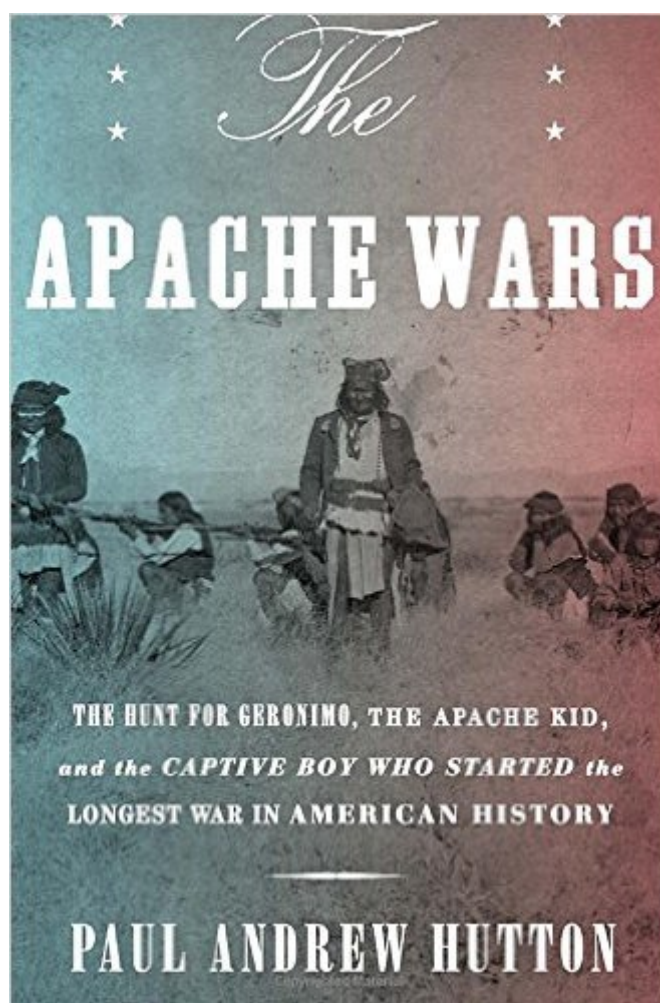


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# The Apache Wars: The Hunt For Geronimo, The Apache Kid, And The Captive Boy Who Started The Longest War In American History



## Synopsis

In the tradition of *Empire of the Summer Moon*, a stunningly vivid historical account of the manhunt for Geronimo and the 25-year Apache struggle for their homeland. They called him Mickey Free. His kidnapping started the longest war in American history, and both sides--the Apaches and the white invaders--blamed him for it. A mixed-blood warrior who moved uneasily between the worlds of the Apaches and the American soldiers, he was never trusted by either but desperately needed by both. He was the only man Geronimo ever feared. He played a pivotal role in this long war for the desert Southwest from its beginning in 1861 until its end in 1890 with his pursuit of the renegade scout, Apache Kid. In this sprawling, monumental work, Paul Hutton unfolds over two decades of the last war for the West through the eyes of the men and women who lived it. This is Mickey Free's story, but also the story of his contemporaries: the great Apache leaders Mangas Coloradas, Cochise, and Victorio; the soldiers Kit Carson, O. O. Howard, George Crook, and Nelson Miles; the scouts and frontiersmen Al Sieber, Tom Horn, Tom Jeffords, and Texas John Slaughter; the great White Mountain scout Alchesay and the Apache female warrior Lozen; the fierce Apache warrior Geronimo; and the Apache Kid. These lives shaped the violent history of the deserts and mountains of the Southwestern borderlands--a bleak and unforgiving world where a people would make a final, bloody stand against an American war machine bent on their destruction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As I read through *The Apache Wars* by Paul Andre Hutton, I was reminded of Thomas Hobbes' famous description of man's original state of nature. He described it as a state of "continual fear,

