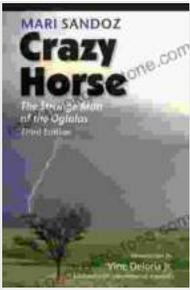


Crazy Horse: The Enigma of the Oglala Lakota



Crazy Horse, born Tashunka Witko (Crazy Horse), was an enigmatic and influential figure in the history of the Oglala Lakota people. His life and legacy continue to fascinate and inspire generations, leaving an enduring mark on American history.



Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas by Mari Sandoz

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2355 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 516 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Early Life and Education

Crazy Horse was born around 1840 near present-day Rapid City, South Dakota. His father, Black Buffalo, was a renowned Oglala warrior, while his mother, Rattling Blanket Woman, was a devout believer in Wakan Tanka (the Great Spirit).

Growing up in a tumultuous era, Crazy Horse witnessed firsthand the encroachment of white settlers onto Lakota lands. He received little formal education, but his experiences shaped his profound connection to his culture, traditions, and the sacred Black Hills.

The Horse Thief Years

As a young man, Crazy Horse became known for his exceptional horsemanship and courage in horse raids. He earned the nickname "Crazy Horse" from the Lakota, who admired his unorthodox tactics and fearless approach.

However, horse stealing was more than just a means to acquire wealth. For the Lakota, it was a way to resist white encroachment and assert their sovereignty. Crazy Horse emerged as a charismatic and skilled warrior, gaining a reputation as a formidable opponent.

The Battle of Little Bighorn

In 1876, Crazy Horse joined forces with Sitting Bull and other Lakota leaders to resist the US government's attempt to confine them to reservations. At the Battle of Little Bighorn, he played a crucial role in the surprise attack that annihilated General George Custer's 7th Cavalry.

Crazy Horse's leadership and tactical brilliance contributed significantly to the Lakota victory. His legend as a warrior grew, but so did the determination of the US military to subdue the Lakota resistance.

Surrender and Imprisonment

After the Battle of Little Bighorn, Crazy Horse realized the futility of further warfare. He led his band of followers to surrender at Fort Robinson in 1877. However, his confinement was short-lived. After witnessing the brutal treatment of his people, Crazy Horse attempted to escape.

On September 5, 1877, while being transferred to a new prison, Crazy Horse was fatally wounded by a bayonet. His untimely death at the age of 37 sent shockwaves through the Lakota nation and beyond.

Legacy and Significance

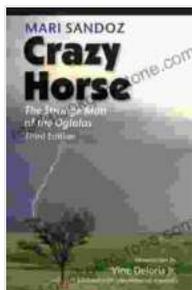
Despite his brief life, Crazy Horse became a symbol of Lakota resistance and resilience. His refusal to compromise his beliefs and his unwavering commitment to his people continue to inspire generations.

The Crazy Horse Memorial in the Black Hills of South Dakota is a testament to his legacy. Begun in 1948, the colossal mountain carving is still under construction and is expected to become the largest sculpture in the world.

Through his leadership, courage, and unwavering spirit, Crazy Horse remains a revered figure in American history. His story serves as a reminder of the complexities of the American West and the ongoing struggles for indigenous rights and self-determination.

Additional Information and Resources

* Crazy Horse Memorial: [Link to official website] * National Park Service: Battle of Little Bighorn: [Link to website] * Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian: Crazy Horse: [Link to website] * PBS American Experience: Crazy Horse: [Link to documentary]



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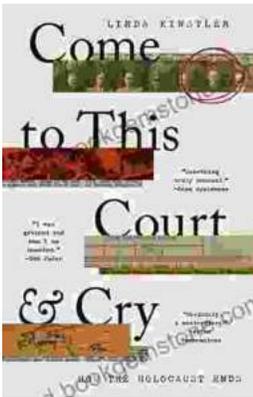
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