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American Indian Culture and Research Journal

Title

Bitterness Road-The Mojave: 1604-1860.By Lorraine Miller.

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5bs8x679>

Journal

American Indian Culture and Research Journal , 21(1)

ISSN

0161-6463

Author

Castillo, Edward D.

Publication Date

1997

DOI

10.17953

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Bitterness Road-The Mojave: 1604-1860. By Lorraine Miller. Menlo Park: Ballena Press, 1994. 125 pages. \$13.95.

Ballena press editors have tackled the difficult task of posthumously publishing research on the Mojave Indians, from the late Lorraine Miller Sherer. Sherer was a professor of Education at UCLA and had earlier produced four monographs published in local history journals. Benefiting from her personal relationship with a number of important Mojave traditionalists, the work of this writer bears examination. *Bitterness Road* traces the interaction between the Mojave people and various colonial invaders to 1860.

Large sections of the book are direct quotes from various explorers whose accounts too often focus on the daunting challenges of the desert environment rather than the Mojaves. Without question the text would have benefited from some maps. Fortunately, the illustrations of artists Balwin Mollhausen are handsomely reproduced and lend flavor to the mid-nineteenth century portrait of these desert agriculturists.

Sherer and Ballena editors have produced a useful chronology of early contact between the Mojaves and various waves of newcomers to the challenging lower Colorado River territory. Especially noteworthy are 20th century comments by Mojave traditionalists Francis Stillman. Her comments often reflect oral histories deeply embedded in contemporary traditional families throughout California. Of great interest is the documented accounts of Mojave chiefs refusing to keep gifts offered by various visitors, instead parceling them out to their followers. Unfortunately virtually all Mojave accounts of past events are relegated to footnotes. Perhaps the most important data presented in this book is the presentation of the Mojave motivation for hostilities offered to various uninvited guests. Despite their enthusiasm for trade, again and again, Mojave testimony emphasizes the destruction of native crops, and the wanton killing of animals by early fur trappers as a source of mistrust and ultimately hostility to the newcomers.

The only problem with this useful publication is its omission of important historical data that would place events covered in this study into a broad ethno-historical context. For instance the author was apparently unaware of a spectacular resistance by Mojave traders arrested at mission San Buena Ventura in 1819 and their subsequent life and death battle with Spanish soldiers who

had stolen their trade goods. That account was translated and published by Sherburne F. Cook in 1962. The 1823 expulsion of the Mojave neighbors the Halchidoma in concert with the Quechan is similarly absent from this account. In fact the Jedediah Smith visit to the territory touched off the Mojave and Quechan attack on the Halchidoma. Documented accounts of these event are readily available in published studies. Mojave participation in the great Colorado River Uprising of 1781 is mentioned only in passing remarks about the Quechan. The author identifies Pedro Fages as a missionary when he was, in fact, a royal army lieutenant of Catalonia Volunteers. Mojave participation in the widespread stock raids of the 1830-1840's is similarly ignored. Oddly omitted from the bibliography is Kenneth Stewart's important summary of Mojave culture and history from the *Handbook of North American Indians. Vol 10, Southwest*.

This reviewer's greatest disappointment lies in the failure of the author-editors to document the legal methods the United States government used to dispossess the Mojave and all California Indians of their lands. The failure of treaty making of 1851-2 among California Indians was followed by the creation of a land Commission by act of Congress in 1851. Its purpose was to validate land claims in the state. While the Commission was specifically ordered to notify Indian tribes of the necessity of making formal claims to their land, they in fact never communicated this vital information to any Indians. Consequently, California Indians were neatly dispossessed of all their lands. This book cites only vague references to injustice. Every historical work about California Indians that hopes to be fair and relevant to contemporary Native Peoples needs to explain just exactly how Mojave lands (and that of all American Indians) became legally "owned" by non-Indians. This author does not believe this places too heavy of a burden on authors or editors to insist upon such a minimal explanation of how we got to be where we are today.

Edward D. Castillo
Sonoma State University

Eye Killers. By A. A. Carr. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. 344 pages. \$19.95 cloth; \$12.95 paper.

Eye Killers, an uneven first novel by A. A. Carr, is the thirteenth volume in American Indian Literature and Critical Series from the