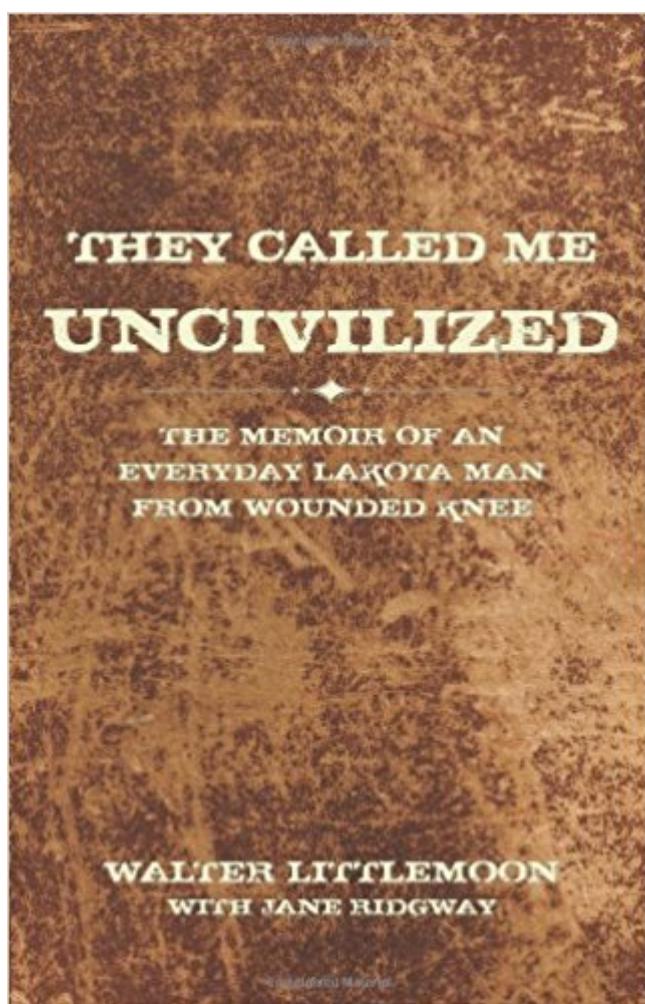


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# They Called Me Uncivilized: The Memoir Of An Everyday Lakota Man From Wounded Knee



## **Synopsis**

Walter Littlemoon's memoir, *They Called Me Uncivilized*, is a call to awareness from within the heart of Wounded Knee. In telling his story, Littlemoon describes the impact federal Indian policies have had on his life and on the history of his family. He gives a rare view into the cruelty inflicted on generations of Native American children through the implementation of U.S. government boarding schools, which resulted in a muted truth, called Soul Wound by some. In addition, and for the first time, his narrative provides a resident's view of the 1973 militant Occupation of Wounded Knee and the lasting impact that takeover has had on his community. His path toward a sense of peace and contentment is one he hopes others will follow. Remembering and telling the truth about traumatic events are prerequisites for healing. Many books have been written by scholars describing one aspect or another of Native American life, their history, their spirituality, the 1973 occupation, and a few have tried to describe the boarding schools. None have connected the dots. Until the language of the everyday man is used, scholarly words will shut out the people they describe and the pathology created by federal Indian policy will continue.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This very authentic memoir tells the tragic story of the American Indian children who were taken from their parent's homes and placed in distant Indian Boarding schools rife with abuse and neglect. The author, Walter Littlemoon, Lakota, tells the story of his own experiences in the Indian Boarding school system which institutionalized untold thousands of Indian children for a hundred years, a

practice which was in place until just a few decades ago. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the origins of the plight of Native American families and how the cycle of parenting, family and tribe were interrupted for a century in an effort to estrange the children from their culture, spirituality and tribe, leading to the heartbreak of broken families, dysfunctional government/church interventions and the disruption of the tribal peoples and the longstanding cultural and spiritual traditions which held them together.

In the American Indian autobiography genre, this book is unique in how it applies the western diagnosis of complex post-traumatic stress disorder to address the multi-generational traumatic experience of the American Indian boarding school experience. Walter Littlemoon explains how it has worked for him. There is much talk these days (including books and movies) of post-traumatic stress disorder (ptsd) in reference to returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan. But the term complex ptsd refers to this condition as it is acquired during childhood and how symptoms manifest themselves during adulthood. Walter Littlemoon's book explains how complex ptsd applies to not only his experience in the boarding schools, but to Indians around the U.S. Walter's story does a good job of detailing the American Indian experience of the second half of the 20th century - growing up on an Indian reservation with English as a second language, boarding school attendance, going through the relocation program in the late 1950's in San Francisco, fighting in Vietnam, the Wounded Knee occupation in 1973 and its aftermath told from the point of view of a resident of Wounded Knee. Walter's opinion of that event and of the American Indian Movement (AIM) is one not typically known. This book gives a root reason as to why there is cultural deterioration, increased gang activity, suicide, alcoholism and domestic violence in Indian country today - the boarding schools and the consequences of forced separation of child from parent. But it is also an inspirational story of how someone acquires the courage to go back into a painful past in order to heal himself and become whole again.

This book is a beautifully written by a beautiful human being . I think it should be made into a movie as it would be a powerful statement, as is the book . I admire and respect Walter Littlemoon for his courage , strength and most of all his kind and generous spirit . I was privilidged to have met him years ago and at that time I could have never imagined that he had endured these hardships. He was very kind , compassionate and ended up being a huge inspiration in my young life . Meeting him was a true gift to my spirit and heart , what he said to me would inspire me and keep me strong through so many of my own struggles and hardships. I kept those words close to my heart all these

years , I have never forgotten him or his words to me . I was trying to find him to tell him Thank you and that is how I found out about his book which I bought 3 copies of right away and plan to buy more to give out as gifts . This story touches ones heart strings and serves to show us that we can heal our lives , our hearts and spirits and we should not be ashamed . It also shows us that the "judgments " rendered upon others and used as an excuse to justify abuse toward them must be stopped. Though they called the Native children uncivilized , it was their cruel and savage treatment of these precious innocent children that was truly uncivilized . This book is worth far more than the asking price and I hope it will become a bestseller . There are lessons to be learned that apply to this time and to all times. Thank you Walter Littlemoon for having the strength and courage to survive and for sharing your story. I hope we meet again on the trail. Thank you for the gifts you gave to my heart and for writing and sharing your story . May peace and beauty be with you always

a way of looking at a different culture than the typical white culture. to look at things from a different view and to be told of life from the view point of the person living it. I have been greatly changed as to what i think about the culture in this country. to actually visit Pine Ridge SD and see things first hand makes a person think as to how lucky or unlucky they are in life because of the color of their skin, how the government has passed laws that affect us all, or the environment we are raised in. It is a book that would open anyone's eyes to a different way of thinking.

Beautifully written, this is a concise and moving account first of Native American life before it was disrupted, then of the trauma suffered by Native children forced into alien and cruel boarding schools. The effects of these schools still resonates in Native communities today and must be acknowledged and understood by all caring Americans. Walter Littlemoon is an honest and courageous survivor of child abuse, and of cultural genocide.

A wonderful book about an American Indian and his fight to remain sane in a world of mandatory Indian boarding schools and intense abuse by the school and how he has struggled his adult life to deal with that childhood. I recommend it to anyone who wants to get a more honest look at how we treated the "FIRST IMMIGRANTS" to this continent.

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