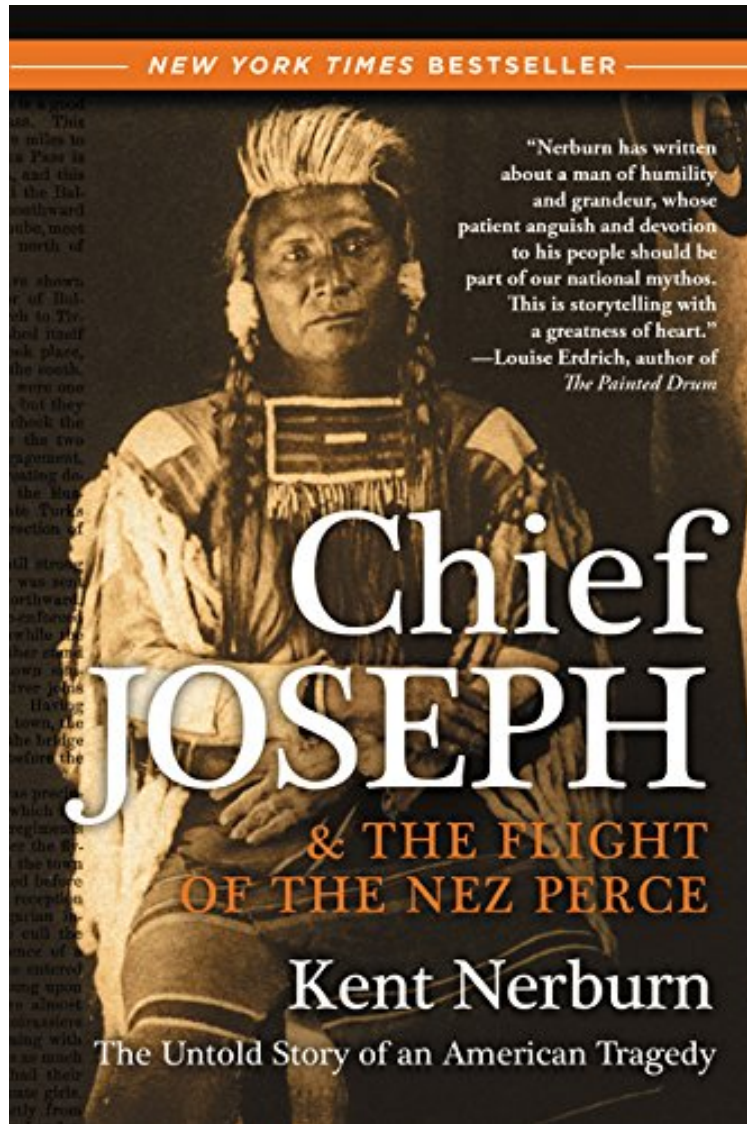


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Chief Joseph the Flight of the Nez Perce: The Untold Story of an American Tragedy

Kent Nerburn

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Kent Nerburn : Chief Joseph the Flight of the Nez Perce: The Untold Story of an American Tragedy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chief Joseph the Flight of the Nez Perce: The Untold Story of an American Tragedy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Easy Reading History Lesson By Desert Dog Having gone on a rafting trip on the Snake River this past summer, I wanted to get a bit more history of the past from that area. A friend recommended this book. The author took me on the adventure of the Nez Perce. With familiarity of the Snake River, I was able to visualize the trek of the Nez Perce. If there was ever a hero for Native Americans, it would be Joseph. I sailed through the first 2/3's of the book, but struggle more at the end -- not because of the writing but just the sadness and injustices done to the Nez Perce. Having grown up in Wyoming around Indian reservations, I have some bias but this book really opened my eyes and I now have some new found compassion for the Native Americans. I bought the book used and it was in like new condition. Something that I rarely do, but I underlined and highlighted various parts of the book which really moved me. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very well done! By Blue Skies This book tells the story of the Nez Perce travels avoiding the Army in a narrative tale format. The author is very familiar and it is well-researched, but it is also just a good read! I have visited many of these places and recall reading roadside plaques and museum exhibits, but this book made it real. At the end, the author recognizes others' works on the same topic and discusses his approach, plus gives suggestions for further reading if interested. Really enjoyed it and will look for other works by Professor Nerburn! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read! By Edward Vaiskauskas Well written book. This has been a eye opening story about the flight and perils of the Nez Perce that changed my beliefs of the actions and perils that they endured. Living in Wyoming and near the Chief Joseph trail across the Beartooth Mountains I enjoyed reading this book and anyone interested in the native American history should put this on their must read list.

