

Following the Nez Perce War of 1877, federal representatives promised the Nimiipuu who surrendered with Chief Joseph repatriation to their Pacific Northwest homes. Instead, they were driven into exile—confined in federal prison camps in Kansas and the Indian Territory. This book tells the story of the Nimiipuu captivity and deportation and offers an in-depth analysis of the resistant Nez Perce, Cayuse, and Palus bands during their incarceration in three different prison camps.

Focusing on the tribes' eight years in exile, J. Diane Pearson describes their arduous forced journey from Montana to Fort Leavenworth, the Quapaw Reservation, and finally the Ponca Agency. She then depicts their everyday experiences in a captivity marked by grueling poverty and disease to weave a compelling story of tragedy and heroism in the land they called the Hot Place.

The resistance of the survivors is a never-before-told story reconstructed through new sources and oral histories. Pearson tells how the Nimiipuu advocated for their aboriginal and civil rights and for the return to their Wallowa Valley homelands. And she describes how, when threatened with permanent detention, they turned

their prison odyssey into a time of renewal, learning to adapt to federal strategies in order to force authorities to heed their voices, and finally negotiating their release in 1885.

Impeccably researched, with insights into the prisoners' daily lives, *The Nez Perces in the Indian Territory* is the only comprehensive record of this phase of Nez Perce history. It reveals how one Native group survived tragedy, strengthened American Indian sovereignty and self-determination, and advanced the struggle for civil rights.

J. DIANE PEARSON teaches American Indian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She also publishes in national and international journals on the history and contemporary issues of Native Americans. **PATRICIA PENN HILDEN** is Professor Emerita of Ethnic Studies and Native American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

On the front: Chief Joseph at Bismarck, Dakota Territory, November 1877. Photograph by D. F. Barry. Courtesy of the Denver Public Library, Western History Collection, Denver, Colorado, B-428. *On the back:* "The Transfer of the Nez Perces": Boarding the train at Arkansas City. From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, June 20, 1885. From the author's collection.

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