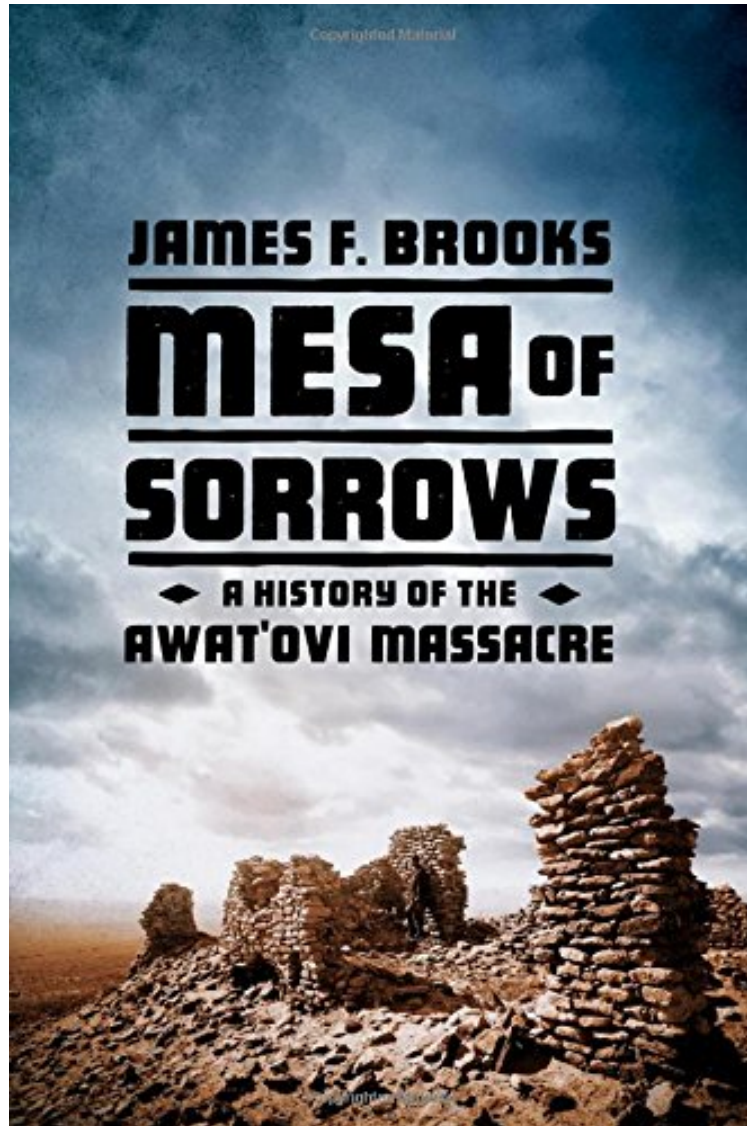


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Mesa of Sorrows: A History of the Awat'ovi Massacre

James F. Brooks

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James F. Brooks : Mesa of Sorrows: A History of the Awat'ovi Massacre before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mesa of Sorrows: A History of the Awat'ovi Massacre:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Mesa of Sorrows By Marc Severson Here is an interesting synopsis of one person's view of the events in the Hopi village of Awatovi in 1700. Having visited the site more than once I can tell you it is an absolutely fascinating place. As to whether this is the true story, who can say? But I can tell you that Brooks has done exhaustive research into the complex history of the Hopitu shinumu of Antelope mesa. A great read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. revealing but not disenchanting By D. McGraw While the present day

descendants of the Hopi may not appreciate this airing of their dirty laundry, they could not have a more sensitive author than James Brooks. This is a tragedy that reads like a mystery, that in the end dispels mere myth to reveal a greater mystery at the core of our common humanity, to reveal the Hopi people to be very human in both their aspirations and their failings. This history is unblinking but ends by building and deepening cross-cultural understanding, not undermining it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If Southwest Indigenous cultures is your passion this is a ...By 1GreenmonsterIf Southwest Indigenous cultures is your passion this is a must read. It helps tie the past to the present, Mesa of Sorrows present.

