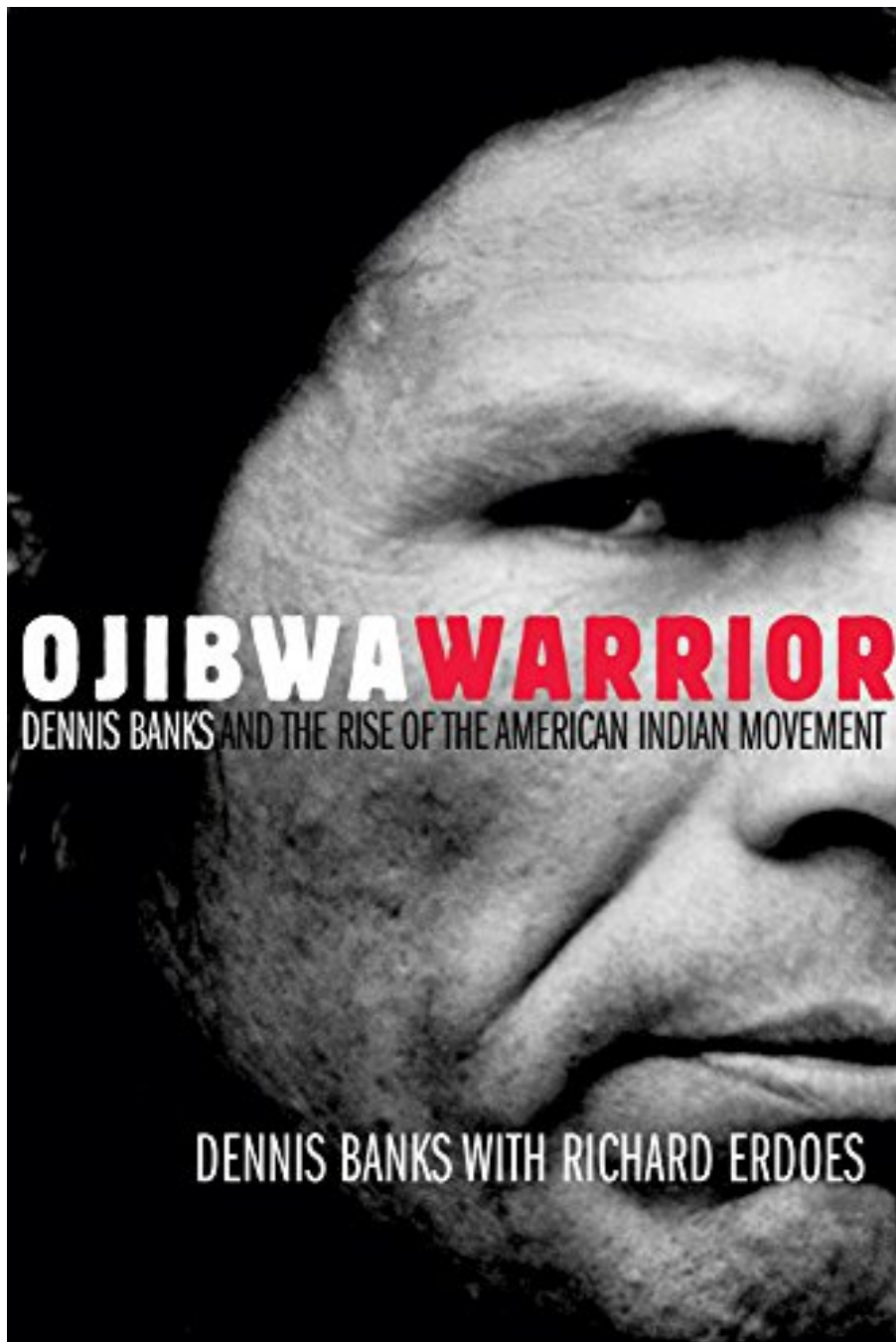


OJIBWA WARRIOR: DENNIS BANKS AND THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT BY DENNIS BANKS



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Review

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Ojibwa Warrior: Dennis Banks And The Rise Of The American Indian Movement By Dennis Banks

Just how can you transform your mind to be more open? There numerous sources that could assist you to enhance your thoughts. It can be from the other encounters and tale from some people. Book Ojibwa Warrior: Dennis Banks And The Rise Of The American Indian Movement By Dennis Banks is among the trusted sources to obtain. You can discover so many books that we share here in this web site. And also currently, we show you one of the most effective, the Ojibwa Warrior: Dennis Banks And The Rise Of The American Indian Movement By Dennis Banks

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OJIBWA WARRIOR: DENNIS BANKS AND THE RISE OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT BY DENNIS BANKS PDF

Dennis Banks, an American Indian of the Ojibwa Tribe and a founder of the American Indian Movement, is one of the most influential Indian leaders of our time. In *Ojibwa Warrior*, written with acclaimed writer and photographer Richard Erdoes, Banks tells his own story for the first time and also traces the rise of the American Indian Movement (AIM). The authors present an insider's understanding of AIM protest events—the Trail of Broken Treaties march to Washington, D.C.; the resulting takeover of the BIA building; the riot at Custer, South Dakota; and the 1973 standoff at Wounded Knee. Enhancing the narrative are dramatic photographs, most taken by Richard Erdoes, depicting key people and events.

