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Reviews

The Navajo Atlas: Environments, Resources, People, and History of the Diné Bikeyah. By James M. Goodman. Drawings and Cartographic Assistance by Mary E. Goodman. Norman and London: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982; second printing, 1986. 109 pp. \$24.50 Cloth.

The Navajo Atlas is a valuable book for anyone interested in Southwestern Indians and makes a useful supplement to volumes 9 and 10—*Southwest*—of the *Handbook of North American Indians* edited by Alfonso Ortiz. The book provides what no other has before: a geographic visualizing of the Navajo people.

Through a series of forty-eight maps and supplementary illustrations, the book presents the largest Indian reservation in the United States—25,000 square miles—and its 150,000 people in informative detail. The maps are simple, clear, and clean in design—if a little dull—and can be used readily by teachers in making overhead transparencies for classroom use. The written text is tersely descriptive, although there is some quotable interpretation, too.

Navajo country is set within the Colorado Plateau of southwestern United States. Its population density (about six people per square mile) is thin like its surface of arable soil, and its rainfall is scarce. *The Navajo Atlas* explains the geologic history of the areal landforms, the causes of climatic conditions, the variations between steppe and desert aridity and the natural vegetation that subsists in the region—and upon which the Navajos subsist. The book describes the ephemeral streams of the Colorado River drainage system, and shows how the three major rivers of the area—the San Juan, the Colorado, and the Little Colorado—skirt the reservation, forming (roughly) its boundaries and leaving the core of Navajo country persistently dry. The author notes that “The chief problem involving surface waters on the Navajo Reservation is that no permanent stream flows through the area” (p. 47). Wells can easily become dry during droughts, and “It is not uncommon for some Navajo people to have to transport

water fifty or more miles for their stock and to their homes'' (p. 47). The book depicts Navajo attempts at irrigation over the past decade, and is useful in envisioning the geographical bases of Navajo water rights—rights upon which Navajo future depends.

In this context the book traces the history of Navajos in the Southwest, from their in-migrations in the fourteenth century, through their contacts with Puebloan and Euro-American peoples, to the formation of the present reservation with its administrative and political districts and subdivisions. The federal treaty of 1868 created a land base that was much too small for the Navajo population, and which numerous Navajos did not inhabit. Thus over the next century the reservation lands increased through presidential and congressional acts, establishing a Navajo national territory with some portions isolated from the main bloc, and with other portions disputed by the Hopis—whose lands are surrounded by Navajos. *The Navajo Atlas* explains graphically the origins and permutations of the Navajo-Hopi land dispute, and hints correctly that the federal disposition of the Navajo-Hopi Joint-Use Area in 1977 into discrete Hopi and Navajo territories could aid in freeing up land ''for the extension of mining operations'' (p. 97) by the Peabody Coal Company.

The Navajo Atlas portrays its subjects dynamically, with an eye on economic, social, and political developments. The book charts the growth of medical facilities, banks, and schools (including Navajo Community College, begun in 1969, ''the first institution of higher education operated by an Indian tribe'' (p. 87)), as well as ancient sacred places within the perimeters of the Four Sacred Mountains that define Navajo land. The author remarks that Navajo bloc voting has made a significant impact on recent state elections, a powerful result of Navajo demographic increase. However, this ''exploding population growth,'' ''a classic configuration of third-world population'' (p. 66), could spell danger. Navajo population will double by 1995, and ''... for the Navajos the real danger of too many people for the land resource base continues to hang like a specter over the horizon'' (p. 61).

For these traditionally and overwhelmingly pastoral people whose population has been drawn in recent years to certain administrative centers, there are two areas for concern regarding the future of their national economy: ''grazing pressure in the drought-stricken ranges is far too high; and public service makes up too high a proportion of the total employment'' (p. 69). To-

day mineral resources constitute "the Navajo Tribe's principal source of income" (p. 75), and "the most important product of Navajo resources is energy" (p. 79) gained from petroleum, natural gas, coal and uranium. Ironically, virtually all of this energy is exported to California, Arizona, Texas and New Mexico, while "only limited areas of the Navajo Reservation have access to electricity" (p. 79). Despite their difficulties, the Navajo people and their land have a future worthy of hope. One looks forward to further records of that future contained in revised editions of *The Navajo Atlas*.

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Crown and Calumet: British-Indian Relations, 1783-1815. By Colin G. Calloway. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987. 345 pp.

In the vast literature of Indian-White relations, the amount of work devoted to British-Indian relations between the American Revolution and the War of 1812 is surprisingly limited. Reginald Horsman has covered this period most effectively, but Colin Calloway provides a welcome addition to Horsman's work. Calloway did the bulk of the research for the book as a dissertation at the University of Leeds, England, for which he received the Ph.D. in 1978. Since that time he has moved to the United States where he is editor and assistant director in the D'Arcy McNickle Center for the History of the American Indian, at the Newberry Library, Chicago and has since left the Newberry.

Calloway does not force us to change our views on the history of Indian-White relations in the period, but he provides rich and evocative details from primary sources on both sides of the Atlantic, and his narrative is solidly based and persuasively argued. Unfortunately the text also reflects its origin as a doctoral dissertation, with the progression of research notes only slightly concealed. While some of the traditional stereotypes about the Indians of the period are now no longer held by scholars, Calloway usefully reminds us that the Indians "were accomplished politicians, formidable warriors, and canny traders who held their own civilization in high esteem and saw little in the subjects of George III to make them change their minds" (preface, xii).