A scrupulously researched investigation of the mysterious massacre of Hopi Indians at Awat'ovi, and the event's echo through American history. The Hopi community of Awatovi existed peacefully on Arizona's Antelope Mesa for generations until one bleak morning in the fall of 1700 raiders from nearby Hopi villages descended on Awatovi, slaughtering their neighboring men, women, and children. While little of the pueblo itself remains, five centuries of history lie beneath the low rises of sandstone masonry, and theories about the events of that night are as persistent as the desert winds. The easternmost town on Antelope Mesa, Awatovi was renowned for its martial strength, and had been the gateway to the entire Hopi landscape for centuries. Why did kinsmen target it for destruction? Drawing on oral traditions, archival accounts, and extensive archaeological research, James Brooks unravels the story and its significance. *Mesa of Sorrows* follows the pattern of an archaeological expedition, uncovering layer after layer of evidence and theories. Brooks questions their reliability and shows how interpretations were shaped by academic, religious and tribal politics. Piecing together three centuries of investigation, he offers insight into why some were spared women, mostly, and taken captive and others sacrificed. He weighs theories that the attack was in retribution for Awatovi having welcomed Franciscan missionaries or for the residents practice of sorcery, and argues that a perfect storm of internal and external crises revitalized an ancient cycle of ritual bloodshed and purification. A haunting account of a shocking massacre, *Mesa of Sorrows* is a probing exploration of how societies confront painful histories, and why communal violence still plagues us today. 38 illustrations

Opens an enthralling window into an ancient culture...[and] offers a reflection that any society forgets at its own peril. - Laura Miller, *Slate* An engaging anthropological investigation into this difficult subject. An attractive, authoritative read. - *Library Journal* Vivid. Brooks tells this tragic story with great sensitivity and power, offering readers a fascinating perspective on the history of the American Southwest. - *Publishers Weekly* In this rich work of anthropology, archaeology, and personal sleuthing, James Brooks carefully unravels a mystery of enormous violence that convulsed the desert Southwest some three hundred years ago and that still sends off psychic shockwaves. Here is a haunting tale that is also deeply revealing, not only about the ancient Hopi Indians but all human societies. - Hampton Sides, author of *Blood and Thunder* *Mesa of Sorrows* is at once a profound immersion in the unique worldview of the Hopi and an eloquent meditation on the long shadows that violence in the past can cast into the present. A remarkable achievement by one of our preeminent historians of the Southwest borderlands. - Karl Jacoby, author of *Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre and the Violence of History* In this brilliant and humane book, James Brooks recovers a grim tale of massacre, memory, and forgetting. Paying deft attention to bones, documents, pottery, and stories, he reveals a great mystery with a haunting and evocative clarity. In rich and telling detail, Brooks explores a particular massacre to illuminate powerful truths about the dilemmas of human nature. - Alan Taylor, Pulitzer Prizewinning author of *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832* *Mesa of Sorrows* signals the emergence of a new kind of history that weaves archaeology, sacred knowledge, written words, and oral traditions into transcendent insight. The result is a deeply disturbing glimpse of the American past, populated by pathos, poison, prophecy, and persistence. James Brooks writes beautifully, and he writes for all of us. - Elizabeth Fenn, Pulitzer Prizewinning author of *Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People* *Mesa of Sorrows* recalls the history and legacy of the Awatovi massacre by brilliantly connecting the past to the Hopi present. It is a story of violence, destruction, and annihilation, but as James F. Brooks so eloquently demonstrates, it is also a story that is deeply rooted in the human experience. - Matthew Sakiestewa Gilbert, author of *Education Beyond the Mesas: Hopi Students at Sherman Institute, 1902-1929* About the Author James F. Brooks is professor of history and anthropology at University of California, Santa Barbara, and the author of *Captives and Cousins*, which received the Bancroft, Francis Parkman, and Frederick Douglass Prizes. He lives in Santa Barbara.