

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Great Plains Quarterly

Great Plains Studies, Center for

1990

Review of New Directions in American Indian History

Michael Eastin

Grand Junction, Colorado

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly>



Part of the [Other International and Area Studies Commons](#)

Eastin, Michael, "Review of New Directions in American Indian History" (1990). *Great Plains Quarterly*. 472.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly/472>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Great Plains Studies, Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Plains Quarterly by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

New Directions in American Indian History. Edited by Colin G. Calloway. D'Arcy McNickle Center Bibliographies in American Indian History Series, Vol. 1. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1988. Figures, table, references, index. x + 288 pp. \$29.50.

This appropriately titled collection of essays is the first volume of a continuing bibliographic series intended to supplement earlier bibliographies and further assist American Indian historians, especially newcomers to the field, in determining the relative merit of the hundreds of new publications concerning American Indians becoming available annually.

The essays emphasize works published relatively recently because the volume is intended to supplement a collection of essays, *Scholars and Indian Experience: Critical Reviews of Recent Writings in the Social Sciences*, published by the D'Arcy McNickle Center in 1984. *New Directions* will be followed in the series by volumes alternating between collections of bibliographic essays, like the present volume, and indexed bibliographic lists arranged by topic.

New Directions is divided into two parts, "Recent Trends" (six chapters) and "Emerging Fields" (three chapters). Each chapter is a historiographical essay examining the most prominent works in a particular aspect of American Indian history. The methodological and topic orientations of the essays are richly diverse. Melissa L. Meyer and Russell Thornton discuss the potential of quantitative methodology in Native American history. Deborah Welch addresses the place of American Indian women in western history. Dennis F. K. Madill explores new trends and directions in Métis history. Willard Rollings discusses the multi-sided nature of the southern plains frontier and the larger implications for American Indian history. George Grossman looks at the American Indian and law, and James Riding In assesses twentieth-century scholarship.

The essays in the second group, by scholars from related disciplines, offer new tools and suggest an agenda for further inquiry into American

Indian history. They include a discussion of the place of linguistics in Plains Indian historical study by Douglas R. Parks, an examination of the relationship of economics and history by Ronald L. Trosper, and suggestions for developing a history of Indian religion by Robert Brightman.

A consistent theme in *New Directions* (and projected for its successors), as in many contemporary works on Indian history, is the validity of multi-disciplinarity. The bibliographic lists will be indexed under seven topic headings: history, anthropology, sociology, literature, economics, religious studies, and linguistics.

The title page of Part One in *New Directions* notes that the larger question posed by each of the chapter authors is, "Are scholars pursuing significant questions and adopting valuable techniques?" In helping to answer that question, this series will prove to be an invaluable, perhaps even indispensable, tool for inquiry into the American Indian experience. At the very least, the series will provide a much needed basis for examining and utilizing the profusion of material concerning American Indians available to scholars.

MICHAEL EASTIN
Grand Junction, Colorado