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From Publishers Weekly

A compelling account of one of the most influential Indian leaders in the United States, this autobiography describes how Banks was taken from his family as a young child and placed into a government boarding school by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in an attempt to "acculturate" him. Nine years later, he returned to the Ojibwa "rez" only to find that he had forgotten his native Anishinabe language and many of his culture's traditions. "My teachers ... had made me into an 'apple'—red outside but white inside." Nonetheless, Banks stayed for two years, reconnecting with family and relearning skills like rabbit trapping, before he joined the Air Force in search of "three meals and warm place to sleep." When he returned from his tour in Japan in the late 1950s, he re-experienced the prejudice, brutality and poverty that were preying upon his people in America. Angered by what he saw, Banks founded the American Indian Movement (AIM) with the help of his friends. His retelling of these events reads as seamlessly as a great campfire story (or a well-edited oral transcript). He takes readers deep inside the traditional Sun Dances and Sweat Houses of his Ojibwa Tribe and deep into the action of the Trail of Broken Treaties—a peaceful march on Washington that turned into a historic, six-day takeover of the BIA headquarters. Bank's 11-year run from the FBI, his many wives and children and the strategies of AIM all find their place in his winding narrative, making this volume an important addition to this history of Native American and civil rights movements in the United States. 73 b&w photos.

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Review

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Most helpful customer reviews

11 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Thanks to a real Warrior.

By James Branham (Runs with Wolf)

Dennis Banks and the founders of AIM, deserve respect and thanks for their sacrifices, especially from American Indians. They woke us up with their refusal to fade away. They instilled honor and respect back into our lives and made us realize the pride of who we are. We are not sports team mascots, wacky Hollywood injuns or the names of vehicles, but a real and proud people, the First People.

If you want a close up look at a history, struggle and a real warrior this is the book.....and if you're American Indian buy this book and consider it a tobacco offering for Dennis Banks.

Mitakuye Oyasin - We are all related.

18 of 21 people found the following review helpful.

Great Personal History and Social Commentary

By Jeff Hendricks

Ojibwa Warrior is an autobiography and first hand account of the formation and rise of the American Indian Movement told by one of its founders, Dennis Banks. Banks' book, Ojibwa Warrior, is a multi-dimensional account of the history of racism and empire in the United States which should be of great interest not only to historians but also to anthropologists, philosophers, ecologists and especially social and environmental activists.

Banks begins the book with one of the most important events of the 20th century - the armed takeover and occupation of Wounded Knee by the American Indian Movement in 1973. Throughout the course of interaction between the Federal government of the United States and the remaining Tribal Reservations, the takeover of Wounded Knee was arguably the most important event of the 20th century. The takeover placed the American Indian Movement and the struggle for Native sovereignty into the national and international spotlight. The takeover of Wounded Knee is a fitting beginning for Banks' book, which is filled with various stories and events that combine into a overarching narrative of uncompromising struggle against oppression and determination to better the lives of Native Americans by any and all means necessary.

From Wounded Knee, which is dealt with in detail towards the end of the book, Banks fades back to his childhood years on the Leech Lake Ojibwa Reservation in Northern Minnesota where he was born in 1937. Banks was born into an economically poor yet culturally rich environment where he and his family lived close to the land and relied on natural foods to supplement their scarce and unhealthful government rations. Dennis tells of the close relationship that he had with his Grandparents, who still spoke the Ojibwa language and continued to practice the spiritual and cultural traditions of their ancestors. Throughout the book, Dennis

would reflect back on those happy days often. However, the good times did not last. At the age of six, Dennis and his siblings were forcibly removed from the care of their relations to be placed into State run boarding schools. Banks' experience in this "school" was one that can be described as nothing other than a Government sponsored attempt at cultural genocide.

