On a hot June morning in 1975, a fatal shoot-out took place between FBI agents and American Indians on a remote property near Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Four members of the American Indian Movement were indicted on murder charges for the deaths of two federal agents killed that day. Leonard Peltier, the only one to be convicted, is now serving consecutive life sentences in a federal penitentiary.

Behind this violent chain of events lie issues of great complexity and profound historical resonance. In this controversial book, Peter Matthiessen brilliantly explicates the larger issues behind the shoot-out, including the Lakota Indians historical struggle with the U.S. government, from Red Clouds war and Little Big Horn in the nineteenth century to the shameful discrimination that led to the new Indian wars of 1970s.

This is a marvelously well researched book. In response to some of the bad reviews I have read I have to say that yes, Matthiessen does not try to hide the fact that he sides with the Indians. Yes the book is biased in the favor of the Indians. So what. When you examine the FBI and the US Governments history of maltreatment of all minorities, especially native peoples, why should an author feel obligated to paint the establishment in
a flattering light. He is simply exposing the ugly truth of the dark underbelly of our democracy. This is hard for some people to handle, thus the poor reviews. Ask yourself this, in the midst of phenomenal violence why does the FBI never investigate dozens of unsolved murders, instead devoting lots of man-hours to tracking down Jimmy Eagle for the theft of a pair of cowboy boots?? You be the judge. This is an amazing read. Thankfully, the FBI, Special Agent David Price and Governor William Janklow all lost in their legal attempts to keep this information from us. So celebrate freedom of press and curl up with this book!!! Freedom for Leonard

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