



John Muir is rightly lauded as the nature mystic who added wilderness to America's vision of itself. That vision came at a cost, however: the dispossession of the tribal peoples whose homelands the national parks once were. Muir argued for wilderness that would offer spiritual enlightenment to the conquerors, not the Indigenous peoples they conquered. *Cast out of Eden* tells this neglected part of John Muir's story, his take on the tribal nations he encountered, and his embrace of an Indigenous-free wilderness ethos. Fortunately, this longstanding injustice is beginning to be undone, as tribal nations and the federal government work together to ensure that public lands serve all Americans equally.

[111 words]

John Muir is widely and rightly lauded as the nature mystic who added wilderness to the United States' vision of itself, largely through the system of national parks and wildlands his writings and public advocacy helped create. That vision, however, came at a cost: the conquest and dispossession of the tribal peoples who had inhabited and stewarded those same lands, in many cases for millennia. Muir argued for the preservation of wild sanctuaries that would offer spiritual enlightenment to the conquerors, not to the conquered Indigenous peoples who once lived there. "Somehow," he wrote, "they seemed to have no right place in the landscape."

*Cast Out of Eden* tells this neglected part of Muir's story—from Lowland Scotland and the Wisconsin frontier to the Sierra Nevada's granite heights and Alaska's glacial fjords—his take on the tribal nations he encountered, and his embrace of an ethos that removed those tribes from their homelands. Although Muir worked against Euro-Americans' distrust of wildlands and the deep-seated desire to tame and exploit them, his view excluded Native Americans as fallen peoples who stained the wilderness's pristine sanctity. Fortunately, in a transformation that a resurrected and updated Muir might approve, this long-standing injustice is beginning to be undone, as Indigenous nations and the federal government work together to ensure that quintessentially American lands from Bears Ears to Yosemite serve all Americans equally.

[233 words]

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