

Sitting Bull, Sioux Chief, Original "Red" with Lenine's Methods

Out among the hills and over the vast plains of the Dakotas a half century ago there roamed the original Red, vicious, deceitful, crafty, ambitious, and dominated by a hatred of law, order and governmental authority, he drew to him the malcontents of his nation whom he ruled by the same power and tactics as does Lenine in Red Russia.

This is not the picture of Sitting Bull that writers romancing on the Noble redman, are accustomed to portray but, on the word of Major James McLaughlin, who has lived among the Indians for sixty years and is credited with knowing them as does no other living man, it is a true picture of the famous Sioux leader.

Sitting Bull was not a gallant, courageous, skillful warrior, who led his tribe to victory time and again as he is so often described. On the contrary he was an abject physical coward, never a war leader, whose control over his people was due entirely to their superstitious belief in his "good medicine." Like Lenine he owed his success to his instinctive knowledge of human nature and his ability as an agitator. In the latter trait he surpassed any of his modern followers, for by his sly and subtle propaganda and his fiery exhortation when the psychological moment arrived for violence, he aroused his followers to most reckless deeds of bloodshed and rebellion against — organized society.

Even as a youth he was a fraud, gaining his standing as warrior by his fleetness of foot rather than by his courage in battle. It was in a brush between the band of Hunkpapas, of which his father was a member, and the Crows that this incident occurred. He was then 14 years old. A Crow warrior was killed and Jumping Badger, as Sitting Bull then was known, was the first to reach the body, thereby counting the coup according to tribal custom, although he had not slain the man.