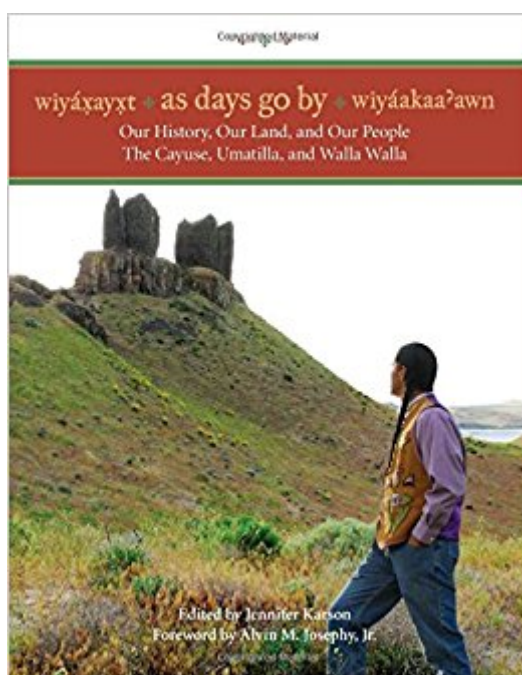


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# Wiyaxayxt / Wiyaakaa'awn / As Days Go By: Our History, Our Land, Our People --The Cayuse, Umatilla, And Walla Walla



## Synopsis

This book represents a new vista, looking past the days when there were two distinct groups—those who were studied and those who studied them. This history of the Umatilla, Cayuse, and Walla Walla people had its beginnings in October 2000, when elders sat side by side with native students and native and non-native scholars to compare notes on tribal history and culture. Through this collaborative process, tribal members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have taken on their own historical retellings, drawing on the scholarship of non-Indians as a useful tool and external resource. Primary to this history are native voices telling their own story. Beginning with ancient teachings and traditions, moving to the period of first contact with Euro-Americans, the Treaty council, war, and the reservation period, and then to today's modern tribal governance and the era of self-determination, the tribal perspective takes center stage. Throughout, readers will see continuity in the culture and in ways of life that have been present from the earliest times, all on the same landscape. Wiyaxayxt (Columbia River Sahaptin) and Wiyaakaa'awn (Nez Perce) can be interpreted to mean "as the days go by," "day by day," or "daily living." They represent the meaning of the English term "history" in two of the common languages still spoken on the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The legal and cultural record of this period is fascinating and helps make this book important far beyond the Umatilla..Highly recommended." •Choice"Non-Indian and tribal scholars have created a

work that is both accessible and on a firm foundation of scholarship, and it is well designed. The book is very successful in providing a tribal perspective on history and subjects addressed regularly by non-Indian authors. Anyone interested..will benefit from adding this book to his or her library."â •Oregon Historical Quarterly"The book is very nicely designed and should work very well in classrooms on the reservation and, one hopes, nearby..In most ways it is a model study..As Days Go By is essential reading for anyone interested in the American Indian communities of the Plateau culture area as well as for readers concerned with how those and similar communities should present their own story."â •Journal of Folklore Research"Editor Karson provides a rich collection of cultural information about the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes located in the Northwest United States. Twelve contributors to the work offer insight into the history of these Native American peoples from their point of view, an approach that sets this work apart from traditional approaches already available in print."â •Multicultural Review

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I have long argued that American Indians and tribal governments have to tell their own histories. They also have to research and record information about their histories, cultures, and traditions. Native people cannot and should not rely on non-Indian scholars to do this important work. One value of tribes acquiring more assets in the modern day is that they can now devote time and resources to this type of historical and cultural research and development. A perfect example of what I am talking about is a 2006 book co-published by the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in eastern Oregon. The book is entitled *wiyaxayxt \* as days go by \* wiyaakaa?awn, Our History, Our Land, and Our People: The Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla*. It was published in 2006 by the Tamastlikt Cultural Institute and the Oregon Historical Society Press, in cooperation with the University of Washington Press. The book was authorized by the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes and is written by tribal citizens and selected non-Indians. It is an important and powerful book about their history, culture, and future. It also recounts the amazing story of their modern-day resurgence and the many successes they have created while working to protect and develop their rights and their reservation homeland. I highly recommend this book for everyone.

This excellent research and presentation is the subject of many deep discussions on not just the

history and future of the Umatilla, but also works as a keystone and outline for discussing other native Americans whether as tribes, federations, or simply as local communities and individuals. In looking for compelling research on native Americans in eastern Washington state, I was drawn towards this publication by the reviews and the preview from the local library. I simply couldn't put it down. It is not so much that any new information is discovered here. It is that the new research is very well integrated with existing papers and presented within a very good framework that keeps the conversation open-ended. With a quiet yet insistent focus on, let us say, the recovery of history and of community as it is important in our identity, this book of history is an excellent primer on the future.

I've not enough praise for the collaborative effort represented in *Wiyaxayst/Wiyaakaa'awn = As days go by...*. The facts, legends, stories and remembrances carry weight not found in studies by non-tribal people, and every participant is to be commended. The explanation of the spiritual connection of Indians to the land, of the Whitman killings and subsequent hangings, of treaty talks and wars, so matched the conclusions I had reached after years of study and thought that I adopted this book as one I trusted and would rely upon. The Intermediary: William Craig Among the Nez Perces Everyone -- Indians, non-Indians, government employees, northwesterners and citizens of the world -- should read this book.

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