When Dennis returned to the reservation, he found the situation there to be much worse than when he had left as a child. Although the reservation had always been poor and marginalized, the situation was now much worse - increasing numbers of white folks had encroached into the reservation and the state had forced the Ojibwa nation to take out licenses to hunt traditional foods on their own land. The ability to sustain oneself on the reservation had become nearly impossible and Banks did what many youths from poor and marginalized areas often do in a tragic attempt to better their economic situations - he joined the armed forces. Ironically, rather than making Banks into a mindless soldier for America, his time in the Air Force ended up engendering within him a consciousness of the racist and imperialistic nature of the United States:

"I had been guarding the ramparts of the American Empire, but now I felt like those Crow and Arikara Indians who, after scouting for Custer and fighting on behalf of the whites, were pitted against their own brothers, the Cheyenne and Lakota. My Japanese family members were called gooks, slopes, and slant-eyes by whites, and those who suffered from these names were people just like me. Was I not a slant-eye, as all American Indians are? The American Air Force, which I had thought of as a friend, turned out to be an enemy" (p.55).

Although his antipathy toward the Air Force had already been established, Banks extended his tour of duty two years to remain in Japan with his new Japanese wife and child. When Banks was reassigned to the States shortly after, he went AWOL in order to remain with his family. However, his freedom did not last for long and he was quickly captured, court-marshaled, jailed and shipped back to the States where he received a dishonorable discharge.

By the mid 1960s, Banks was remarried with children and living in the "Indian Ghetto" section of Minneapolis where he had sunken into despair and alcoholism. In 1966, he was arrested, convicted and sent to prison for two years for stealing groceries to feed his family. During his time in prison he wrote that he had become invigorated by the growing resistance to U.S. empire both inside and outside the country and was especially inspired by groups such as the Weather Underground and the Black Panther Party. When he was released from prison in 1968, he returned to Minneapolis, determined to organize the Indian community to join in the struggle against racism and empire. On July 28, 1968, Banks organized a meeting in the "Indian Ghetto," where over 200 people showed up to discuss how to best empower their local community - during this meeting the American Indian Movement (A.I.M.) was formed.

A.I.M. began with the formation of a local cop-watch program to monitor and intervene in police abuses of the Indian community. As A.I.M. began to grow and achieve successes in its various struggles, native communities around the country began to call upon the group to intervene in their local struggles. A.I.M.'s tactics were confrontational and although they did not seek violence, they were not afraid to use it if they deemed it necessary to achieve their goals. Coupled with their militant organization and tactics, Banks also describes a spiritual foundation based on a synthesis of traditional native ceremony/spiritualism that was very important to the cohesion and morale of the organization. Although A.I.M.'s tactics were modeled after groups such as the Panthers and Weathermen, those groups suffered from a reactionary anti-spiritualism and disconnected consciousness. It is very likely that A.I.M.'s spiritual foundation was the key element that allowed A.I.M. to achieve many great successes in their struggles as well as to remain as an organized movement while other resistance movements dismantled and faded into oblivion when faced with the violent repression of the U.S. government under the cointelpro program.

A.I.M. achieved many great victories in their struggles, but they also suffered many devastating defeats. Banks describes some of the more notable actions that A.I.M. undertook during the 1970s and early 1980s, including the six day long occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs headquarters in Washington D.C., the riot in Custer, South Dakota, which ended in the arson of the County Court House, the three month long armed takeover and occupation of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, and the shoot-out between A.I.M. members and F.B.I. agents at the Jumping Bull ranch on the Pine Ridge reservation. Banks also describes he and Leonard Peltier's time together on the run from a massive national manhunt after the Jumping Bull ranch incident and also writes about the time he spent in California during the 1980s while he lived under an asylum granted him by then Governor Jerry Brown.

The importance of Banks' book cannot be understated. As a primary source document, it will remain as an important reference for present and future historians studying the American Indian Movement and the various groups with which it interacted. The book will also be of great importance for present and future resistance groups who find themselves engaged in struggle against the forces of empire and the repressive apparatus of the United State Government - for these people and groups Ojibwa Warrior will provide much needed insight into the strengths and weaknesses of resistance movements in the United States and the strengths and weaknesses of the various repressive agencies of the U.S. government.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE THE LIES OF ...

By Amazon Customer

HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE WOULD BELIEVE THE LIES OF THIS MAN?? (or calls himself a man) Dennis Banks. The leaders and organization of AIM have had this elaborate dream that they were the saviors of the Indian people in South Dakota during the 1970's. Him along with Russell Means, Leonard Peltier (serving life sentences for the murder of FBI agents Jack Williams and Robert Coler) are nothing more than frauds who should be erased from any form of civil rights history or American Indian History/Studies. There are numerous cases, eyewitness accounts, Federal/State court case dockets regarding this man and the organization American Indian Movement that **TERRORIZED** the people of the Oglala Nation, Pine Ridge South Dakota during the 1970's. Please research and read into the facts before you are duped into the haze of misinformation by these individuals. Yes the story of the assimilation of Native Americans is tragic, but it should **NOT** be told by Dennis Banks or anyone associated with AIM. Look and read a book called "American Indian Mafia", a personal account of Special agent in Charge, Joseph H. Trimbach and the conviction Leonard Peltier. [...]

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