

The Dust Rose Like Smoke: The Subjugation Of The Zulu And The Sioux, Second Edition



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Synopsis

In 1876 Lakota and Cheyenne warriors annihilated Custer's Seventh Cavalry at Little Bighorn. Three years later and half a world away, a British force was wiped out by Zulu warriors at Isandhlwana in South Africa. In both cases the total defeat of regular army troops by forces regarded as undisciplined barbarian tribesmen stunned an imperial nation. Although the similarities between the two frontier encounters have long been noted, James O. Gump's book *The Dust Rose Like Smoke* is the first to scrutinize them in a comparative context. "This study issues a challenge to American exceptionalism," he writes. Viewing both episodes as part of a global pattern of intensified conflict in the latter 1800s resulting from Western domination over a vast portion of the globe, Gump's comparative study persuasively traces the origins and aftermath of both episodes. He examines the complicated ways in which Lakota and Zulu leadership sought to protect indigenous interests while Western leadership calculated their subjugation to imperial authority. The second edition includes a new preface from the author, revised and expanded chapters, and an interview with Leonard Little Finger (great-great-grandson of Ghost Dance leader Big Foot), whose story connects Wounded Knee and Nelson Mandela.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the first edition of *The Dust Rose Like Smoke* "It would be difficult to exaggerate the value of this brief but pioneering

book. •Ethnohistory [Gump's] opening chapters show a

mastery of all the relevant historical literature. Indeed, they could be set for any undergraduate course in imperial history as textbook examples of how to build up a comparative framework of analysis.

• *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* – “An excellent scholarly introduction to the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history of the Sioux and the Zulus as well as a thoughtful analysis of United States and British expansion.”

• *Journal of American History* – “The first detailed, in-depth comparison of the closing of the American and South African frontiers. . . . Gump has performed a valuable service by showing that the events surrounding Little Big Horn and Isandhlwana were comparable incidents in a global narrative.”

• *Journal of Social History* – “Informative to both specialist and general readers.”

• *American Historical Review* – (Praise for the first edition 2015-03-05) “An intriguing book which opens the doors for all manner of comparative studies, and thereby suggests that the process of interaction between indigenous peoples and imperial interlopers is much the same across the world. . . . an interesting and thought-provoking book.”

• *Soldiers of the Queen (Soldiers of the Queen)*

James O. Gump is a professor of history at the University of San Diego.

I read the first edition of this book long ago but only recall it vaguely. This new edition is excellent. It's fairly short, but packs in a great deal of history. Gump's prose is clear as a bell, and his opinions are clearly stated--he sees both native societies as victims of a consolidating imperialism. Gump is also fair, both the Sioux and the Zulu were native imperialisms with a good deal of blood on their hands. The comparisons between Zulus and Sioux are intriguing. Both emerged early in the 1800s as powerful. Both conquered sizable areas of land, pushing out other groups. One difference was that the Zulus had what was in its way a highly organized state that tightly controlled its people, and the Sioux were a good deal more anarchic, in small groups that could coalesce. Both occupied large areas of land that other people wanted. Both inflicted sharp defeats on white enemies (the Sioux at the Little Big Horn and the Zulu at Isandhlwana--spellings of this last seem to vary) and both societies collapsed shortly after. The comparison gets more pointed. A Zulu rebellion in 1906 parallels the Sioux participation in the Ghost Dance fervor that led to the Wounded Knee massacre, and both festered on reservations, Rosebud (and others) and KwaZulu. Both featured the rise of radicals, the South African ANC and the American Indian Movement, and both were manipulated by security forces interested in fostering dissent within the tribal areas. Both are seeing some light these days. The introduction is quite good, although a bit academic. Chapter 1 looks at the two iconic

battles and some of the background. Chapter 2 discusses "Frontiers of Expansion". Chapter 3 discusses "Indigenous Empires," which is particularly good on the rise of Shaka, who emerges as extremely able, a great strategist, and utterly ruthless--and possibly deranged. This traces the Zulus and Sioux both through much of the 1800s to the point where confrontation came. Chapters 5 and 6 describe the events after the battles when the tribes were overcome, disarmed and set down onto reservations. The history is complex and Gump does a remarkable job of summarizing a century's worth of events. Chapter 7 changes pace a bit, looking at images of the battles. No photos could be taken, but a number of artists did versions, which tend to emphasize the courage and fighting ability of the British and American soldiers, fighting powerful but primitive peoples. In the US, famed writers Longfellow and Whitman wrote poems about the Custer massacre, not their best work.

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