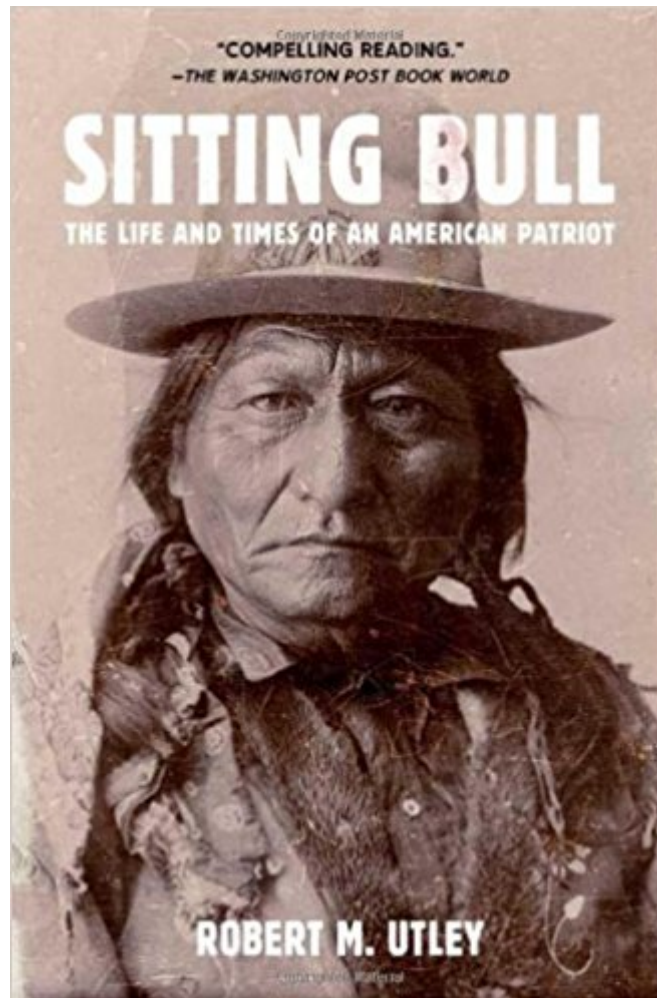




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# Sitting Bull: The Life And Times Of An American Patriot



## Synopsis

The definitive, award-winning biography of the legendary chief and his dramatic role in the history of westward expansion. Reviled by the United States government as a troublemaker and a coward, revered by his people as a great warrior chief, Sitting Bull has long been one of the most fascinating and misunderstood figures in American history. Distinguished historian Robert M. Utley has forged a compelling portrait of Sitting Bull, presenting the Lakota perspective for the first time and rendering the most unbiased, historically accurate, and vivid portrait of the man to date. The Sitting Bull who emerges in this fast-paced narrative is a complex, towering figure: a great warrior whose skill and bravery in battle were unparalleled; the spiritual leader of his people; a dignified but ultimately tragically stubborn defender of the traditional ways against the steadfast and unwelcome encroachment of the white man.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"His narrative is gripping....Mr. Utley transforms Sitting Bull, the abstract, romanticized icon and symbol, into a flesh-and-blood person with a down-to-earth story....THE LANCE AND THE SHIELD clears the screen of the exaggerations and fantasies long directed at the name of Sitting Bull."THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW  
Reviled by the United States government as a troublemaker and a coward, revered by his people as a great warrior chief, Sitting Bull has long been one of the most fascinating and misunderstood figures in American history. Now, distinguished historian Robert M. Utley has forged a compelling new portrait of Sitting Bull, viewing the man from the Lakota perspective for the very first time to render the most unbiased and historically accurate

biography of Sitting Bull to date. WINNER OF THE SPUR AWARD FOR BEST WESTERN  
NONFICTION HISTORICAL BOOK OF 1993 A MAIN SELECTION OF THE HISTORY BOOK CLUB  
FEATURED ALTERNATE SELECTION OF THE QUALITY PAPERBACK BOOK CLUB

Robert M. Utley, a former chief historian of the National Park Service, specializes in the history of the American West and is the author of many distinguished works of history and biography. He lives in Georgetown, Texas.

