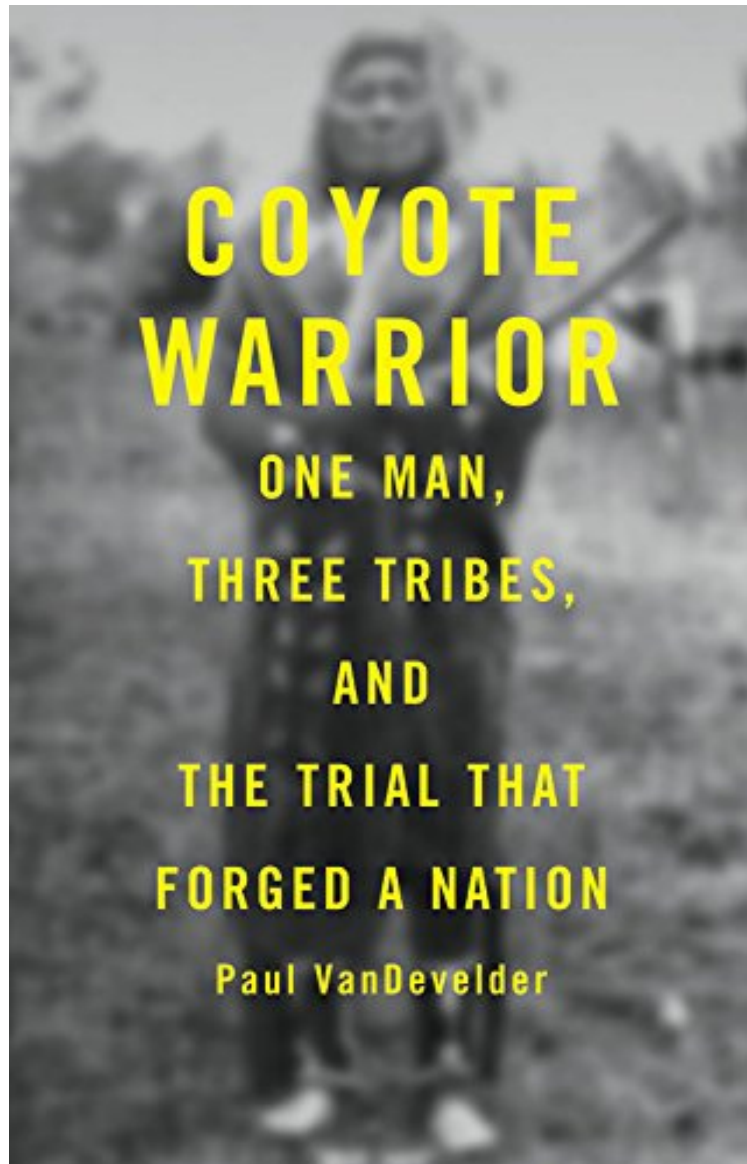


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# Coyote Warrior: One Man, Three Tribes, and the Trial That Forged a Nation

*Paul Van Develder*

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## Three Tribes, and the Trial That Forged a Nation:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. powerfully written living history  
By V. Wiedemann I will not do an in depth review of the contents of this powerfully written and extremely readable book because others have done a very good job of that type of review. Even if you know quite a bit about what our political leaders did (and continue to do) to the native Americans, reading this book and its companion book *Savages and Scoundrels*, also by Paul VanDevelder, provide in depth coverage of not only the "Indian situation" throughout the years, but also of many of our country's early leaders. These two books cover many of the same facts but do so in different ways and I highly recommend purchasing and reading both. On a personal note, I was thrilled to read Paul's tributes in both books to his Parents Frank and Mary who have been our dear friends for many years.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pretty interesting book that reveals the way the tribes have ...  
By J. Duren Pretty interesting book that reveals the way the tribes have been discounted by the various governments as not of any real value. Makes it very clear that although the Native American is an asset to the country, they could have been an even greater asset had the been treated fairly and allowed to grow with the rest of us. Always and still looked down on and treated with disdain they have still managed to do some great things. Just imagine what might have been if they had been respected.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Coyote Warrior: One Man, Three Tribes, and the Trial That Forged a Nation  
By Velda F. Glick As a North Dakota resident since 1961, I lived through much of this tumultuous history. However, I learned so much more by reading this book. I liked the fact that the Cross family was presented throughout the book as they had a great impact on the outcome. The only reason for not giving it a 5-star rating was that I found it difficult to understand all of the fine technical parts of the lawsuits.

A Civil Action meets Indian country, as one man takes on the federal government and the largest boondoggle in U.S. history--and wins.

From Publishers Weekly Raymond Cross is a Yale-educated attorney and the youngest son of Martin Cross, an American Indian tribal chairman who spent the bulk of his life fighting a losing battle against the construction of a post-WWII dam near the upper Missouri River that would forcibly remove hundreds of families from their ancestral lands. VanDevelder's exhaustively researched book uses the Cross family story and Raymond Cross's eventual transformation into Coyote Warrior, the term given to a growing group of Ivy League-trained lawyers working on American Indian rights issues to help trace the century-long struggle of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes to protect their North Dakota homelands. The author, an investigative reporter and documentary filmmaker, provides a glimpse into the vagaries of federal Indian law and its effects that avoids preachiness, preferring to let research and recollections by the Cross family tell the story. "It doesn't take long with Indian law before you realize you're breathing a different kind of air," notes one attorney who oversaw legislation to terminate federal wardship over American Indian tribes. The book is at its most accessible when it chronicles the personal struggles of the Cross family, but its sometimes tedious descent into legal jargon and switchback chronology may put off general readers. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist This enlightening chronicle by investigative reporter VanDevelder takes on the complex issue of Indian law as it's being molded by a new generation of Native American lawyers, called coyote warriors, who are part of the Indigenous Environmental Network. Beginning with three landmark decisions made by Chief Justice John Marshall in the 1820s, Indian tribes were recognized as "domestic dependent sovereign nations." When Martin Cross, the great-grandson of the Mandan chief who befriended Lewis and Clark, brought his passionate yet uneducated protest against the proposed Garrison Dam to the Senate floor in 1945, his argument that the land where three tribes had lived "from time immemorial" would be destroyed was overridden. But then his son, Raymond, a Yale-educated lawyer whose life was shaped by the dam's deleterious effect, took up the fight. Returning to North Dakota as the lawyer for the Three Affiliated Tribes, he successfully argued before the Supreme Court for reparations for those tribes who suffered ill effects caused by the dam's destructive environmental impact so that finally justice was done. Deborah Donovan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. "A gripping and vivid portrayal that is extensively researched and well documented. . . . This fascinating book is highly recommended." -- Library Journal, 6/15/04 "A sturdy companion to Michael Lieder and Jake Page's *Wild Justice* (1997)--highly recommended." -- Kirkus, 6/1/04 "Compelling, outrageous and triumphant...if you read only one book on Native America this year, read *Coyote Warrior*." -- Debra Utacia Krol, *Native Peoples Magazine* "Intense, heroic, patriotic, heartbreaking, uplifting, wise and instructive, *Coyote Warrior* is a major work of American history." -- Rick Bass, author of *Colter*, and *The Nine Mile Wolves*... "Truly inspirational, this book captures the modern struggle for Indian rights." -- Vine Deloria, Jr., author of *Custer Died for Your Sins* *Coyote Warrior* is one of the most compassionate, uplifting, and important stories that I have read in a long while." -- John Nichols, author of *The Milagro Beanfield War* "Gripping... 'A Civil Action' set on the rez - it'll have you cheering for the warrior in the three-piece suit." -- *Outside Magazine* (August 2004)