Hunted Like a Wolf: The Story of the Seminole War by Milton Meltzer

A landmark work for teens chronicling the Second Seminole War (1835-1842) and the treachery of the U.S. during that time. A ragged, starving handful of guerrillas, the Seminoles and blacks resisted the invading U.S. Army ten times their number. Meltzer explores the Seminoles choices and the sacrifices they made by resisting in the longest and costliest of the Indian Wars. The book reveals America's terrible racial history, the consequences of which we are only beginning to understand.

My Personal Review:
Drawing its title from a Seminole's leader words in 1842, "I have been hunted like a wolf and now I am about to be sent away like a dog", Hunted Like A Wolf: The Story Of The Seminole War is the riveting true account of the costliest of America's Indian Wars, in terms of both money and human life. Award-winning author Milton Meltzer tells of a desperate struggle by a vastly outnumbered people attempting to retain the land they lived upon. The Second Seminole War was also as much of war over slavery as it was over territory, for living among the Seminole were black men and women - some runaway slaves, some free - ready to lay their lives on the line for those they considered to be brothers. Thoroughly researched, and written in plain terms directly accessible to the lay reader, Hunted Like A Wolf examines not only the events of the war, but its legacy, and the motives of those who pushed so hard for it. Hunted Like A Wolf maintains as much impartiality as it can when describing lynchings, the raw greed for land, the desire to enslave black people, and the funneling of national wealth into the coffers of a state's private militia. In the end, Hunted Like A Wolf proclaims that the Seminole wars - which ultimately removed the vast majority of Seminoles from their ancestral lands, and instilled a pattern of ruthlessness that would poison American government for an era to come - stemmed directly from, in the words of American senators, "A continuous desire to exploit and expropriate Indian land and physical resources and a self-righteous intolerance of tribal communities and cultural differences." Highly recommended.