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Utmost Good Faith: Patterns of Apache-Mexican Hostilities in Northern Chihuahua Border Warfare, 1821-1848. By William B. Griffen.

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### Author

Hinton, Harwood

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with the threads of in-depth research and knowledge. Although Hearst and the Harvey Company ended their association around 1940, an extension of their joint efforts continues through this publication, which accompanied the 1988 Natural History Museum exhibition, "Art from the Navajo Loom, the William Randolph Hearst Collection." Dramatically presented, this catalogue wraps the reader in a mantle of Navajo art and history. Each textile quietly transmits thoughts from the Navajo Beautyway. There is "Beauty above you, Beauty below you, Beauty all around you." Through Blomberg's efforts, the public now has the opportunity to learn about and absorb this beauty.

*Kathleen Whitaker*  
Los Angeles County Museum  
of Natural History

**Utmost Good Faith: Patterns of Apache-Mexican Hostilities in Northern Chihuahua Border Warfare, 1821-1848.** By William B. Griffen. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1988. 337 pages. \$37.50 Cloth.

The Apache Indians were the scourge of the border Southwest for over 150 years. During the Spanish period, civilian and military officials repeatedly negotiated treaties with various *rancherías* (bands) to halt their scattered raids. They gained a measure of peace beginning in the 1790s when several groups settled on reservations near presidios (forts) in the provinces of Chihuahua and Sonora. Here Indian families received rations and encountered the deleterious effects of Spanish life ways, particularly gambling and liquor. In 1821 the Mexican government inherited these reserves, but, after a decade of financial problems, terminated the operations, and the Apaches returned to their old haunts and habits.

In this book, *Utmost Good Faith*, William B. Griffen, an anthropology professor at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, and author of a companion volume, *Apaches at War and Peace*, describes Mexican-Apache relations in northern Chihuahua and southern New Mexico from 1821 through 1848. In his research, Griffen relied principally on the newspaper, *Periódico de Chihuahua* (1834-1848) and supplementary material from the presidial

archives of Janos and Carrizal to produce his study. The result, in the author's words, is "a fluctuating portrait of dynamic, interconnected elements involving the conflict and interaction of separate ethnic units as these adjusted to each other's continuing presence" (page 248).

The major focus of the book is on Apache activities in northern Chihuahua. Griffen's purpose is threefold: (1) to "illuminate" details of Apache history at the *rancheria* level; (2) to describe the "kinds and quality" of Mexican-Apache relationships; and (3) to place the Apache "war system" within an overall picture of conflicts and encounters with Mexicans and with other Indians (page viii).

The book is divided into three parts (Setting, Events, System of Conflict). The chapters in parts one and two describe the arrival of the Apaches in the border country, the Spanish attempts to contain them, and the Mexican experience to about 1848. Chihuahua enjoyed relative peace until 1831, when the reservation system collapsed. Mexican officials tried using treaties, military campaigns, and mercenaries to destroy raiding patterns; finally, in 1842, they offered rations and the Indians resettled. But the situation was very tenuous. Anglo trappers and traders had penetrated southern New Mexico, and Comanche war parties from the Texas Panhandle had found Chihuahua a rich source of livestock and captives. The tug-of-war between the Mexicans and the Apaches continued through the Mexican War. After that, American intrusion began altering trade and contact patterns, and the nightmare of border warfare gradually subsided.

The last section of the volume, entitled "System of Conflict," recycles much of the earlier information in a topical format. This part of the book is more interpretive and more interesting. Patterns of hostilities, Griffen says (page 128), were largely shaped by the differences in the Mexican and Apache economies and by the fact that the Apaches never understood that Mexican towns and villages were part of a larger organization. The Indians saw them as independent units like their own, and viewed all treaties as local in nature. The chapter on the Comanches almost stands alone, as these raiders seldom interacted directly with the Apaches. Yet Mexican authorities had to deal with the war parties as part of their Indian policies.

