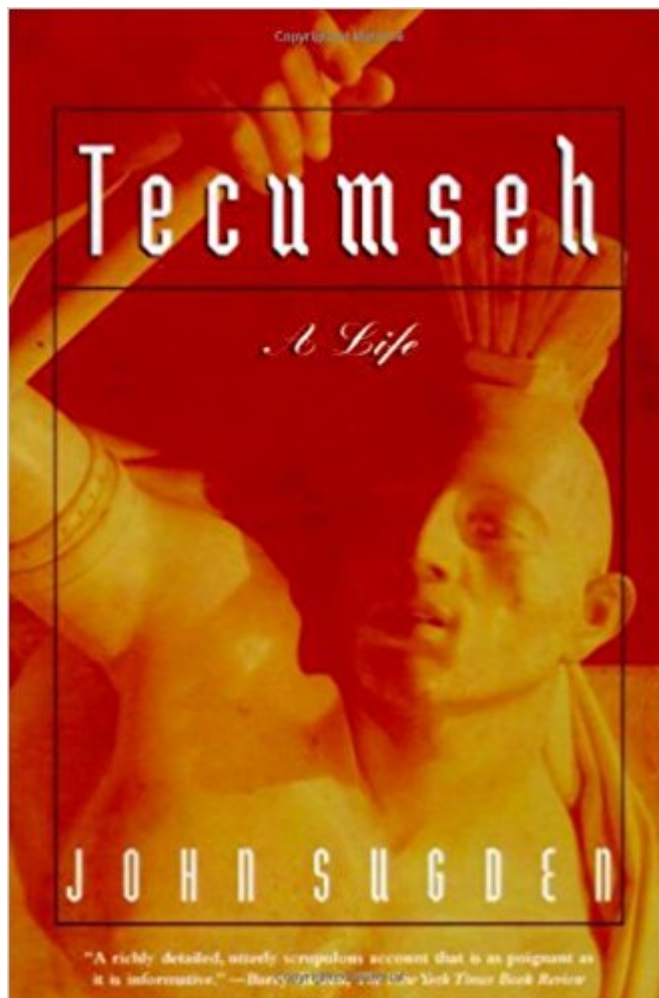


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Tecumseh: A Life



Synopsis

If Sitting Bull is the most famous Indian, Tecumseh is the most revered. He does not stand for one tribe or nation, but for all Native Americans. He remains the ultimate symbol of endeavor and courage. Over thirty years in the writing, this is the first authoritative biography of the principal organizer and driving force of Native American confederacy. For anyone studying the early years of the Republic or Native American history, it is essential reading.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Of Indian chief Tecumseh, U.S. president William Henry Harrison said, "If it were not for the vicinity of the United States, he would, perhaps, be the founder of an empire that would rival in glory that of Mexico or Peru." As it was, however, he was born just more than a decade shy of the discovery of the New World, and came of age in an era of violence and cultural decay in which Indian tribes across the continent expended all their energy to repulse the Europeans who were commandeering their land. By the end of the century, Tecumseh, a member of the Shawnee tribe, was an accomplished warrior; after losing his father and two older brothers to battle, he assumed the role of war chief. There seemed to be only two courses of action that might preserve his tribe: assimilation or war. After watching other tribes fail in their bids to mimic European society, the charismatic Tecumseh, aided by his brother (known as "the Prophet"), attempted a short-lived but inspired strategy of organizing a pan-Indian alliance to put down the European encroachers. It was while fighting alongside the British in the War of 1812 that Tecumseh was killed. His body was never

found. Richard Johnson, the man who claimed to have taken the great chief down, went on to become Martin Van Buren's vice president. With *Tecumseh*, biographer John Sugden expands the scope of his earlier book *Tecumseh's Last Stand*, which focused exclusively on the chief's final, fatal battle. In both books Sugden displays intimate knowledge of his subject; *Tecumseh*, however, takes a much more in-depth look at this complex man, his life, and the times that shaped him, and thus should appeal to American-history buffs as well as anyone interested in a carefully crafted biography of a fascinating character. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Running a simple search in WorldCat, OCLC's vast bibliographic database, yields scores of titles concerned with "Tecumseh?Shawnee Chief?1768-1813." The biographical literature devoted to Tecumseh perhaps exceeds that given to any other American Indian. Now Sugden, whose previous title on the Shawnee leader, *Tecumseh's Last Stand* (LJ 1/86), focused primarily on Tecumseh's final major campaign and ensuing death, has come out with a full biography of this great leader. This intelligent study of Tecumseh's life relates a great deal as well about the history of the Shawnee, especially in the Ohio region, and the wider context of Tecumseh's attempt to create a Pan Indian resistance, including a history of earlier such attempts. A very competent addition to the literature on this remarkable man; recommended for most academic and larger public libraries.?Charlie Cowling, SUNY at BrockportCopyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I still can understand why we as Red Sticks we found the prophet's words and especially Tecumseh someone and a creed to base our failing hopes on. My ancestors lived and died for the Red Stick cause...Sugden lays out in mostly unvarnished detail both the man, Tecumseh, the times and conditions that brought his extraordinary abilities to the forefront. I did however find it unfortunate that Sugden did not lay the blame where it belonged squarely on the door step of the United States and broken treaties.Overall a good book.

“Tecumseh, A Life” by John Sugden This a grand treatise on one of the most important yet enigmatic figures in our history. It is very well researched and written, highly readable and immensely interesting. In sleuthing to find the “real” Tecumseh, the author necessarily uncovers and illuminates innumerable other important characters in Tecumseh’s incredibly wide orbit. In the process, he also gives the reader an

unusually candid and thorough look at the societies and events surrounding Tecumseh
offers a view that brings the contemporary non-celebrities and their lives amid the strife
of the late 1700s into the reader's realm of understanding. This book is well worth
the read if only for that. But really is a lot more as evidenced by the fact that the author successfully
reaches the point that Tecumseh wasn't merely a "Noble
Savage" or an "Indian Hero". He was by all measure
an American Hero whose legacy and example belongs to all of us.

A thoroughly researched story of the greatest Indian leader. It reads like an adventure tale and
anyone who loves American history will like this book. Sometimes it gets a little wordy with
numerous references to so many different participants in so many different events but I don't know
how it could have been done otherwise. Tecumseh's attempts to unite Indians from Canada to
Florida to Missouri is mind boggling.

The combination of excellent research and crisp narrative make this a wonderful biography. He
weaves in appropriate larger issues without getting diverted from the theme of his story. One of the
largest problems was discovering the truth about this legendary Indian chief, and he delivers an
even-handed assessment of Tecumseh the person.

As a Shawnee, this book appears to have much accurate info, which is difficult to secure in books
by non-Natives.

Good history of the subject

The book arrived on time and in the condition indicated. It seems to be the most factual and
comprehensive reference available on Tecumseh.

Great Book. Thank you

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