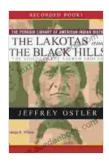
# The Lakotas and the Black Hills: A History of Sovereignty, Spirituality, and Struggle

The Lakotas, also known as the Sioux, are a Native American people who have lived in the Black Hills for centuries. The Black Hills are a sacred place to the Lakotas, and they have fought to protect their land from encroachment by the United States government and other outsiders.

#### The Lakota People

The Lakotas are one of the three major tribes of the Sioux Nation. The other two tribes are the Dakotas and the Nakotas. The Lakotas speak Lakota, a Siouan language. The Lakotas are a nomadic people who have traditionally relied on hunting and gathering for their livelihood. They are also skilled horsemen and warriors.



#### The Lakotas and the Black Hills: The Struggle for Sacred Ground (Penguin Library of American Indian

**History)** by Jeffrey Ostler

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#### The Black Hills

The Black Hills are a mountain range located in western South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming. The Black Hills are sacred to the Lakotas, who believe that the hills were created by the Great Spirit. The Lakotas have many legends and stories about the Black Hills, and they believe that the hills are home to many spirits. The Black Hills are also home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, elk, and bison. The Lakotas have a deep connection to the Black Hills, and they have fought to protect their land from encroachment by the United States government and other outsiders.

#### The Lakotas and the United States Government

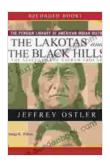
The Lakotas have a long and complex history with the United States government. The first treaty between the Lakotas and the United States government was signed in 1851. This treaty established the Great Sioux Reservation, which included the Black Hills. However, the United States government later violated this treaty and took the Black Hills from the Lakotas. The Lakotas fought to protect their land, but they were defeated in the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. After the Battle of Little Big Horn, the Lakotas were forced to live on reservations.

In 1877, gold was discovered in the Black Hills. This led to a gold rush, and thousands of miners flocked to the area. The miners brought with them disease and violence, and the Lakotas were forced to live in poverty and squalor. In 1980, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Black Hills had been illegally taken from the Lakotas. The court ordered the United States government to pay the Lakotas \$102 million in compensation. However, the Lakotas have refused to accept this payment, and they continue to fight for the return of their land.

#### The Lakotas and the Black Hills Today

The Lakotas continue to live in the Black Hills today. They are a proud and resilient people who have fought to protect their land and their way of life. The Lakotas are actively involved in preserving their culture and traditions. They are also working to improve the lives of their people and to promote economic development in the Black Hills.

The Lakotas and the Black Hills share a unique and unbreakable bond. The Black Hills are sacred to the Lakotas, and they will continue to fight to protect their land and their way of life.



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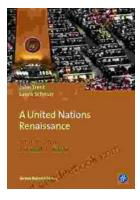
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