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Review of *Dammed Indians Revisited: The Continuing History of the Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux* by Michael L. Lawson

Roxanne T. Ornelas
Miami University

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Michael L. Lawson. Forewords by Senator George McGovern and Vine Deloria Jr. Pierre: South Dakota State Historical Society Press, 2009. xxx + 379 pp. Maps, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$18.95 paper.

George Santayana cautioned that “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” In Michael L. Lawson’s *Dammed Indians Revisited: The Continuing History of the Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux*, we are given a telling of one of our nation’s greatest engineering blunders. Lawson enlightens us with a historical account of governmental mismanagement of almost unbelievable proportion. This revised volume is based on Lawson’s 1982 book *Dammed Indians: The Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux, 1944–1980*; *Dammed Indians Revisited* picks up where he left off.

This is an important work for those interested in Native American history of the Great Plains as well as readers with an interest in water resource management and control practices. Lawson revisits his account of the Pick-Sloan Plan that led to the construction of several large earthen dams on the main stem of the Missouri River. The devastating human and environmental consequences that were put into play following the passage of the Flood Control Act of 1944 are without parallel in the United States. Lawson places his attention on the Missouri River Sioux tribes who were forcibly removed from their homes into “resettlement” as their lands were taken by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation for the construction of dams designed for flood control management and an envisioned economic boon that has never been realized within the region.

The newest chapters unfold attempts by the government to introduce “adaptive management” techniques that are more inclusive of the tribes in order to invite their participation in present-day dam operation activities and the management of water flows in the Missouri River Basin. We learn that several of the tribes have received financial settlements for lands that were taken—nowhere near the cost of what they have lost over time.

It is important for us to consider what the late Native American scholar Vine Deloria Jr. wrote in

Dammed Indians Revisited: The Continuing History of the Pick-Sloan Plan and the Missouri River Sioux. By

one of the book's forewords: "The Pick-Sloan Plan was, without a doubt, the single most destructive act ever perpetrated on any tribe by the United States." These words ought to motivate us to learn from our past mistakes in order to better plan for and manage our development projects in the future.

ROXANNE T. ORNELAS
Department of Geography
Miami University