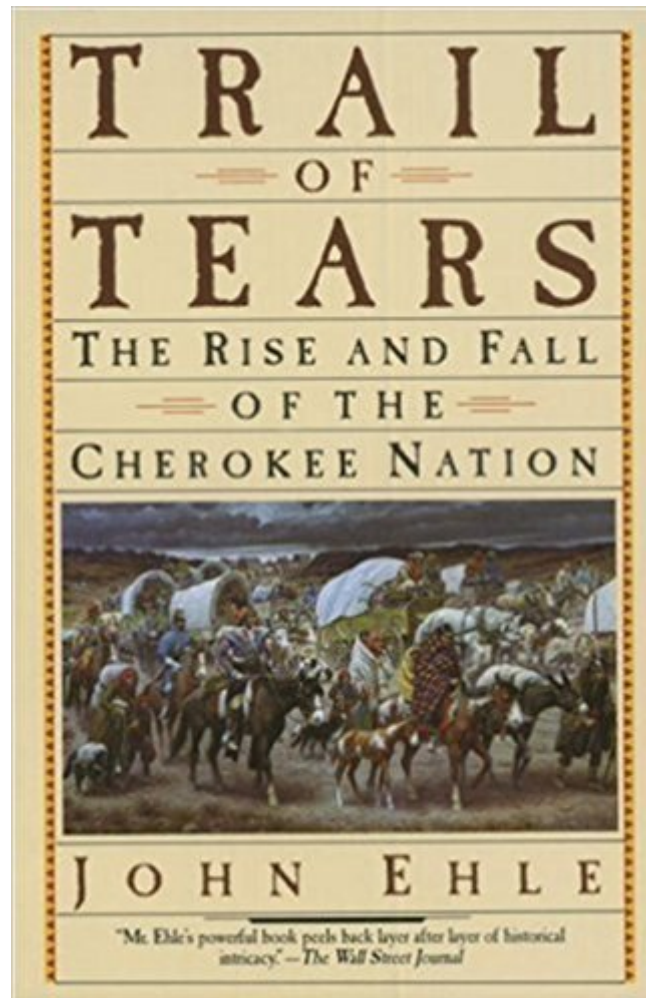




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Trail Of Tears: The Rise And Fall Of The Cherokee Nation



Synopsis

A sixth-generation North Carolinian, highly-acclaimed author John Ehle grew up on former Cherokee hunting grounds. His experience as an accomplished novelist, combined with his extensive, meticulous research, culminates in this moving tragedy rich with historical detail. The Cherokee are a proud, ancient civilization. For hundreds of years they believed themselves to be the "Principle People" residing at the center of the earth. But by the 18th century, some of their leaders believed it was necessary to adapt to European ways in order to survive. Those chiefs sealed the fate of their tribes in 1875 when they signed a treaty relinquishing their land east of the Mississippi in return for promises of wealth and better land. The U.S. government used the treaty to justify the eviction of the Cherokee nation in an exodus that the Cherokee will forever remember as the "Trail where they cried." The heroism and nobility of the Cherokee shine through this intricate story of American politics, ambition, and greed. B & W photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One of the many ironies of U.S. government policy toward Indians in the early 1800s is that it persisted in removing to the West those who had most successfully adapted to European values. As whites encroached on Cherokee land, many Native leaders responded by educating their children, learning English, and developing plantations. Such a leader was Ridge, who had fought with Andrew Jackson against the British. As he and other Cherokee leaders grappled with the issue of moving, the land-hungry Georgia legislators, with the aid of Jackson, succeeded in ousting the

Cherokee from their land, forcing them to make the arduous journey West on the infamous "Trail of Tears." Popular history for public libraries. Mary B. Davis, Museum of American Indian Lib., New York
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The fascinating portrayal of the Cherokee nation, filled with Native American legend, lore, and religion -- a gripping American drama of power, politics, betrayal, and ambition. B & W photographs

I would recommend this one for the very serious student of the intricacies through MANY years of the Cherokee vs the white man's expansion.. Although I was interested, it was actually too involved for my schedule. The contents are incredibly concise and complete but it will take some time to digest. I didn't read as carefully as it needed to be read but the serious student won't be disappointed

John Ehle is an engaging writer. Though some of his details stretched credulity, he does paint a vibrant picture of changes in Cherokee life from the 18th into the 19th century. But the book definitely takes sides. It tells the story of the Cherokee removal from the perspective of Major Ridge, the leader of the Treaty Party. The Ridge is depicted at every turn as heroic, while the motives of Principal Chief John Ross are always questioned. Ehle lists the "The Papers of Chief John Ross" as a source in his bibliography, he never lets Ross's writings answer the criticisms of the Ridge faction. The book is a good read, and Ehle certainly has the right to his opinion. But as an antidote to Ehle's poisoned views toward John Ross, I recommend Steve Inskeep's *À Jacksonland: President Andrew Jackson, Cherokee Chief John Ross, and a Great American Land Grab*. And for a more objective, if drier, telling of the removal story i recommend Perdue's and Green's *À The Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears* (Penguin's Library of American Indian History)

This is by far the most intelligent and forthright telling of a part of the US history which isn't so wonderful. For the first time I saw how selfish and twisted some powerful leaders were in the era of the American Indians. My own ancestors were Cherokee. I appreciate and love these people as never before. Great job on the telling!

HEART WRENCHING, BUT OUR HISTORY

Painful and important. This should be required reading for all high school students. Book Clubs would be wise to read and discuss this one. It requires tissues at the ready. The Native Americans have so suffered at the hands of the white man.

Very sad. Gives a different POV from anything I had read or heard. The US govt treated the Indians shamefully. The whites couldn't conceive that the Indians had families & rituals & intelligence; they were just in the way. A difficult read. Susan Stanton

Being a student of 20th century history and in particular WWII, I was always struck by the thinking of Adolph Hitler when he stated that he always admired how America was able to eliminate the American Natives by means of force and political means. He was relating this bit of history as it applied to his formation of pogroms in what is known as the Holocaust. John Ehle brings forth a detailed account of how the Cherokee nation located in Southeastern United States was forcibly removed from their homeland and resettled in Oklahoma. The author starts back in the late 1700s with the explanation of the heritage and relationships of the Cherokee nation with the government of the United States. In doing this history Ehle shows the efforts made by missionaries and churches to "civilize" the Indians. In doing this history the author shows the intermarriages taking place creating half breed Indians who have learned the English language. With this the author shows such people as John Ross who was key in the many treaties made between the United States and the Cherokees. Going into the Jackson administration we see increased pressure for the resettlement of the Cherokees to move west of the Mississippi. Through a series of many treaties and payment of annuities for lands in the Southeast the Cherokee nation was just delaying the inevitable which was complete relocation to the West. Many of the Cherokee chiefs were bribed and given money for their own personal coffers and the day of the big treaty arrived. Treaty of New Echota, was the basis of the grand movement of the Cherokees to Oklahoma. The Trail of Tears caused much loss of life estimated from 2000 to 6000. They left their way of life behind which they lost their land and their heritage. To me this represents of part of American history which was equal in shame to our heritage of slavery.

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