Griffen characterizes Apaches as bandits who regularly traded stolen livestock (much of it taken in the adjoining province of

Sonora) in border towns such as Janos and Santa Rita for liquor, guns, and ammunition. Chihuahua sought to defend itself by creating military zones manned by local militia; by shifting state troops to problem areas, restricting travel, and urging citizens to arm; and by hiring scalp hunters. But these efforts were ineffective because of cowardly officers, poor cooperation, and a lack of arms and supplies. The Mexicans despised the Apaches but could not shake free from them.

Several chapters (12–14) edge into materials used as sources. Here the author describes Mexican perceptions of the enemy; decrees, contracts, and agreements; and information drawn from contemporary newspapers. Chapter 14 is a quantified summary of 1,707 Indian encounters. Tables mirror patterns, trends, and variations in such categories as frequency and seasonality of contact, dates (year, month), tribes, regions, casualties, and stock losses.

In conclusion, Griffen stresses that Chihuahuan society for nearly thirty years devoted most of its energies—political, ideological, and economic—to dealing with hostile Indians. Both cultures clashed over “rights” to resources and land. The clash over resources led to war, revenge, and more clashes. The cycle was unending.

*Utmost Good Faith* is packed with fresh information and ideas about the Apache world, but it is not easy reading. More attention to focus and organization might have alleviated the repetition of material (e.g., references to Kirker). Internal titles in the chapters also reduce readability. And a few questions surface. Did the Apaches attack the wagon caravans on the road between Santa Fe and Chihuahua City, a commerce that Max Moorhead described in his book, *New Mexico's Royal Road* (1958)? Perhaps the documents were silent on the matter. Nor is there mention of William C. McGaw's *Savage Scene* (1972), a biography of the infamous scalp hunter James Kirker. There also are a few production problems: one page in Table 1 is upside down (Seasonality: Encounters by Month), and chapter 5 should be chapter 15. The author included two area maps, but a few local maps would have speeded reader orientation.

The book has two appendices and appropriate end matter. The first appendix (54 pages) lists 1,707 encounters; the second analyzes 165 health reports (principally 1841–42) from various districts. A bibliography and an index round out the volume. Griffen

stated in his preface that the book to a large degree was a progress report—and indeed it is. Certainly, *Utmost Good Faith* breaks new ground in borderlands history. It illuminates the roots, nature, and impact of Apache warfare on the eve of Anglo intrusion into the Southwest and suggests fresh avenues for study. The book will offer ready appeal for specialists studying the Spanish-Mexican borderlands and also for those who are interested in the interaction of diverse cultures in a frontier region.

*Harwood Hinton*  
University of Arizona

**The Confederate Cherokees: John Drew's Regiment of Mounted Rifles.** By W. Craig Gaines. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989. 178 pages. \$19.95 Cloth.

Although most military historians argue that the trans-Mississippi theatre of the American Civil War played only a minor role in deciding the outcome of the conflict, the war had a devastating impact upon the Cherokee nation. Swept up in the sectional conflict, the Cherokees divided into political and military factions that reflected their previous quarrels; by 1865, the once prosperous farms and plantations that dotted the countryside along the Arkansas, Grand, and Illinois river valleys lay wasted and often abandoned. The history of John Drew's regiment serves as a microcosm of the Cherokees' political and military experience during these years.

Gaines briefly discusses the Cherokee dilemma during the removal period and chronicles the continuing vendettas which plagued the nation after their relocation in Indian Territory. Although the Ross and Ridge factions supposedly made peace through the Treaty of 1846, both sides mistrusted each other and formed secret societies to promote their own interests. In 1861, when war erupted, Union forces abandoned Indian Territory, and Albert Pike, a former federal Indian agent, enlisted many of the tribes in the Confederate cause. Stand Watie readily joined the Confederacy, but John Ross at first urged his people to remain neutral. Finally, afraid that his neutrality would further divide the nation, Ross succumbed to public pressure and reluc-