Utley presents Sitting Bull as a remarkable person and as a leading member of his society at a critical time in that society's history. This kind of insight is important to everyone if the concept of "diversity" in our world is to be more than a slogan. It is well written scholarship but also a captivating read.

Superbly-researched and compelling, this is a must-read for any Sioux, Red Cloud/Sitting Bull/Crazy Horse aficionado. Robert M. Utley provides an authoritative, fully credible portrait of the truly great Sioux chief.

A very interesting story that shows he was he was a peace lover- his own man, with unmatched skills-not the chief that is a supreme fighter/warrior he is usually made out to be.

Excellent and detailed history of a unique period in our nation's history. Great insight into the rich Sioux culture which was lost to America's westward expansion.

Robert L. Utley's *Sitting Bull: The Life and Times of an American Patriot*, written in 1993, provides an authoritative account of the life of Sitting Bull from a historian's perspective. His primary source material was taken from the Walter S. Campbell Collection at the University of Oklahoma Library in Norman, Oklahoma along with official government records from the US and Canada. According to Utley, prior to his book, the standard biography of Stanley Vestal approached Sitting Bull from a literary rather than a historical perspective. In the book, Utley portrayed Sitting Bull as a real person as opposed to the larger-than-life "romanticized caricature" of the 1960s "red power" movement or the ultimate Sioux warrior leader and archenemy of the US Army. There was a real Sitting Bull, and Utley largely succeeds in presenting him, the good with the bad, the leader and the warrior. Utley, a historian with many significant books on the American West, is well suited to the task. *Sitting Bull*

stands as the last key Lakota chief who resisted the reservation system and clung to the old ways until he could do so no longer. From an early age, Sitting Bull was recognized as a leader, first in battles with traditional Lakota enemies. His reputation grew based on battle exploits, and later based on his strength and persistence demonstrated in opposing the whites. Much of American history has lauded Sitting Bull based on his actions at the Battle of Little Bighorn, but Utley's book shows his significance to be much more. A major focus of the book deals with Sitting Bull's role as the last Lakota holdout opposing the reservation system. Attempting to preserve his people's freedom and culture, he took them to Canada to escape the US Army's attempts to force them to a reservation. For a short time, Sitting Bull's Hunkpapas lived well in Canada. Unfortunately, they soon faced food shortages, disputes with other tribes, internal conflict, and pressure from both the US and Canadian governments. After much stalling and as a last resort, Sitting Bull surrendered himself and his people to the reservation system. Unfortunately, Sitting Bull was unable to adapt to the reservation system and was ill-suited to do so since Indian Policy called for a drastic transformation of his culture. This transformation was too slow for the US Government and too fast for Sitting Bull and others who clung to the old ways. Additionally, while Sitting Bull remained a leader for his people throughout his life and advocated for them, he did not have the political experience or acumen of Red Cloud. In the view of James McLaughlin, Indian Agent for the Standing Rock Reservation where Sitting Bull lived, he was an impediment to progress and the conforming of the Sioux to the reservation system. Inevitably, he would meet a tragic fate during an attempted arrest involving his participation in the Ghost Dance. In retrospect, this echoes the fate of Crazy Horse and was a foreshadowing of the Wounded Knee Massacre which was soon to follow. To his last day, Sitting Bull remained a leader to his people in seeking to preserve their culture.

Very informative. I'm one who likes reading any kind of history. Native Americans have always been very interesting to me. Robert M Utley wrote this book very well and I recommend this book to anyone who likes reading about Native Americans.

Such a remarkable person who truly lived his heritage. This is a wonderful book, very well documented and told by a great historian- Robert Utley.

Great book. Written with heavy use of primary sources, it stands up to academic scrutiny. Recommended for leisure or scholarly pursuits.

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