

[REDACTED]
Alexandria, VA 22310
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Mr. Brian Lamb
CSPAN
400 N. Capitol Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lamb,

Regarding your book on Booknotes Sunday, the very idea of Custer being a "Hero" is a joke.

I grew up in Western Kansas, am much too close to 65, and my father was old enough to remember renegade Indians roaming around the isolated farms, attacking the settlers and stealing the animals. We lived in Wallace County, as far west as you can go and still be in Kansas and in the last half of the 1800's there was a military fort in the Eastern part of the County. Our county was named for General Lew Wallace, author of Ben Hur, who was stationed at the Fort and the story is that he wrote Ben Hur while at the Fort. Today, there is a small museum showing what happened at the Fort and in the county.

I have always loved history and, unlike most children, loved to sit around and listen to the old people tell tales of the early days and several of them were about Custer being assigned to the Fort. According to the memory of the old timers, Custer was a jerk. The author of the book (I'm sorry I don't remember her name) said the Indian wars and Custer's role was racism. What nonsense. The Sioux were very formidable and respected warriors. The scouts and men who had fought the Indians tried to tell Custer he was going into a trap and would get his pants beat off. The Indians fought differently -- much like the minute men fought differently than the British regulars in the Revolution -- and the frontier fighters had learned you had to fight the Indians on their terms and in their way. Tactics that Custer had used, with great success, in the Civil War just wouldn't work against the Indians.

After high school I went to Colorado University and studied American history with Dr. [REDACTED], who at that time was considered the best authority on America's Western frontier and he also considered Custer a jerk.

I am so tired of current writers of history and political correctness. What they fail to take into account is that society and attitudes have changed. Many judge what happened 100 years by what is accepted today and fail to report what the social

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attitude was at that time. Very simply, the white man wanted the land and thought he was entitled to take it and the Indians were not willing to give it up. The white man had superior weapons, etc. and simply defeated the Indians. Since the beginning of history, the stronger army has defeated the weaker army and took what they wanted.

I am also sick and tired of this racism and new history books. The war with Hitler was a good war because Hitler was an evil man and both sides were considered white Europeans but the war with the Japanese has become, pure and simply, a racist act of aggression perpetrated by the Americans. We can no longer have a strong disagreement between nations of different races that ends with a war that is not considered racist and the white man is the evil party. Sad, but this is also true of a disagreement between two people.

If you are going to review history books, please have authors who are historians, not English teachers. I do love your programs and CSPAN.

Respectfully,

