

**INDIAN HEROES  
AND  
GREAT CHIEFTAINS**

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Indian heroes and great chieftains by Charles A. Eastman

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**CHARLES A. EASTMAN**

**INDIAN HEROES  
AND  
GREAT CHIEFTAINS**





AMERICAN HORSE

INDIAN HEROES  
AND  
GREAT CHIEFTAINS

BY  
CHARLES A. EASTMAN  
(OHYESSA)



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LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY  
1939

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## INDIAN HEROES AND GREAT CHIEFTAINS

RED CLOUD

**E**VERY age, every race, has its leaders and heroes. There were over sixty distinct tribes of Indians on this continent, each of which boasted its notable men. The names and deeds of some of these men will live in American history, yet in the true sense they are unknown, because misunderstood. I should like to present some of the greatest chiefs of modern times in the light of the native character and ideals, believing that the American people will gladly do them tardy justice.

It is matter of history that the Sioux nation, to which I belong, was originally friendly to the Caucasian peoples which it met in succession — first, to the south the Spaniards; then the French, on the Missis-

issippi River and along the Great Lakes; later the English, and finally the Americans. This powerful tribe then roamed over the whole extent of the Mississippi valley, between that river and the Rockies. Their usages and government united the various bands more closely than was the case with many of the neighboring tribes.

During the early part of the nineteenth century, chiefs such as Wabashaw, Redwing, and Little Six among the eastern Sioux, Conquering Bear, Man-Afraid-of-His-Horse, and Hump of the western bands, were the last of the old type. After these, we have a coterie of new leaders, products of the new conditions brought about by close contact with the conquering race.

This distinction must be borne in mind — that while the early chiefs were spokesmen and leaders in the simplest sense, possessing no real authority, those who headed their tribes during the transition period were more or less rulers and more or less politicians. It is a singular fact that