

Dakhóta Language Histories: Suggested Reading

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For many generations, US policymakers and settlers attempted to destroy the Dakhóta language and Dakhóta oyáte. This history requires greater public understanding in Minnesota and beyond. The following sources offer starting points for learning about Dakhóta history and how Dakhóta people have sustained their language despite violent US policies. It is important to remember, as the scholar Waziyatawīn writes, that “the Dakota have a rich and complex past that far exceeds what can be found in an archive.”

- Clifford Canku and Michael Simon, *The Dakota Prisoner of War Letters: Dakota Kaškapi Okicize Wówapi* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2013).
- Carol Chomsky, “The United States-Dakota War Trials: A Study in Military Injustice,” *Stanford Law Review* 43, no. 1 (Nov. 1990): 13-98.
- Linda M. Clemmons, *Dakota in Exile: The Untold Stories of Captives in the Aftermath of the US-Dakota War* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2019).
- Philip J. Deloria, *Indians in Unexpected Places* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2004).
- Vine Deloria, Jr., *Singing for a Spirit: A Portrait of the Dakota Sioux* (Santa Fe: Clear Light Publishers, 1999).
- Nick Estes, *Our History Is the Future: Standing Rock versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance* (New York: Verso, 2019).
- Sarah Hernandez, *We Are the Stars: Colonizing and Decolonizing the Oceti Sakowin Literary Tradition* (Tucson: Arizona Historical Society Press, 2023).
- Stephen Kantrowitz, “White Supremacy, Settler Colonialism, and the Two Citizenships of the Fourteenth Amendment,” *The Journal of the Civil War Era* 10, no. 1 (2020).
- Chris Mato Nunpa, *The Great Evil: Christianity, the Bible, and the Native American Genocide* (Tucson: See Sharp Press, 2020).
- Oak Lake Writers’ Society, with Craig Howe, Lydia Whirlwind Soldier, and Lanniko L. Lee (eds.), *He Sapa Woihanble: Black Hills Dream* (St. Paul: Living Justice Press, 2011).
- Christopher J. Pexa, “Transgressive Adoptions: Dakota Prisoners’ Resistances to State Domination Following the 1862 U.S.-Dakota War,” *Wíčazo Ša Review* 30, no. 1 (2015).
- Jameson Sweet, “Native Suffrage: Race, Citizenship, and Dakota Indians in the Upper Midwest,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 39, no. 1 (Spring 2019).
- Waziyatawīn, *Remember This! Dakota Decolonization and the Eli Taylor Narratives*, trans. Wahpetunwīn Carolyn Schommer (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 2005).
- Gwen Westerman & Bruce White, *Mni Sota Makoce: The Land of the Dakota* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2012).
- Diane Wilson, *Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past* (St. Paul & Nepean, ON: Borealis Books, 2006).