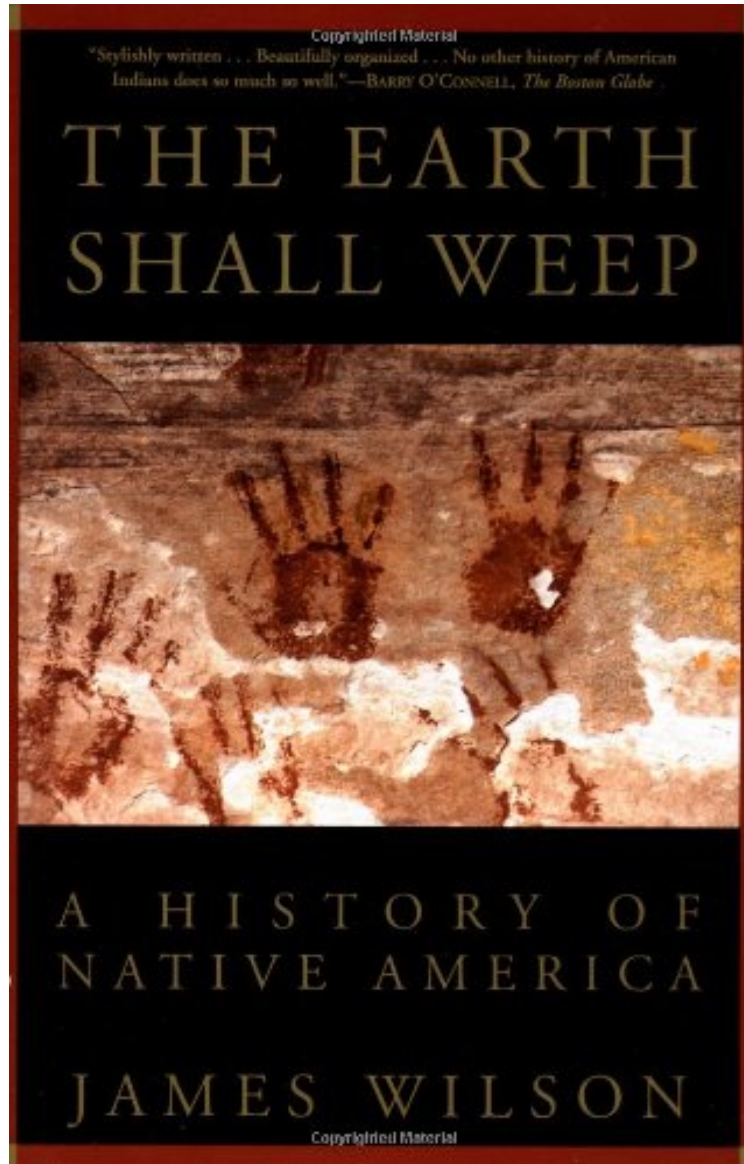


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## The Earth Shall Weep: A History of Native America

James Wilson

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**James Wilson : The Earth Shall Weep: A History of Native America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Earth Shall Weep: A History of Native America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a sad and shameful part By D. Britton An interesting survey of a part of American history about which most of us know nothing... a sad and shameful part: 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Carrigan The condition of the book was great, no shelf ware.... and great price for a

college student. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sad but true By Whitesheep 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.

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.

.com 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 Zui 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 From Library Journal 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. AVicki Leslie Toy Smith, Univ. of Nevada, Reno Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Wilson is not a Native American, yet he brings to life the history of indigenous North Americans from the prehistoric to the present as if he possessed the spirit of the ancestors, insisting that a broader truth be told. He starts with a worldview that differs from our Eurocentric, Christian view, eventually revealing parallel myths that are both common and in conflict with ours. Wilson doesn't try to portray an ideal, monolithic culture but shows that Native Americans were of different peoples, nations, regions, and histories that often overlapped. He examines the hunters and fur traders of the Northeast who, before the colonies' independence, formed alliances with the French, Dutch, and British. In the Southwest, the Five Civilized Nations identified with the region's newcomers, until they were driven from the territory through the Trail of Tears. And the West had a sophisticated Mesoamerican civilization. All of those are cultures about which we North Americans are woefully ignorant. Wilson further explores the conditions of contemporary Native Americans and reflects on the continued indifference to their plight. This is a must read for Americans, both indigenous and more recent immigrants. Vernon Ford