

The Plains Cree: Trade, Diplomacy and War, 1790 to 1870. JOHN S. MILLOY. Winnipeg: The University of Manitoba Press, Manitoba Studies in Native History IV, 1988. 159 p. ISBN 0-88755-141-6.

Fourth in the Manitoba Studies in Native History series, John Milloy's *The Plains Cree* fits comfortably within a range of topics that now includes pre-1840 trade relations around Cumberland House and The Pas; fur trader George Nelson's 1823 Lac la Ronge writings on Cree and Northern Ojibway world views; and, the Dakota's economic adaptation to the Canadian Prairies after 1862. While the initial publication — a collection of papers arising out of a ground-breaking conference on the Métis — is longer, the rest of the series is comprised of slim volumes averaging about two hundred pages each. All abound with notes and references and are very well indexed and illustrated.

John Milloy draws mainly on primary sources such as Hudson's Bay Company records, fur trade journals, and numerous published memoirs and narratives. Not a full tribal history, *The Plains Cree* takes "a macro-historical approach to the Plains Cree in pre-reserve days in terms of their external relations." It is a detailed chronology of military and trade patterns built on the four themes of migration, nascent nationhood, the "horse wars" of the first half of the nineteenth century, and the "buffalo wars" of the 1850s and 1860s.

An editorial board representative of Manitoba's academic and native communities directs this series. Its solid scholarship is explicitly intended to address the historiographical problem of nonexistent or deficient accounts of aboriginal peoples' experience and their role in Canadian history. There have been previous works on the Plains Cree, but John Milloy's economic, military, and diplomatic history is bound to serve as a basis for future studies, some of which should be broader.

Lisa Patterson

National Archives of Canada

The Dakota of the Canadian Northwest: Lessons for Survival. PETER DOUGLAS ELIAS. Winnipeg: The University of Manitoba Press, Manitoba Studies in Native History V, 1988. xvii, 262 p. ISBN 0-88755-142-4.

This volume is part of a series which deals with aboriginal history in western Canada. A significant feature of this particular publication is its focus on a specific group of native peoples where relatively little research had previously been done. It outlines the history of the Dakota in Canada, a distinct group of native peoples commonly associated with the United States.

The book provides an excellent overview of the economic strategies used by the Dakota in their struggle for survival. It also looks at the geographic and political aspects which shaped the lives of the Dakota in Canada. Elias chronicles the presence of the Dakota in Canada prior to the eighteenth century. The emphasis of this volume, however, is the period after 1862 or the recent history of the Dakota. By examining the writings of various government officials, Elias creates an historical account of the Dakota. In addition to the primary sources material, he also includes documentary evidence found in archaeological records and oral commentary to further support the indigenous claims of the Dakota.