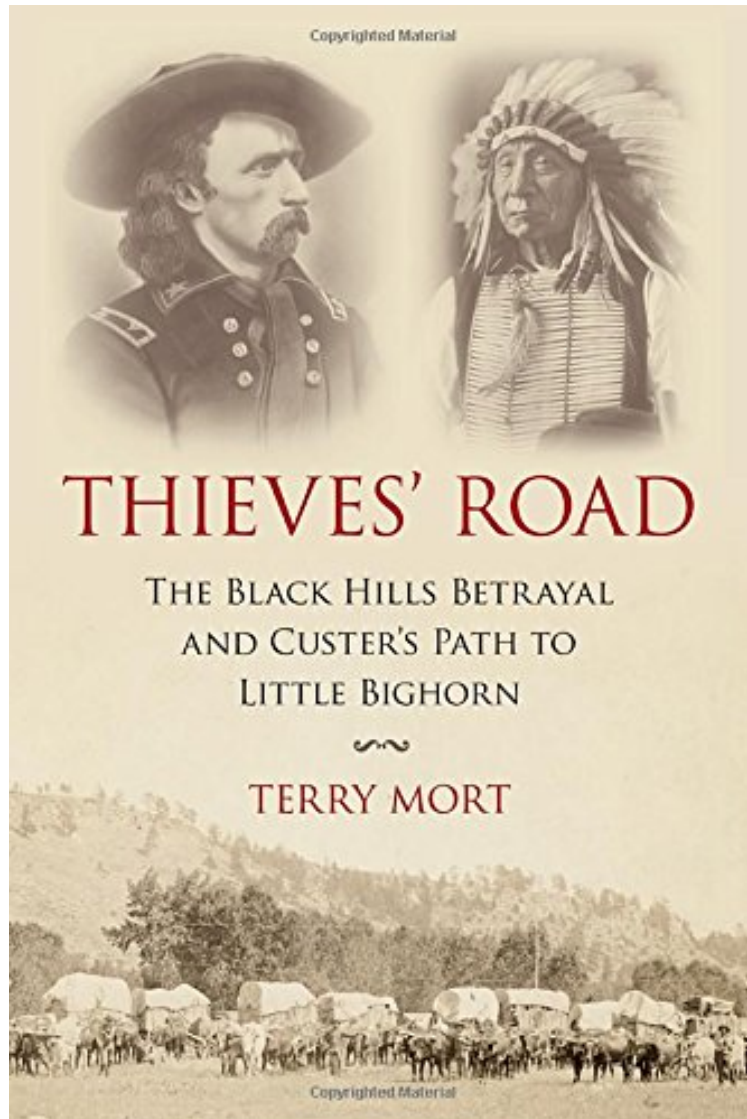


(Download) Thieves' Road: The Black Hills Betrayal and Custer's Path to Little Bighorn

# Thieves' Road: The Black Hills Betrayal and Custer's Path to Little Bighorn

*Terry Mort*

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#252920 in Books 2015-02-10 2015-02-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x 1.16 x 6.321, 1.25 #File Name: 1616149604336 pages | File size: 38.Mb

**Terry Mort : Thieves' Road: The Black Hills Betrayal and Custer's Path to Little Bighorn** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thieves' Road: The Black Hills Betrayal and Custer's Path to Little Bighorn:

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating history from the Civil War to Little Bighorn By Richard As a reader of Western U.S. history, entwined with some Civil War interest, I found Thieves Road on a par

with the lecturing of my very best college history professors. The book delivers an array of hard facts, woven with engaging comments and inquiring prose into a much better understanding of post-Civil War America and the role of the Army within a depression torn and gold hungry America. I never knew the extent of so many Gilded Age events and attitudes leading to Custers disaster at Little Bighorn. Having toured Gettysburg and appreciating the leadership of many dedicated officers including George Armstrong Custer I had never been able to reconcile Custers largely successful and colorful career with his June, 1876 catastrophe. I now appreciate a much more nuanced view of the 11 years from the end of the Civil War to the end of Custer. From the nitty-gritty of Army and Indian life to politics and corruption at all levels...from the selling of railroad bonds to the ultimate plight of most Indians...from the non-treaty Indians to those on the reservation...from the Lakota to other Sioux... from smallpox to bad doctoring... from Custer's prose and PR...to Sheridan to Sherman to Grant...and the naming of Bismarck - and the Thieve's Road.....It is fact filled, most interesting and fascinating non-fiction. I recommend this new history of America - from the end of the Civil War (and a bit before) to Little Bighorn. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very good information and for the most part avoids a lot ...By dakotaspikes Very good information and for the most part avoids a lot of opinions rather than facts. Some times he gets a little tedious repeating the same assumptions over and over, as if to justify his point to himself. Seems to be well researched .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, well sourced and enjoyable read. By Customer Excellent, very well sourced, organized and annotated description of the economic and social pressures around the exploration and subsequent settlement of the Black Hills before the death of Custer at Little Big Horn.

In the summer of 1874, Brevet Major General George Armstrong Custer led an expedition of some 1000 troops and more than one hundred wagons into the Black Hills of South Dakota. This fascinating work of narrative history tells the little-known story of this exploratory mission and reveals how it set the stage for the climactic Battle of the Little Bighorn two years later. What is the significance of this obscure foray into the Black Hills? The short answer, as the author explains, is that Custer found gold. This discovery in the context of the worst economic depression the country had yet experienced spurred a gold rush that brought hordes of white prospectors to the Sioux's sacred grounds. The result was the trampling of an 1868 treaty that had granted the Black Hills to the Sioux and their inevitable retaliation against the white invasion. The author brings the era of the Grant administration to life, with its "peace policy" of settling the Indians on reservations, corrupt federal Indian Bureau, Gilded Age excesses, the building of the western railroads, the white settlements that followed the tracks, the Crash of 1873, mining ventures, and the clash of white and Indian cultures with diametrically opposed values. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills was the beginning of the end of Sioux territorial independence. By the end of the book it is clear why the Sioux leader Fast Bear called the trail cut by Custer to the Black Hills "thieves' road."

An absorbing account of the expedition. An exceptional study of both Custers mission and the variety of forces that led to it. . . . An excellent history of both the Black Hills Expedition and the times in which it occurred. On Point: The Journal of Army History A comprehensive, discerning, carefully researched, and readable account . . . . Indispensable reading. Michigan War Studies "Morts delightful prose will entice readers of history, geography, Native American studies and sociology. All will revel in the feeling of being in the Dakotas at the end of the 19th century. Kirkus s, STARRED REVIEW About the Author Terry Mort is the author of *The Wrath of Cochise* (Pegasus, 2013), *The Hemingway Patrols* (Scribner, 2009), a book on fly fishing, and edited anthologies of Mark Twain, Jack London, and Zane Grey (Lyons Press). *The Wrath of Cochise* was widely praised and received excellent reviews in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Publishers Weekly*. *The Hemingway Patrols*, also widely praised, was 's best book of the month in August 2009.