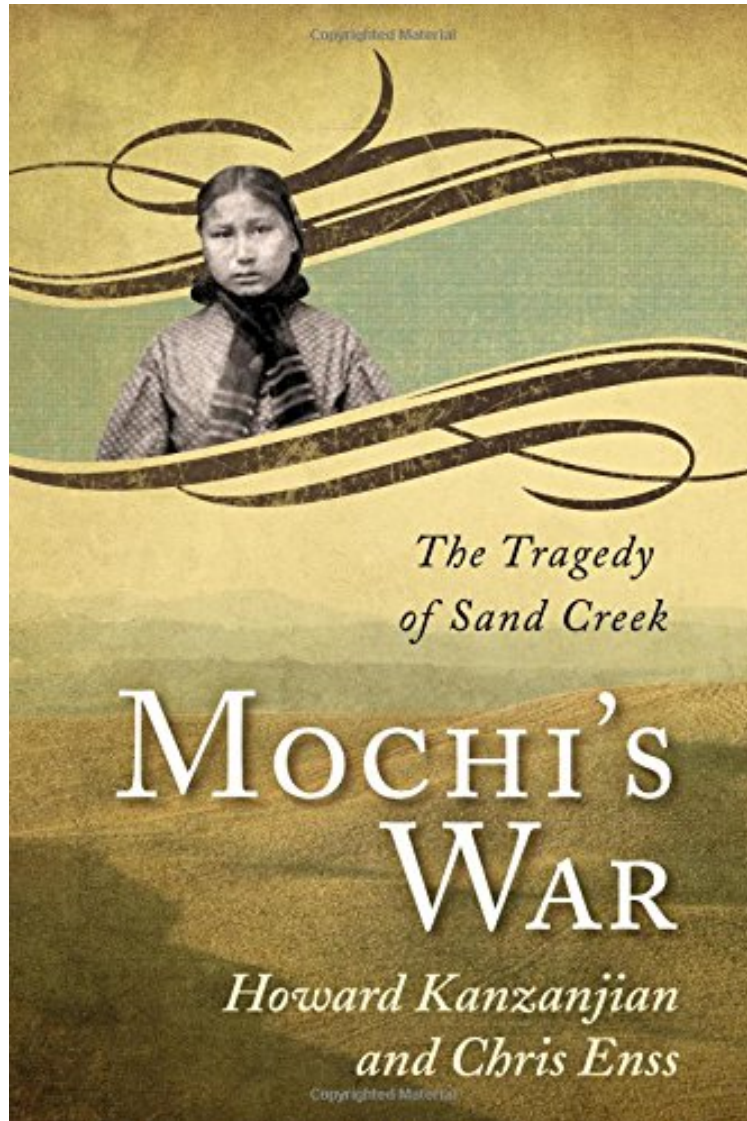


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Mochi's War: The Tragedy of Sand Creek

Chris Enss, Howard Kazanjian
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Chris Enss, Howard Kazanjian : Mochi's War: The Tragedy of Sand Creek before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mochi's War: The Tragedy of Sand Creek:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GOod source and chronology of Moch' s life.By CustomerGenerally a good source for Mochi,but with too much emphasis on German family.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Joseph A. TruglioGood story but I was disappointed in that I was looking for more on Sand Creek.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Mochi's WarBy Bradley L KautzMochi's War: The Tragedy of Sand Creek is at its essence the story of a young Cheyenne woman, Mochi, who was a survivor of the Sand Creek

