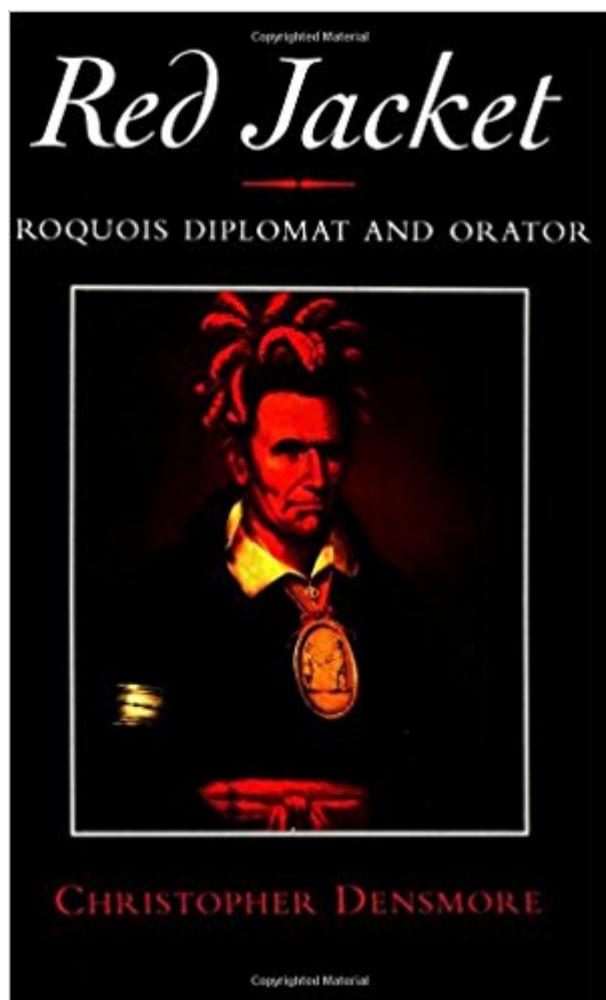


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Red Jacket: Iroquois Diplomat And Orator (The Iroquois And Their Neighbors)



Synopsis

In the first modern biography of Red jacket, Christopher Densmore sheds light on the achievements of this formidable Iroquois diplomat who, as a representative of the Seneca and Six Nations, met and negotiated with American presidents from George Washington to Andrew Jackson. The political career of Red Jacket (1758-1830) began just before the American Revolution, when both the Americans and the British sought the alliance of the powerful Iroquois Confederacy. By the 1790s, Red Jacket was frequently the diplomat chosen by the Seneca Nation and the Iroquois Confederacy to represent them in councils and treaty negotiations between the United States, the British in Canada, and the Indian nations of the Ohio Country. Red Jacket spoke eloquently against the sale of Indian lands, against the encroachment of the white man's religion and culture, and in defense of Indian sovereignty. His speeches were widely known in his own lifetime and continue to be reprinted.

Book Information

Series: The Iroquois and Their Neighbors

Paperback: 180 pages

Publisher: Syracuse University Press (April 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 081560548X

ISBN-13: 978-0815605485

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #532,626 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #215 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Native American #1735 in Books > History > Americas > Native American #5791 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States

Customer Reviews

Christopher Densmore, Archivist, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, is a coauthor of *Quaker Crosscurrents: Three Hundred Years of New York Yearly Meetings* (Syracuse University Press). He has written articles for *New York History*, *Quaker History*, and other journals.

Christopher Densmore provides a carefully-researched and well-balanced look at this thoughtful, stubborn, and controversial Seneca orator. His contemporaries noted that while present in battle,

Red Jacket seldom actively participated. Some Native Americans called him a coward. His nickname, "Cow Killer," was given to him by his counterparts who believed that rather than killing a white man as he had claimed, he had killed a cow and dipped his weapons in its blood. Red Jacket's sharpest weapons were words. Red Jacket argued for freedom of religion for the Indians and for the retention of Seneca lands. As a spokesman for his people, his thoughts and ideas were carefully composed and beautifully delivered. Several of Red Jacket's speeches are included in the appendices of this excellent book. His words ring through the years and are still viable today. "Red Jacket" is a thought-provoking book. Worth reading. Kim Burdick Stanton, Delaware

Excellent, honest and balanced account of a nation that somehow managed to adapt enough to save important aspects of its' culture. Ambiguity, compromise, and resolve beat wars and killings everytime.

Highly readable and informative, Densmore's book explores the personality and impact of an important Native American figure in American history. Not much is written about how the Iroquois Nation negotiated with the developing American government. Red Jacket was famous in his day for speaking with George Washington on behalf of his people. This well-researched book shares details of Iroquois culture and history not found in most texts. A tragic, beautifully told tale about a great man who strived to preserve a future for his people.

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