

Some Recommended Books on the Apache and other Related Subjects
by Jack H. Lasseter

1. The Apaches, Eagles of the Southwest by Donald E Worcester (1979) Univ. of Oklahoma Press, first paperback printing - 1992.

A good first book by an award winning western non-fiction writer about the Apache history with the Mexicans, the Americans in New Mexico and Arizona, Gen Crook, John Clum, Victorio, Nana, Geronimo, etc. Includes cultural aspects of the Apaches.
2. Apaches; A History and Culture Portrait, by James L Haley (1981) Univ of Oklahoma Press, paperback printing - 1997.

The best about the life culture of the Apache people. Half of the book is on their religion, myths, culture, rites of passage, social order, marriage, etc; and half on the war history from the Boundary Commission to Geronimo's surrender.
3. The Conquest of Apacheria. by Dan L. Thrapp (1967) Univ. of Oklahoma Press,

Dan Thrapp is the authority on the war history of the Apache. This reads easy but has lots of details and is for the real enthusiast. Read the above books first.
4. Indeh, An Apache Odessey, by Eve Ball (1980), New Edition (1988) Univ. of Oklahoma Press

This book, one of only two from the Apache point of view, is a unique treasure. The writer is a retired librarian who in 1942 moved to Ruidoso at age 60 and started interviewing old Mescalero men who were still alive and remembered the wars. This is the result. A must read for those who want to get out of the box of our own point of view.
5. In the Days of Victorio, by Eve Ball (1970) Univ. of Arizona Press.

This is the other book from the Apache point of view. This presents the recollections of a Warm Springs Apache. It is not as detailed as Indeh, but it tells wonderfully what it was like to be an Apache always on the run. Thanks, Eve Ball.
6. Making Peace with Cochise, edited by Edwin R. Sweeny (1997) Univ. of Oklahoma Press

This is the real thing. It is the 1872 journal of Lt. Frank J. Sladen, who was Gen. Howard's aide, about the ten days they, along with Tom Jeffords, spent in Cochise's Stronghold making peace. An Apache told me "At least it is honest". I consider this one of my treasures.
7. Al Sieber, Chief of Scouts, by Dan L. Thrapp (1964) Univ. of Oklahoma Press

Another one by the expert. This is about the famous scout, Al Sieber, and Gen. Crooke's 1872-73 campaign in central Arizona. An excellent book.
8. Cochise, Chiricahua Apache Chief, by Edwin R. Sweeney (1998) Univ. of Oklahoma Press

If you want to learn about the life of Cochise, this is the book. Sweeney is one of the leading experts and an award winning author. He is fun to read.
9. Mangas Coloradas, Chief of the Chiricahua Apaches, by Edwin R. Sweeney (1998) Univ. of Oklahoma Press

It is still in hardback only, but who can wait for the paperback. This is first rate Sweeney.
10. Geronimo, by Angle Debo (1976) Univ. of Oklahoma Press.

Boy, does she know how to write. This is the book on Geronimo. Well balanced, accurate, easy to read. No wonder it won so many awards.

11. The Truth about Geronimo, by Britton Davis (1929) Yale Univ. Press

This is Lt. Britton Davis' book written late in his life about his dealings with Geronimo. It is very good, extremely complementary of Crook, and critical of Miles.

12. Women of the Apache Nation, by H. Henrietta Stockel (1991) Univ. of Nevada Press

This is the only book on Apache women, and it is excellent. It is the real thing, based on interviews with real Apache women, and written by a disciple of Eva Ball.

13. An Apache Lifeway, by Morris Edward Opler (1941) Univ. of Nebraska Press

This is one of the first books describing the economic, social and religious institutions of the Chiricahua Apaches, written by the eminent anthropologist, Dr, Opler. It is a real classic,

14. Myths and Tales of the Chiricahua Apache Indians, by Morris Edward Opler (1942) Univ of Nebraska Press

This is another book by Dr. Opler, a thin book wherein he tells some of the tales and myths of the Chiricahuas. A very interesting book.

15. God is Red. A Native View of Religion, by Vine Deloria, Jr. (1994) Fulcrum Press

Thought provoking and well written. This is a book setting forth general Native American religion and ethics, written by a leading Native American scholar who is a professor at the Univ. of Colorado.

16. Paths of Life. American Indians of the Southwest and Northern Mexico. by Tom Sheridan (1996) Univ. of Arizona Press.

This is the companion book to the "Paths of Life" display at the State Museum (the old library) on the U. of A, campus. The trip to the museum is well worth it. Then decide on the book.

17. Arizona, A Cavalcade of History, by Marshall Trimble (1989) Treasure Chest Publications

The best book; on general Arizona history. It's available in all of the popular bookstores. Marshall Trimble is a great writer and a fun guy.

18. Roadside History of Arizona, by Marshall Trimble (1986) Mountain Press Publishing Co.

Another book by Marshall Trimble. Great to use as you drive along.

19. Arizona, A History, by Thomas E. Sheridan (1995) Univ. of Arizona Press

Another book by our own local Tom Sheridan. This is an excellent book on the history of Arizona.

20. Tucson. The Life and Times of an American City, by C.L. Sonnichsen (1982) Univ. of Oklahoma Press.

The best book on the history of Tucson. This is the yellow book.