Hidden in the shadow cast by the great western expeditions of Lewis and Clark lies another journey every bit as poignant, every bit as dramatic, and every bit as essential to an understanding of who we are as a nation -- the 1,800-mile journey made by Chief Joseph and eight hundred Nez Perce men, women, and children from their homelands in what is now eastern Oregon through the most difficult, mountainous country in western America to the high, wintry plains of Montana. There, only forty miles from the Canadian border and freedom, Chief Joseph, convinced that the wounded and elders could go no farther, walked across the snowy battlefield, handed his rifle to the U.S. military commander who had been pursuing them, and spoke his now-famous words, "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever." The story has been told many times, but never before in its entirety or with such narrative richness. Drawing on four years of research, interviews, and 20,000 miles of travel, Nerburn takes us beyond the surrender to the captives' unlikely welcome in Bismarck, North Dakota, their tragic eight-year exile in Indian Territory, and their ultimate return to the Northwest. Nerburn reveals the true, complex character of Joseph, showing how the man was transformed into a myth by a public hungry for an image of the noble Indian and how Joseph exploited the myth in order to achieve his single goal of returning his people to their homeland. Chief Joseph the Flight of the Nez Perce is far more than the story of a man and a people. It is a grand saga of a pivotal time in our nation's history. Its pages are alive with the presence of Lewis and Clark, General William Tecumseh Sherman, General George Armstrong Custer, and Sitting Bull. Its events brush against the California Gold Rush, the Civil War, the great western pioneer migration, and the building of the telegraph and the transcontinental railroad. Once you have read this groundbreaking work, you will never look at Chief Joseph, the American Indian, or our nation's westward journey in the same way again.

From Publishers Weekly Nerburn (Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder) brings balanced passion to this popular history of the man best known for his sad speech signaling his tribe's surrender at the end of an 1,800-mile retreat from their homeland in Oregon: "I will fight no more forever." Nerburn's novelistic chronicle moves from the kind welcome Lewis and Clark receive from the Nez Percé in 1805 to General O.O. Howard's May 1877 order for the tribespeople to move onto a reservation in Idaho within 30 days. The author follows chiefs Joseph, Ollokot, Looking Glass and White Bird through their armed resistance to Howard's order, their torturous six-month flight toward Canada and their final surrender to U.S. forces just 50 miles away from the Canadian border. Subsequently relocated to several reservations, the tribe was decimated in numbers, culture and spirit, and Joseph's efforts in the 1880s to regain legal ownership of his rightful land, Wallowa Valley, Ore., came to naught. While Joseph's symbolic importance as "America's premier Indian" bloomed, the actual Nez Percé dwindled toward extinction. Nerburn sets out to bust the myth of the "Red Napoleon" in this engaging volume, but his characterization of Joseph's "compassionate leadership" can lean toward stereotyping of a different sort: the noble and tragic Native American in defeat. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Among numerous biographies of Chief Joseph describing the Nez Perce retreat in 1877 from their home in Oregon's Wallowa Valley and their ultimate capture just miles south of Canada, Nerburn offers a somewhat different slant. After the council at Lapwai (Idaho), near their home, conflict arose within the tribe between those bands who had signed the 1855 treaty, and those who had not, those who wanted to move to the reservation lands they were offered at Lapwai, and those who wanted to fight for their right to return home to their beloved Wallowa Valley. According to Nerburn, U.S. Army General Oliver Otis Howard assumes that Joseph is the military

leader of all the nontreaty bands, when in fact, "the Nez Perce were anything but Joseph's people," and Joseph was "barely listened to at all." Nerburn concludes that Joseph's role as the preeminent war-loving chief was emphasized by General Howard because "a strong enemy makes an opposing commander look good." An intriguing twist to a legendary saga, which is sure to encourage rebuttal. Deborah Donovan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Innovative... an intriguing study of a man and a legend." (Kirkus s) "Nerburn has written about a man of humility and grandeur... This is storytelling with a greatness of heart." (Louise Erdrich) "With measured words and narrative power, Nerburn presents a dramatic portrait of Chief Joseph as a man of peace..." (Spirituality and Health magazine) "Nerburn... writes from the Indians' perspective with insight and reverence." (Columbus Dispatch) "Crisp, energetic account... reads like fictionalized history in the tradition of Mari Sandoz's Crazy Horse." (The Oregonian (Portland)) "Nerburn deftly records a dark chapter of forced diaspora and forgotten promises—one as engrossing as a novel." (People) "A masterful job of recreating this tragic story." (National Catholic Reporter) "The story has been told many times but not often with as much color as Nerburn provides." (Denver Post) "A must read for every instructor of American history" (Grand Rapids Press) "[An] exceptionally fine book..." (The California Literary) "Nerburn seems to have found the real story of Chief Joseph rather than rehashing the iconic status..." (The Olympian)