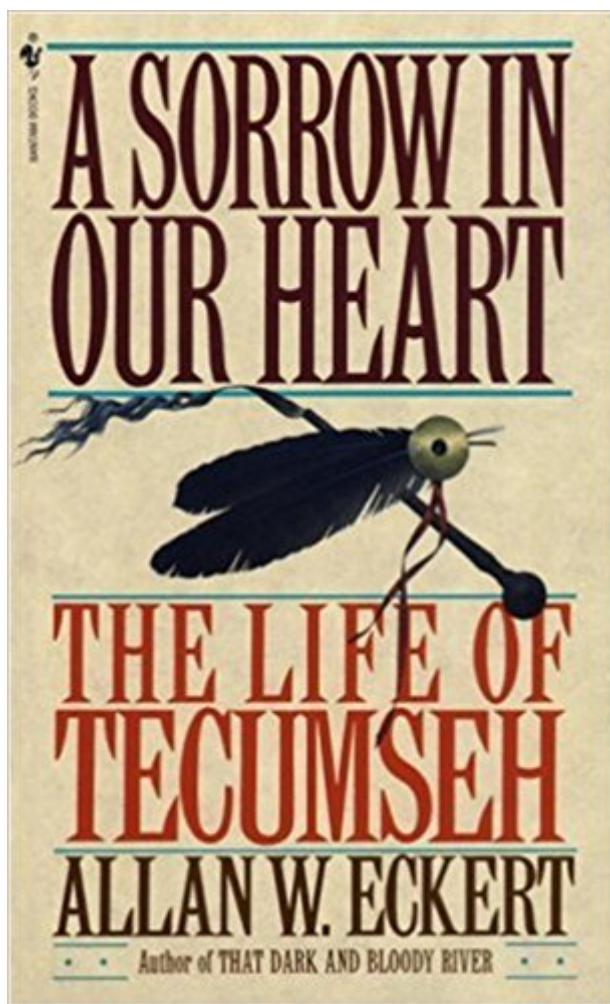


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A Sorrow In Our Heart: The Life Of Tecumseh



Synopsis

A biography of the famous Shawnee describes Tecumseh's plan to amalgamate all North American tribes into one people, his role as statesman and military strategist, and his death in the Battle of Thames.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Though there are many biographies of the great Shawnee chief Tecumseh (1768-1813), this effort by historical novelist Eckert (The Frontiersman) may spark new interest--and controversy--with its "hidden dialogue" technique. After more than 25 years of research, the author felt free to recreate Tecumseh's conversations and thoughts in what proves to be an entertaining blend of fact and fiction. The orator and organizer's life was shaped by his tribe's tragic confrontation with westward-moving whites, who encroached on Native American lands along the Ohio River valley. His long struggle against this dispossession led Tecumseh to create a historic confederacy of tribes, but this crowning achievement was destroyed by his own brother at Tippecanoe in 1811. Eckert's dialogue is clunky, yet his colorful evocation of this seminal American figure will be more broadly accessible than are drier, more factual accounts. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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A spirited but misdirected stab at a definitive biography of the great Shawnee warrior, from prolific historian and novelist Eckert, whose six-volume nonfiction The Winning of America series (Twilight of Empire, Gateway to Empire, etc.) paved the way for this epic. Employing what he terms

``narrative biography'' as a touchstone (and as an apparent euphemism for poetic license), Eckert embarks on a quest for the real Tecumseh, seeking a life buried beneath countless legends and tales. The result is a mammoth account of a remarkable American from the spectacular moment of his birth--concurrent with the appearance of a brilliant shooting star- -to his sudden death in the Battle of Thames in 1813, an event described in more than 40 different ways by ``eyewitnesses.'' Along with the portrait of a man of keen insight and ability--a natural leader who eschewed the role of chief but who sought tirelessly to unite all tribes in a pan-Indian movement--emerges a rich tapestry of Native American society in the Ohio region during Tecumseh's time. The Indian leader and his family, especially his brother, the prophet Tenskwatawa, figured dramatically in the growing violence along the frontier as white settlers swarmed across the Appalachians onto Indian lands. By emphasizing the greatness of Tecumseh, however, Eckert minimizes the significance of tribal unification as a wider phenomenon and the role of spiritual leaders in firing that movement, to the extent that, for instance, Tenskwatawa is depicted as a sniveling conniver achieving renown largely through his brother's generosity. A biography that succeeds better as fiction. Astoundingly detailed but ambitious to a fault, in its interpretative zeal it strays from, or at least embellishes, the historical record to the point of being suspect. -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

My favorite party question is who was Tecumseh and why is his statute at Annapolis, the Naval Academy and why did Home Depot give his name to a little lawn mower engine? Most claim a vague familiarity with the name but nothing else. Allan Eckert in his wonderful, "narrative history" tells the story of this important Shawnee Indian and his struggle to unify Indian tribes to thesis that the flood of white settlers flooding over the Appalachians into what is now Indiana and Ohio. Tecumseh travelled widely pleading with tribes to unify to no avail. Eckert tells this story in a fascinating way describing Tecumseh's immense abilities and sacrifice. If Inwere King I would decree that every American and those wishing to become American read this and the many other Eckert books which so wonderfully tell the story of early history of this country starting with French and Indian Wars and focusing on the frontier. Meet Simon Kenton a real frontiersman and his experiences. What research and story telling. Tecumseh was a natural leader, with great physical, tactical and diplomatic skills. Read this book and meet him. Why General Sherman took his name as his middle name and why the wide spread respect by his opponents- he was the only Indian leader who forbid the torture of prisoners which was common practice with other Indian leaders.

I had previously read "The Frontiersmen" by Eckert. The subject being about my general geographic area, it is an especially interesting read for me. If you like early American wilderness history, that one is one you need to get. So naturally, after reading about Simon Kenton, I had to pick up Eckert's book about Tecumseh. I was not surprised to find this book the equal to The Frontiersmen.

A good, historical book, especially for those wanting to further their knowledge of American history. Without books that give the view of history from a native American perspective we have only a one-sided view...and come to a one-sided opinion.

Best book on the history of Tecumseh.

Excellent

BOUGHT THIS BOOK USED FOR A GIFT AND IT WAS ONLY IN SO-SO CONDITION. I HAVE READ THE BOOK TWICE AND LOVE ECKERT'S WRITING'S. TO BAD HE LEFT US SO SOON. LIVE 80 MILES FROM CHILLICOTHE, OHIO WHERE THE SUMMER TECUMSEH IS PREFORMED THAT HE WROTE FOR THEM AND LOVE GOING THERE AS IT IS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO TAKE YOU BACK IN TIME. MY ALL TIME FAVORITE BOOK OF ECKERT'S IS THE FRONTIERSMEN.

I read this book several years ago and fell in love with it. I bought this edition to read on a train trip back to Ohio, into the very lands where much of the stories take place. I like the way it is written like a frontier diary/novel, with accuracy, warmth and depth, giving the reader insight into Native American history up to Tecumseh's death in 1813. Although I've read the book before, and seen the outdoor drama, Tecumseh!, the end always seems to come too soon. It breaks my heart every time. Truly an excellent work!

Tecumseh is one of my heroes. Eckert gets into the soul of Tecumseh, and is one of the best writer's on the Shawnee, Frontiersmen, and the era of early western expansion.

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