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# The Road That Got Us Here

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# The Road That Got us Here

By Kayla Rotz



## Upon Arrival...

We can find the romanticism of Native American culture nearly everywhere we look. The main vessels I speak of is advertisement as well as literature such as Emily Post. Upon reading *By Motor To The Golden Gate* by Emily Post, we may begin to see this romanticization. Through Post's journey across America she vividly describes everything she passes. Except for Native Americans, she mentions a Native girl, only mentioning the characteristics that define the girl's Indian-ness. This forces us to think of all Native Americans as one person. This is not true Native American Culture is an umbrella word but beneath it there are subcultures ready to share their uniqueness.

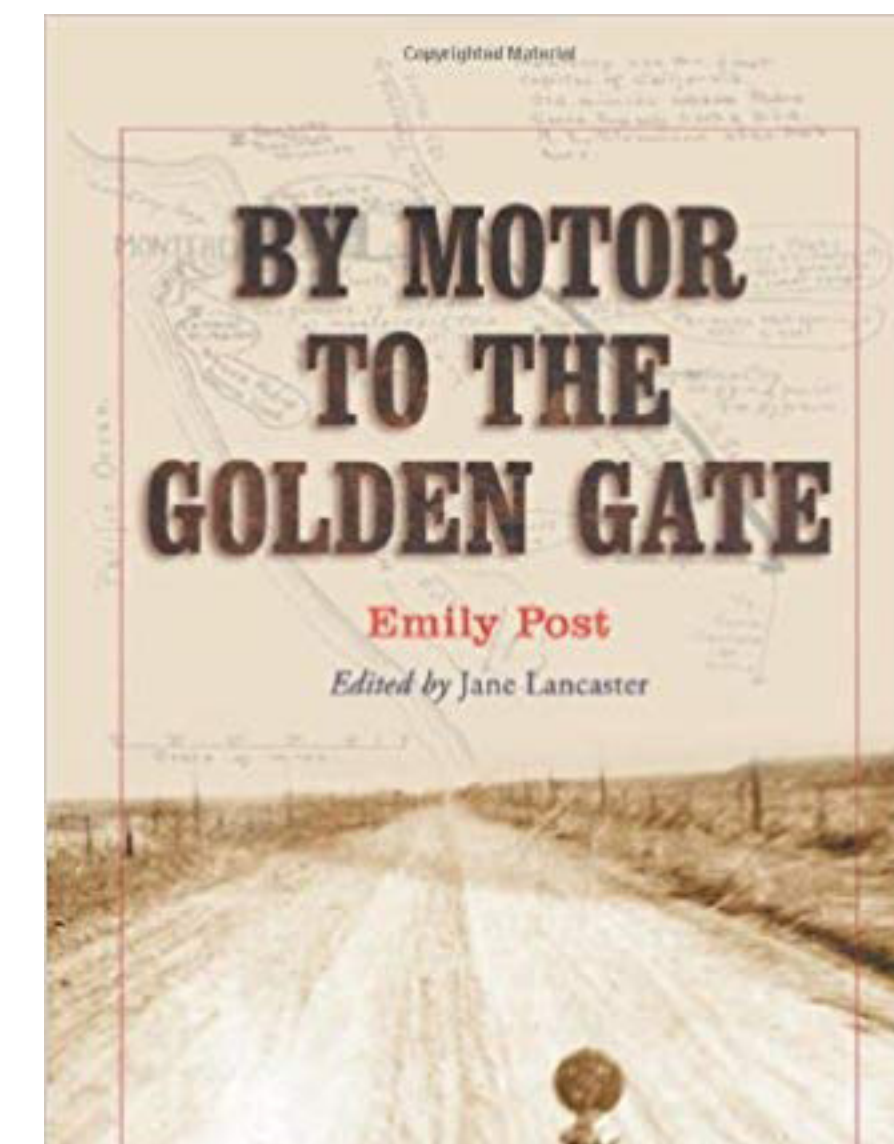
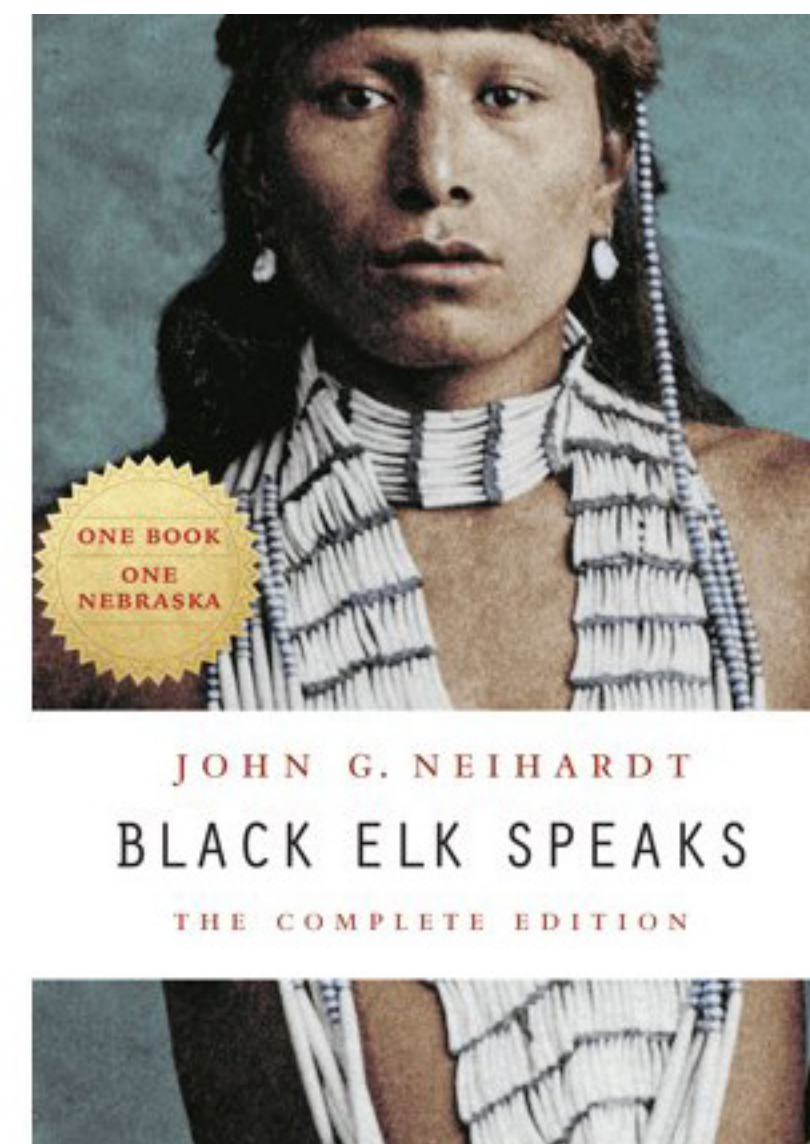
## How did we arrive here?

