Sitting Bull: The Life and Legacy of Tatanka lyotake



Sitting Bull by Bill Yenne

****	4.4 out of 5
Language	: English
File size	: 2535 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled



Screen Reader	:	Supported
Enhanced typesetting	:	Enabled
Word Wise	:	Enabled
Print length	:	392 pages

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Sitting Bull, Tatanka lyotake in Lakota, was a revered Lakota Sioux warrior and spiritual leader who played a pivotal role in the history of the American West. His unwavering resistance to American expansion and his leadership during the Battle of Little Bighorn cemented his status as a legendary figure in Native American history. This article delves into the life and legacy of Sitting Bull, exploring his childhood, spiritual beliefs, military campaigns, and the lasting impact of his actions.

Early Life and Spiritual Awakening

Sitting Bull was born in 1831 near the Grand River in present-day South Dakota. From a young age, he exhibited exceptional hunting and horsemanship skills, earning him the nickname "Slow" for his deliberate and strategic approach. In his early twenties, Sitting Bull experienced a profound spiritual awakening during a vision quest. He encountered the sacred White Buffalo Calf Woman, who bestowed upon him the sacred pipe and instructed him to lead his people.

Military Campaigns and the Battle of Little Bighorn

Sitting Bull's spiritual calling guided his military and political actions throughout his life. As tensions escalated between the Lakota Sioux and

the United States government over the Black Hills, Sitting Bull emerged as a leading voice for resistance. He played a crucial role in the Fetterman Fight in 1866 and the Battle of the Rosebud in 1876.

In June 1876, Sitting Bull and other Lakota and Cheyenne leaders led a combined force of warriors in the Battle of Little Bighorn. They annihilated Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry, inflicting one of the most significant defeats on the United States Army in American history. Sitting Bull's tactical brilliance and the unity of the Native American tribes under his command played a decisive role in the battle.

Surrender and Later Years

After the Battle of Little Bighorn, Sitting Bull and his followers retreated north to Canada, seeking refuge from the pursuing American army. In 1881, facing severe hardship and dwindling food supplies, Sitting Bull surrendered to United States authorities. He was imprisoned at Fort Randall for two years before being transferred to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

In his later years, Sitting Bull became a prominent figure in the Ghost Dance movement, a spiritual and political movement that aimed to revive Native American traditions and restore harmony with the natural world. He was arrested in December 1890 on charges of inciting violence and was killed during a botched attempt to apprehend him.

Legacy and Impact

Sitting Bull's legacy continues to inspire Native American communities and people worldwide. His unwavering resistance to American expansion and his dedication to preserving Lakota traditions have earned him the respect of historians, scholars, and activists alike. His life and actions serve as a reminder of the resilience and determination of the Native American people in the face of adversity.

Today, Sitting Bull's name and image are synonymous with Native American history and culture. His likeness can be found on coins, statues, and countless works of art. His words and teachings continue to be studied and revered, reminding us of the importance of cultural preservation, spiritual connection, and the pursuit of freedom.

Sitting Bull was an extraordinary figure whose life and legacy continue to captivate and inspire. His unwavering leadership, spiritual wisdom, and unwavering commitment to his people make him a towering figure in American history. Through his actions and teachings, Sitting Bull left an indelible mark on the history of the American West and beyond, reminding us of the resilience, courage, and determination of the Native American spirit.



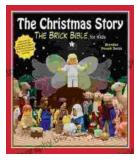
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