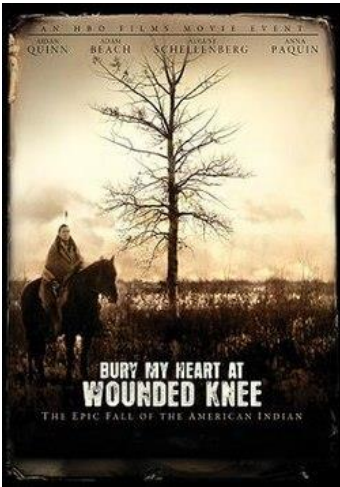


Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee ~ Movie Guide



Based on historian Dee Brown’s important and acclaimed work, *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* gives students the American Indian perspective on “the winning of the West,” revealing personal conflicts and crises of identity behind the political struggle, and how the goal of cultural assimilation can become a threat of attempted cultural extermination. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* tells this story from two unique perspectives – those who “assimilated” Sioux doctor Charles Eastman, who confronts the reality of dire conditions on the reservations, and Sitting Bull, the proud Lakota Sioux chief who fights fervently to resist the government’s efforts to strip his people of their land, identity, and dignity.

Day 1 Clip – (ends at 30:22)(begins with Battle of Little Bighorn and ends with Sitting Bull and his followers being greeted by Mounted Canadians)

1. Compare and Contrast the characters of Red Cloud and Sitting Bull

Day 2 Clip – (ends at 101:52)(beginnings of Indians schools, Ihyessa/Charles Eastman accepting his name, Henry Dawes explaining his plan, ends with Sitting Bull surrendering and arriving at Standing Rock)

2. Cite examples from the movie of how Native Americans were either choosing to or being forced to assimilate into white American culture.

Day 3 Clip – (ends at 1:32)(Sitting Bull at Standing Rock watching new hunting method, more on Dawes plan and his passion for getting it passed “as is”, Eastman arrives at Pine Ridge and gets a dose of reality concerning his resources, Ghost Dance explanation)

3. What was the biggest “killer” of Natives on the reservation (think both about physical and spiritual/emotional)

4. What is the Ghost Dance, and what role did it play on reservations? Was it effective?

Day 4 Clip – (ends viewing)(Sitting Bull finds out McLoughlin was spreading lies about him and decides he will make the best of his situation by making money, Wounded Knee Massacre, and aftermath for Eastman)

5. Why was Charles unable to complete his job? What were his objectives and obstacles?

After the Movie

6. Identify the main idea of the movie. What message is being argued and conveyed by the director/writer/actors?

7. Do you believe showing this movie was important for you to be able to evaluate the relationship between Native Americans and white settlers? Explain the value of this movie to our study of American History.