as sovereign nations. Unfortunately, there are many, many fewer books about the Cherokee after the Removal than there are about the Cherokee before it. This book goes a long way towards filling in the gap between the Removal and current times. As the title states, it specifically covers the years from 1839 to 1880 (the end date seemed rather arbitrary, but it was as good a place to stop as any). The book's subtitle would imply that none of the history after 1880 is covered, but the author actually does go into a little bit of what happened up to the early 1900s. Obviously, as he says, the time of allotment and everything that happened during that is enough material for a book on its own (which unfortunately, he did not write), but he sketches out a rough image of what occurred. On the other hand, humanists in general and historians in particular usually tear down the scaffolding *many of them denying that they use a theoretical framework at all. Unfortunately, Rael has adopted the no-scaffolding approach in a well-written, original, information-laden book that very much needs a theoretical framework. He examines the political strategies adopted by African-Americans in the antebellum north, carefully linking them with black participation in the political debates of the new nation, and systematically explaining the relationship between the black elites who participated After the Trail of Tears: The Cherokees' Struggle for Sovereignty, 1839-1880 By William G. McLoughlin University of North Carolina Press, 1993. Read preview Overview. Monuments to Absence: Cherokee Removal and the Contest over Southern Memory By Andrew Denson University of North Carolina Press, 2017. Read preview Overview. Bending Their Way Onward: Creek Indian Removal in Documents By Christopher D. Haveman University of Nebraska Press, 2017. The Cherokee Removal and the Fourteenth Amendment By Magliocca, Gerard N Duke Law Journal, Vol. 53, No. 3, December 2003. Read preview Overview. Search for more books and articles on the Trail of Tears. Looking for a topic idea? Use Questia's Topic Generator. Related topics at Questia. After the Trail of Tears. The Cherokees' Struggle for Sovereignty, 1839-1880. By William G. McLoughlin. View Inside. This powerful narrative traces the social, cultural, and political history of the Cherokee Nation during the forty-year period after its members were forcibly removed from the southern Appalachians and resettled in what is now Oklahoma. In this master work, completed just before his death, William McLoughlin not only explains how the Cherokees rebuilt their lives and society, but also recounts their fight to govern themselves as a separate nation within the borders of the United States. Long regarded by whites as one of the 'civilized' tribes, the Cherokees had their own constitution. His final work, After the Trail of Tears: The Cherokees' Struggle for Sovereignty, 1839-1880, is a masterful insight into the Cherokee past. It ponders the most important issues of U.S.-Indian relations from Native American rights to national autonomy. This graceful political history of the Cherokees curing the Ante-bellum and Reconstruction era fills a gap occupied only by Morris Vandell's 1938 work. Unfortunately, while the subtitle suggests it, After the Trail of Tears does not adequately address the legal concept of American Indian sovereignty. The real "struggle" of the Cherokee Nation was for federal recognition of an inherent sovereignty that has always existed, and continues to exist today. References. Bays, B. (1995).