



The Cherokees: A Population History (Indians of the Southeast)

By Russell Thornton



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The Cherokees: A Population History is the first full-length demographic study of an American Indian group from the protohistorical period to the present. Thornton shows the effects of disease, warfare, genocide, miscegenation, removal and relocation, and destruction of traditional lifeways on the Cherokees. He discusses their mysterious origins, their first contact with Europeans (probably in 1540), and their fluctuation in population during the eighteenth century, when the Old World brought them smallpox. The toll taken by massive relocations in the following century, most notably the removal of the Cherokees from the Southeast to Indian Territory, and by warfare, predating the American Revolution and including the Civil War, also enters into Thornton's calculations. He goes on to measure the resurgence of the Cherokees in the twentieth century, focusing on such population centers as North Carolina, Oklahoma, and California.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The difficulty of defining an entity so amorphous and complex as the Cherokee people is accomplished with great sensitivity, and, in terms of comparative Indian historical demography, provides important insights into Native American population change in general. This is a model study that should be of interest to students of history, anthropology, and ethnohistory."-"Choice,"

About the Author

Russell Thornton, a professor of sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, is the author of *American Indian Holocaust and Survival: A Population History since 1492* (1987).

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