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Tecumseh A Life. By John Sugden.

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ters on teaching social studies and Native languages are notable exceptions that provide valuable activities to engage the entire class in important issues affecting Native Americans today—the unique government-to-government relations of federally recognized Indian tribes with the US government, contemporary issues, and ongoing contributions. Consequently, I believe a teacher using this book will find the approaches that integrate both culturally relevant activities and transformative curriculum the most helpful.

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**Tecumseh: A Life.** By John Sugden. New York: Henry Holt, 1997. 492 pages. \$34.95 cloth; \$15.95 paper.

In *Tecumseh* Sugden offers a major reinterpretation of Tecumseh's life and his importance to the quest for Native American unity against the United States from the 1780s until 1813. The author argues that it was Tecumseh, not Tenskwatawa, who played the key role in this struggle.

Tecumseh was born about 1768 in southern Ohio. His parents had recently moved from their home in the South. While Tecumseh was likely of Creek and English heritage, he was raised in the Old Northwest.

The leader witnessed bloodshed when he was only six, and from the 1780s until his death in 1813, he fought in all the major, and most of the minor, engagements between Native Americans and white Americans in the contest for land in the West. He was present at the Ohio fights around Fort Miami and Fallen Timber in the 1790s as well as the engagement against Fort Meigs, Ohio in 1813.

Sugden makes some important points regarding Tecumseh's role in the pan-Indian movement through 1813. Tecumseh did not begin the movement; in fact, it can be dated back to the 1670s. In addition, Tecumseh was not alone in his efforts. Alexander McGillivray among the Creeks and Main Poc of the Potawatomi were also leaders, but they did not possess the same influence over others that Tecumseh did. Tecumseh won over individual villages and warriors instead of entire tribes. He believed that no single tribe could sell land; if they did the confederacy would not survive. The land belonged to all Indians, and Waashaa Monetoo, the Great Spirit, would punish them if they sold it.

Tecumseh began traveling to different tribes in 1809. He went in all directions, but concentrated most of his efforts on the southern United States, where he confronted two major problems: the Americanization or civilization program's strong roots in this region and the large number of individuals who received funds from treaty annuities. Sugden, however, fails to examine this Nativist movement in depth. For a more detailed analysis, consult Joel W. Martin's *Sacred Revolt* (1991), which puts this movement in its religious context.

Sugden also analyzes the impact that Tenskwatawa, Tecumsah's brother,

had on both Tecumseh and the confederacy. According to Sugden, Tecumseh gained political influence through his brother's revitalization program. However, the author also states that Tecumseh was the leading figure in the pan-Indian movement, stating that on many occasions Tecumseh forced his brother to abide by his wishes when dealing with Americans. Tenskwatawa, a much beleaguered figure for most of his life, began his attempt at Native reform around 1805 by helping to stir up witch hunts among the Wyandot, Delaware, and Shawnee. He believed he was the only one qualified to interpret the will of the spirits. Sugden sees the decline of Tenskwatawa commencing with the losses incurred in Prophetstown, Indiana in 1811. There are many variant interpretations of these brothers' impact on each other and the confederacy. For further research, see James H. Howard's *Shawnee!: The Ceremonialism of a Native Indian Tribe and Its Cultural Background* (1981) and R. David Edmunds' *The Shawnee Prophet* (1983).

The author discusses several treaties in his book. Specifically, he explores former US president William Henry Harrison's involvement in most treaty signings. Harrison used bribery and the threat of force to acquire land cessions.

Sugden remarks that even though Tecumseh sought British aid after the battle of Tippecanoe he did not believe that Indians could rely on the British, for they had failed the Natives before, especially when they closed the gates to Fort Miami after the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794. All British commanders, with the exception of Major-General Isaac Brock, proved useless in fulfilling the Indians' desires. The author provides an excellent narrative of the 1813 Battle of the Thames in Canada, where Tecumeh died. The confederacy never regained its strength even though many western tribes continued to fight.

The study ends with an examination of the myth surrounding Tecumseh. Canadians count him as the their country's savior, although he did not fight to save Canada. At the same time, many Native Americans think of him as the man who did the most to save Indian land, while Euramericans regard him as the epitome of the noble savage.

Sugden has written an outstanding biography. All evidence indicates that Tecumseh, not Tenskwatawa, was the major figure in the pan-Indian movement of the early 1800s. The book also helps readers understand why so many Natives fought to keep their land and maintain their culture.

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**Tourism and Gaming on American Indian Lands.** Edited by Alan A. Lew and George A. Van Otten. Elmsford, New York: Cognizant Communications, 1998. 249 pages. \$30.00 paper.

In my class entitled, "Geography of Recreation, Tourism, and Sports," one or more students occasionally will stray from the scheduled topic under discussion and attempt to distract the wizened professor with irrelevant questions on esoteric topics. This past semester, an inquisitive teenager posed a question that, in