How did we reach such a form of romanticism between Native Americans and United States Citizens? The answer is in the question. By separating Native American people from the general American population we are destroying their culture which in turn subjects them to romanticization.

The American Government began by taking away land from Native American tribes across America. As their land dwindled so did their culture. The American Government used the Indian Education policy to take children away from their families and force assimilation upon them. Through this forced assimilation began the death of their culture.

Through *Black Elk Speaks* we may never know what it felt like to have our land taken from us, but we may begin to imagine.

*"The Wasichus had slaughtered all the bison and shut us up in pens. It looked as though we might all starve to death. We could not eat lies, and there was nothing we could do"* (Neihardt).



*"With straight black Indian hair, piled high under a lace mantilla, with necklaces of gold and silver and coral and turquoise as big as hen's eggs, with her modern American barely showing under her Indian blanket of holiest red, her head pillowed against the mountains of the north..."* (Post).

Carolina, Miranda A. *It's not just Chief Wahoo. "Why American Indian images became potent, cartoonish advertising symbols."* *Los Angeles Times*, 29 Jan 2018.  
 Neidhardt, John. *Black Elk Speaks the Complete Edition*. University of Nebraska Press, 1972.  
 Post, Emily. *By Motor to the Golden Gate*. McFarland and Company Publishing Inc., 2004.

