



Dispossessing *the* Wilderness

*Indian Removal
and the Making of
the National Parks*

by Mark David Spence



Mark David Spence, PhD

- Assistant Professor of History at Knox College
 - Previous appointments at University of Oregon and Oregon State University
 - Consulting work teaching US History
 - Written articles on behalf of the National Park Service
- Reviewed his CV after reading to better understand his background and approach
- Listened to the author in his own words

“Wilderness is a good way to problematize our relationships with the past, with other peoples, with each other, with the natural world... there is no wilderness; there are only cultural landscapes.”

- *-Mark David Spence*

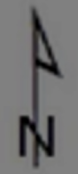




Yellowstone National Park

Established 1872

500 1,000 2,000 Kilometers





“Summer encampment at head of Medicine Lodge Creek, June 1871. Variously identified as Sheep Eater, Shoshone, and Bannock, this group was photographed by W.J. Jackson during the Hayden Survey of the Yellowstone area..”



“Wickiups, Yellowstone National Park. Early visitors and government explorers often referred to them as “abandoned tepees,” but these were actually the permanent frameworks of seasonal lodges...” (Photo: National Park Service, Yellowstone Photo Collection: <https://www.nps.gov/features/yell/slidefile/history/indians/page-2.htm>)

Glacier National Park

Established 1910







Blackfeet in the Two Medicine area, ca 1914 (Photo: National Park Service Photo Archive, Glacier National Park)

Yosemite National Park

Established 1890 –

NOTE: President Lincoln signed a bill establishing Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove as “protected wilderness areas” on June 30, 1864

- **Yosemite Valley Grant Act**, also referred to as the Yosemite Land Grant
- Gives California these areas “upon the express conditions that the premises shall be held for public use, resort, and recreation.”





“New Indian Village, 1933. In this official park service photograph, some residents of the Yosemite Indian Village stand in front of Harry Johnson’s new home. Johnson’s eldest son, Jay, would become the last Yosemite Indian to live in the park...”

Consulted Works

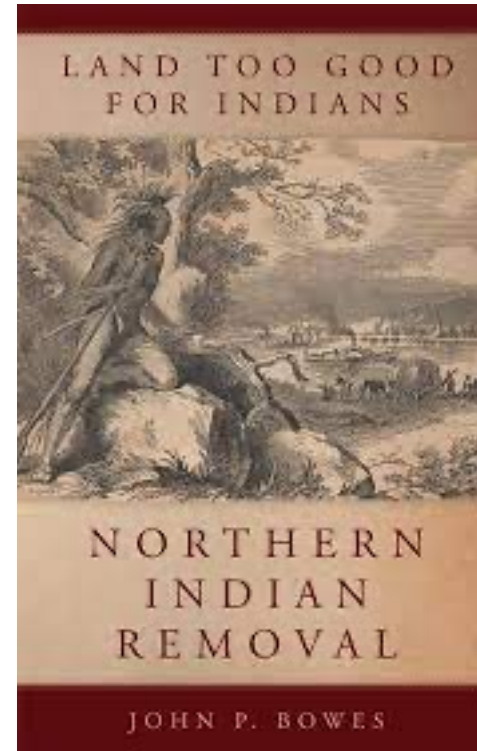
Journal Articles

- David R. Craig, Laurie Yung and William T. Borrie, “Blackfeet Belong to the Mountains: Hope, Loss, and Blackfeet Claims to Glacier National Park,” *Montana, Conservation & Society* , 2012, Vol. 10, No. 3 (2012), pp. 232-242
- David Ruppert, “REDEFINING RELATIONSHIPS: AMERICAN INDIANS AND NATIONAL PARKS,” *Practicing Anthropology* , Summer 1994, Vol. 16, No. 3 (Summer 1994), pp. 10- 13
- Brenda J. Child, “The Absence of Indigenous Histories in Ken Burns's *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*” *The Public Historian*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (Spring 2011), pp. 24-29
- Jeannette Wolfley, “Reclaiming a Presence in Ancestral Lands: The Return of Native Peoples to National Parks,” *Natural Resources Journal*, Vol. 56, No 1 (Winter 2016), pp. 55-80
- Colin Fisher. Review of Spence, Mark David, *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*. H-Environment, H-Net Reviews. August, 2000.

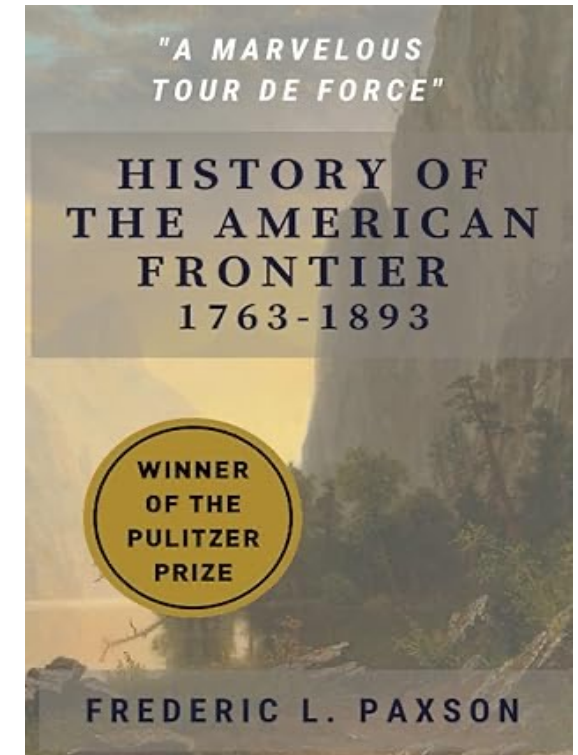
Podcast & Case Law

- “Mark David Spence: Unpacking the colonial roots of how national parks were established” *GreenDreamer*, www.greendreamer.com, episode 292
- *Ward v. Race Horse*. 1896. 163 U.S. 504 (U.S. Supreme Court, May 25)

Book Chapters



Chapter 2: The Rhetoric of Removal and Evolution of Federal Government Policy



Permanent Indian Frontier, 1825-1841, starts on page 212