and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short. •

There is no better description of the southwestern United States during much of the nineteenth-century. Making up parts of modern-day California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico, this was the land known as Apacheria. It was a land ruled by tribes of Apache Indians - united in their language and similar culture but divided in many other ways - each vying for power as white settlers moved in from the east and south. Conflict was bound to arise; and it did. This book begins with the kidnapping of a young boy named Felix Ward by a group of Apaches. This abduction would set off a chain of events that led to, as the subtitle makes clear, the longest war in American history. In large measure, this is the story of Felix Ward - a half-Irish, half-Mexican adopted Apache who would be involved in the war between the white men and the Apaches until all of them were on reservations in Florida, Alabama, or Oklahoma. He was renamed Mickey Free and often acted as a mediator between his people - the white man on one side, the Apache on the other. He's one of the only characters that makes it all the way through the book. Nearly every other figure mentioned, American or Apache, ends up living a short, nasty, brutish life. Hutton does an admirable job at weaving the different threads of history together to craft an intelligible narrative. Unfortunately, since this is a history of a rather large piece of land over a lengthy period of time, it's easy to get lost in the sea of names. Some characters will be introduced as children and then, an hundred pages later re-enter the story as adolescents or men. This can leave the reader trying to remember how all of the characters fit into the story. Likewise, many of the Apaches are related to one another and all of the relationships can become confused - especially when several of the Apaches have the same, or very similar names. However, none of this is necessarily Hutton's fault. It's just the nature of writing this type of history book. Regardless, the writing is solid and the narrative keeps the reader interested from the first page until the last. There's enough murder, lying, backstabbing, and cheating to fill a day-time soap for years. And Hutton isn't afraid to let the blame fall on both sides - American and Apache. It's clear that neither side had clean hands. But that's history, isn't it? We like to look back and separate everyone into 'good guys' and 'bad guys' but too often, the reality is far more messy than that. The fact is, men are sinful. This book is a tragic reminder of that fact. It would be wise for us to read this kind of history - the kind that reveals not only America's triumphs but also her warts. It's an important reminder that America has always had her issues, just like every other nation in the world.

I am an avid reader of American history, especially Military history, but not specifically Indian history. With that disclaimer, this was a very informative book. It appears to cover the time period in the SW

region of the US very thoroughly. It's a highly detailed "play by play" of the characters and the events, with no opinions, just apparent facts. You are left to form your own. Mine was mixed, but ultimately a sad chapter in our history.

Dr. Paul Hutton has delivered a highly rewarding volume in *The Apache Wars*; it fully covers the American Apache Wars, revealing many new facts about the characters and agencies involved. It is well written, making it an entertaining read; but it is also a chilling account of barbarities and the vicissitudes of hard-fought guerrilla warfare. Hutton revisits the old debate regarding the use of Apache scouts by General George Crook, and succinctly points out the fact that his loudest critic and replacement, General Nelson Miles, could not have possibly ended the Apache campaigns without utilizing them. Bravo! Dr. Hutton. Well Done! I have read other of your books and journal articles, and have always enjoyed your style of writing, and the sense of authority I get from your presentation.

A different perspective than I had before. Crook wasn't a complete hero. Miles wasn't a complete idiot. And Mexican para-military was not completely ineffective. I have read 3 or 4 books on the Apache Wars, but this covered some new ground with Mickey Free and the Apache kid. Very interesting.

Excellent, in a word!!! This is well researched and skillfully written account of these difficult times in the American Southwest. Importantly, to me, it is not a PC rehash of the oppression of an indigenous people, but rather the interwoven stories in the context of the times with out passing judgment on anyone. The spellbind account also pulls the reader into the vastness that is the area where the many, many events took place. His descriptions of the areas are incredible accurate, as there is little of the mountains and deserts discussed that I have not walked, ridden or driven through in my 70 + years as a resident of this enchanting part of the World. And too, many of the tails I heard as a child from people who were there or had friends or family involved closely coincide with a number of his detailed accounts. This is an excellent read from the hand of a dedicated researcher who's love of the subject shines through.

History as it should be written detailing the heroism and knavery and complexity of past events. "The Apache Wars" is not only a lens into this particular set of Indian wars, but it gives one an idea how complex the history of all of the Indians wars (and all human history) was. This is refreshing in

an age that prefers to ignore how messy the past was. We old timers can remember that even when Hutton was a novice historian, his books showed promise and "The Apache Wars" shows that he has not lost a step.

I love history and even though this is outside my usual field, this book is a great read. There is good balance from the Apache and the white side. Stupidity, perfidy, and cruelty abounded on both sides. Nobody comes off looking good, although the conflict, including the abundant confusion and misunderstandings, makes sense after reading the book. The author did a good job of bringing to the forefront that great conflicts and issues are often driven as much by personal ambition and faults, as by government or tribal policy. I did enjoy the insights into Apache culture, which was thrown in at various appropriate points, e.g. the avoidance of bears because they were thought to be the spirits of ancestors. Good research and good writing make this one worth having on the shelf.

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