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Indians, Animals, and the Fur Trade: A Critique of Keepers of the Game

Shepard Krech

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Shepard Krech : Indians, Animals, and the Fur Trade: A Critique of Keepers of the Game before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Indians, Animals, and the Fur Trade: A Critique of Keepers of the Game:

Exploring the motivations of Indians involved in the fur trade, the contributors to this volume challenge the spiritualist interpretation set forth by Calvin Martin in *Keepers of the Game*, which dismisses the lure of European goods the power and leisure that firearms and other tools afforded the Indians and instead attributes the Indians' willingness to overkill wildlife to the epidemics that decimated their ranks, that not only shattered their religious bonds with game but also unleashed a furious revenge against the animals.

The essayists in the present book give no support whatever to Martin's condescending revival of the irrational savage, and it should be said plainly that this book stands head and shoulders above Martin's *Keepers* in reliable, documented information, in logic, and in candor. These are carefully considered inquiries far removed from polemics. Much more than Martin's work, they deserve historians' attention as models of how anthropologists can use empirical methods and data in approaching issues of historical as well as ethnological importance. (*Journal of American History*)An

outstanding exploration of the ethnohistorical issues with far wider implications. Highly recommended for programs in anthropology, economic history, and comparative religion. (Choice)About the AuthorShepard Krech III is a professor of anthropology and director of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology at Brown University. He is a past president of the American Society for Ethnohistory and has been a fellow and trustee of the National Humanities Center. His many books include "The Ecological Indian" and "Encyclopedia of World Environmental History."