Massacre, set within a larger story of the subjugation of native American's by the US government during the mid-to-late 19th century. It is written by two men with extensive experience in the film industry, Enss as a screenwriter and Kazanjian as a producer. It is perhaps the primary vocations of the authors that gave me so much difficulty in reading this book. I have read a bit of Native American literature, both fiction and non-fiction, as well as several volumes dealing with the history of the settling. While not Native American myself I have lived on a reservation for the past two years, so are elements of this story that strike me differently than it would have prior to my reading and experiences of the past two years. Sand Creek was a tragedy, and of that there is no dispute. So there are elements of Mochi's story that are very powerful. But...there are multiple historical inaccuracies in this book, which are portrayed as fact, that in the end bring into doubt that ability of these authors to write history well. That is where the author's primary vocation comes into play. This book seems to read as a film project that gathered background material, but it couldn't quite be made into a movie, so that in the end a book was written to salvage the effort. The examples of these errors that stand out to me are these: 1) Stating that a report on Sand Creek was sent to President Ulysses Grant in January, 1865, when Grant was on active military service then, not being inaugurated as President until March, 1869. 2) Repeatedly referring to George Armstrong Custer as a General, when he only held this rank during the later years of the Civil War. At the time of the Indian Wars he held the rank of Lt. Colonel. This is inconsistent with the pattern used with other officers in the book, most notably Nelson Miles, who is referenced by his rank during the Indian Wars, Colonel, and not his later rank of Lt. General. 3) Identifying William T. Sherman as Secretary of War, when he was actually the Commanding General of the US Army, and serving under the authority of the Secretary of War. The problem with the errors cited above are several. One, this is a work of history, and such fairly obvious errors seriously detract from its ability to be read as a trustworthy account. Two, this book makes significant use of reference material, all of which is cited through endnotes. But of what good is an endnote that has not been checked for accuracy? And three, given the authors primary vocations, and their very real success in them, there seems to be a disconnect in this book, i.e. putting forward the telling of a story over the telling of a story in a well-written, a well-edited, and accurate manner. Mochi's story is an interesting one, but I believe that much is lost in this particular telling of it.

Colorado Territory in 1864 wasn't merely the wild west, it was a land in limbo while the Civil War raged in the east and politics swirled around its potential admission to the union. The territorial governor, John Evans, had ambitions on the national stage should statehood occur--and he was joined in those ambitions by a local pastor and erstwhile Colonel in the Colorado militia, John Chivington. The decision was made to take a hard line stance against any Native Americans who refused to settle on reservations--and in the fall of 1864, Chivington set his sights on a small band of Cheyenne under the chief Black Eagle, camped and preparing for the winter at Sand Creek. When the order to fire on the camp came on November 28, one officer refused, other soldiers in Chivington's force, however, immediately attacked the village, disregarding the American flag, and a white flag of surrender that was run up shortly after the soldiers commenced firing. In the ensuing "battle" fifteen members of the assembled militias were killed and more than 50 wounded. Between 150 and 200 of Black Kettle's Cheyenne were estimated killed, nearly all elderly men, women and children. As with many incidents in American history, the victors wrote the first version of history--turning the massacre into a heroic feat by the troops. Soon thereafter, however, Congress began an investigation into Chivington's actions and he was roundly condemned. His name still rings with infamy in Colorado and American history. Mochi's War explores this story and its repercussions into the last part of the nineteenth Century from the perspective of a Cheyenne woman whose determination swept her into some of the most dramatic and heartbreaking moments in the conflicts that grew through the West in the aftermath of Sand Creek.

Historian Enss and Kazanjian succeed in personalizing one of America's most troubling memories, the brutal and unprovoked massacre of a sleeping village of Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples at Sand Creek (present-day Colorado) by troops of the Colorado Volunteers in November 1864. This still controversial military engagement sets the background in which Mochi, a Cheyenne woman, lost her entire family and barely survived herself, by killing a soldier and then fleeing her camp. She reinvented herself as a Dog Soldier and member of the Bowstring Society, one of the few females to claim association in these elite Cheyenne warrior groups. She remarried, to Medicine Water, himself a military leader, and they in turn brutally raided and avenged themselves on American soldiers and settlers alike for over a decade. The authors have again collaborated to write Western history in an accurate yet accessible manner for mainstream readers. They provide a graphic account of the Plains Indian Wars from 1864 to 1875. Highly recommended for adult readers of Western and Native American history, this biographical account provides a counterpoint to the many works that have mythologized such women as Pocahontas and Sacajawea. (Library Journal, Starred) About the Author Chris Enss is an award-winning screen writer who has written for television, short subject films, live performances, and for the movies, and is the author or co-author of numerous books, including *The Death Row All Stars*—soon to be a motion picture—with Howard Kazanjian. Howard Kazanjian is an award-winning producer and entertainment executive who has been producing feature films and television programs for more than twenty-five years. While vice president of production for Lucasfilm Ltd., he produced two of the highest grossing

films of all time.