Ian W. Record’s *Big Sycamore Stands Alone* is a rich yet painful account of the ways in which the 1871 Camp Grant Massacre of more than 100 Apaches—mainly women and children—casts a long shadow over Western Apache historical memory, sense of place, and contemporary community health. Blending oral interviews, participant observation, and archival research into his analysis of the causes and consequences of this wonton act of mass murder, Record deftly conveys the resilience and persistence of a people that have been vilified and stereotyped for more than a century. The result is a path breaking example of ethnohistory that simultaneously demonstrates how place and identity are interwoven, yet illuminates the enduring traumas of racialized violence in Arizona history.

Record uses a creative organizational approach to narrate the cultural legacy of Aravaipa and the Camp Grant Massacre. Working across the chapters in an interlocking manner, Record weaves together several stories and themes: the attempts of Western Apaches to retain ties with Aravaipa over the twentieth century; Apache histories of land use, especially subsistence strategies of farming, hunting and gathering; the racial, political and economic forces fueling Anglo, Mexican, and Tohono O’odham vigilantes to commit premeditated murder upon an innocent group of Apaches; and the enduring cultural impact of the separation from Aravaipa that followed the massacre. Interspersed throughout the chapters are interviews with survivors and their relatives who have tried to nurture the memories of these deaths as part of the larger constellation of stories constituting what it means to be Apache.
Big Sycamore Stands Alone is one of several recent books to address the 1871 Camp Grant Massacre, an event that profoundly impacted Western Apache culture and history, as well as the course of Indian Affairs in post-Civil War Arizona Territory. Karl Jacoby’s Shadows at Dawn, and Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh’s Massacre at Camp Grant each approach the story differently, with Record delving deepest into Western Apache social organization, land use, and political structure. Record admirably exposes the gulf between non-Apache constructions of the Apache as inveterate “raiders;” and the families, bands, and clans that used their intimate knowledge of the land to craft a cultural landscape of physical and spiritual sustenance. Importantly, Record approaches this project of historical recovery through long relationships with Western Apaches who have worked hard to have their versions of their own pasts heard by the larger public.

Ian Record offers an important contribution to Native American history, ethnohistory, and historical memory. This well-written, scrupulously researched, and ethically rendered story will stand as a powerful example of the ways in which scholarship rooted in the perspectives and voices of Indigenous peoples can begin to correct the enduring impact of colonial narratives of Manifest Destiny. It is an extremely accessible book that will appeal to graduate and undergraduate classes on American Indian, Western, and Borderlands history.

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