

save the children so that the Miccosukees would live.”

The title reflects the advice of her grandmother; See-ho-kee must learn the names of the villages of her people and must remember the past. So too must she pass on this information to the children. At times it seems that all hope is lost, but then “the whispers” of the songs would grow stronger and the people would be sustained for yet a while longer.

This novel is significant because it is another in a growing list of books which portray Indian experience from a woman’s point of view. Some critics will object to yet another view of Indian experience told by a writer outside the tribe; however, Cummings seems careful to avoid generalizations or stereotypes which might grossly misrepresent the experiences of the Miccosukees during the mid-nineteenth century. She takes pains to point out (perhaps at the expense of the storyline) that the whites never seemed to understand that there were several different tribal groups in Florida, preferring to lump them all together as Seminole. She also weaves into the narrative black characters, many of whom were indeed slaves of the Indians, but who ultimately chose to fight with them to defend their territory.

This novel is interesting reading, and it would be a good book to use in a history class studying the events of the period. Readers interested in the stories of women’s lives will find this story of See-ho-kee’s brave journey places her and women like her in a history which often neglects the role of women in the story of America.

— Gretchen M. Bataille
Iowa State University

Vine Deloria, Jr., and Clifford M. Lytle. *The Nations Within: The Past and Future of American Indian Sovereignty*. (New York: Pantheon Books, 1984) 293 pp., \$11.95 paper.

The relationship between federal policy and Indian needs has been a tortured one, at best, and to illuminate the various dimensions of that relationship is a necessary, but by no means easy, task. Vine Deloria, Jr., and Clifford M. Lytle have fortunately provided us with a creditable analysis of one aspect of the complex interaction between the concerns of U.S. Officials and those of Indian groups. The authors focus on the idea of self-government, tracing it from the paternalism of nineteenth century reservation procedures through New Deal reformism, termination, and the contemporary emergence of Indian nationalism. They differentiate

nationhood—"a process of decision making that is free and uninhibited"—from self-government, which "implies a recognition by the superior political power that some measure of local decision making is necessary." Deloria and Lytle realize that Indian sovereignty has been historically undermined to such an extent that present-day Indians can only hope to establish a measure of self-government instead of any feasible federal recognition of their nationhood.

The two attorneys who compiled *The Nations Within* have utilized mimeographed reports and Congressional records to present a comprehensive analysis of the friction between different factions of the federal government, of John Collier's economic reforms under the rubric of self-determination, and of the many "cosmetic" programs enacted in the 1970s. The treatment of Indian Commissioner Collier, in particular, is very balanced—a refreshing alternative to the picture painted of him by recent revisionist historians. Indeed, in their treatment of the Washington wrangling over Indian policy, Deloria and Lytle are uniformly fair. There is none of the rich but angry sarcasm which has characterized some of Deloria's earlier work. *The Nations Within* is a straight-forward, scholarship study, using sources virtually ignored by previous historians.

This work is, however, more than an examination of white policy. It is also a celebration of the role of Indians in shaping their destiny within the context of federal regulations and implementation. It is a further call to Indians to continue playing a vital role in the reform of tribal governments, the search for economic stability, cultural renewal, and the changing definition of federal/state relations with red peoples. Indians, Deloria and Lytle affirm, must exercise responsibility in governing their own communities before blaming the federal government. As red men and women of many tribes "preserved their own version of self-government by innovation," participated in arguing about the justice of Collier's programs, and took concerted action to meld different peoples into one nationalistic movement during the 1970s, so too, the authors observe, is a continued "melding" an absolute necessity to achieve "Indian" goals. Deloria and Lytle are certainly well aware of the complexity and incredible variety of different tribes, as well as factions within tribes, but view that diversity as a potential source of strength.

The Nations Within is well-researched, succinctly written, and coherently argued. With a sound index and an adequate bibliography, it is a book that can be enjoyed by the specialist and the novice.

— Lyle Koehler
University of Cincinnati