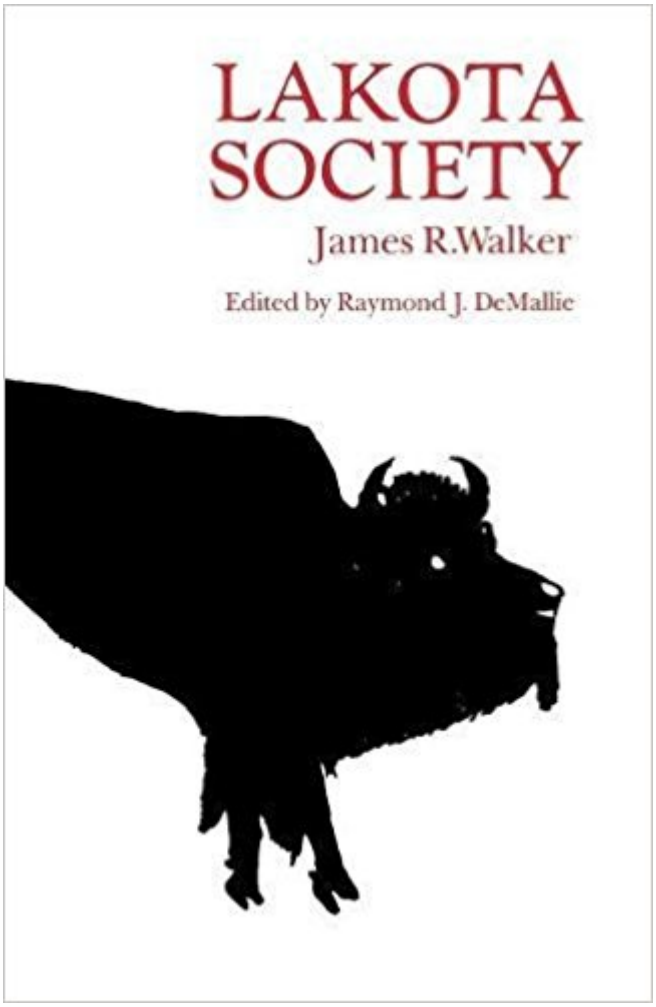
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Lakota Society



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Synopsis

As agency physician on the Pine Ridge Reservation from 1896 to 1914, Dr. James R. Walker recorded a wealth of information on the traditional lifeways of the Oglala Sioux. Lakota Society presents the primary accounts of Walker’s informants and his syntheses dealing with the organization of camps and bands, kinship systems, beliefs, ceremonies, hunting, warfare, and methods of measuring time.

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Customer Reviews

"Classical material on the Lakota people and essential reading for anyone interested in a serious study of these people."-"American Indian Culture and Research Journal""DeMallie has done a sensitive, careful piece of work, and the documents as presented are both important sources and of interest to the general student of Indian history and ethno-history."-"Western Historical Quarterly""Based on descriptions given by people who had experienced their traditional culture-most of it a way of life that had ceased or changed by 1900-Walker’s papers are a unique and invaluable source for the anthropological study of the Sioux and for understanding traditional Plains Indian society generally."-"Choice"

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methods of measuring time.

This is a ’research book’ in that it is created out of many interviews and observations of people of an earlier time who recorded events as they saw them and/or when they spoke to individuals directly involved in those events. Many "articles" were written by chroniclers who desired to record important events and or Ceremonies of the Lakota People before they were obliterated by White Society.

You won’t find this depth of knowledge in any other book I’ve seen. This is for the hard core student of the Lakota who wants to know more about why the beliefs are they way they are, versus just what the beliefs are. A fascinating and in-depth read. If you’re just starting out with the journey of the Lakota way, this might be too heavy of a read.

Received book as advertised, very quickly and a smooth transaction. This is a great seller, reasonable prices both for the item and shipping. Will purchase from this seller again

Walker knew the Lakota and was careful to try to be accurate, but he also was pressured by the Bureau of Ethnology to fit Lakota Society into the framework of Anthropology’s view of the world. This is the biggest weakness, because the Lakota view of the world is not consistent with the concepts of Anthropology. But I believe he tried very hard to be accurate within those expectations. Much of this information would be lost if Walker hadn’t recorded it. A must for a serious student of the Lakota.

I’ve spent most of my adult life, since 1965 at least, collecting books from The University of Nebraska and The University of Oklahoma concerning both anthropological and historical items. This book interested me to the point of acquiring it a few years back.The genesis of the enclosed material originates from papers written and collected by Dr. James R. Walker, physician-Pine Wood Reservation, between the years of 1896 to 1914. The original items have been edited by Raymond J. DeMallie, professor of anthropology. Having followed a course study of Anthropology in college, I find this book on the customs and society of the Lakota very interesting. Especially Section III on Time and History, one of the more interesting chapters in any book I’ve read.One problem though, being a non-Lakota and an outsider to Lakota society, have to wonder whether Dr. Walker got everything ’right’ and just how factual all of which is included may be, yet today. The information collected by Dr. Walker, though primarily first hand or primary, comes from a different, past age and

was also collected according to the anthropological dictates of the time. How valid is the information viewed through the 'prism' of his time in which he viewed it, I cannot say. I must take it all on trust. Need to factor in to all this that the first Bison printing of the book was 1982.I am glad I purchased this volume and have found it very useful as to the ethnological and cosmological information provided. Just not sure how relevant all of it may be today. Would also think that this book would be more for the specialized reader than suited for the more general one.All-in-all, for me the book suits the purposes for which I made the purchase.Semper Fi.

Having studied Lakota myth, rituals, customs and religion for many years, this was a refreshing and insightful read that will help those desiring to understand the Lakota people better.

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