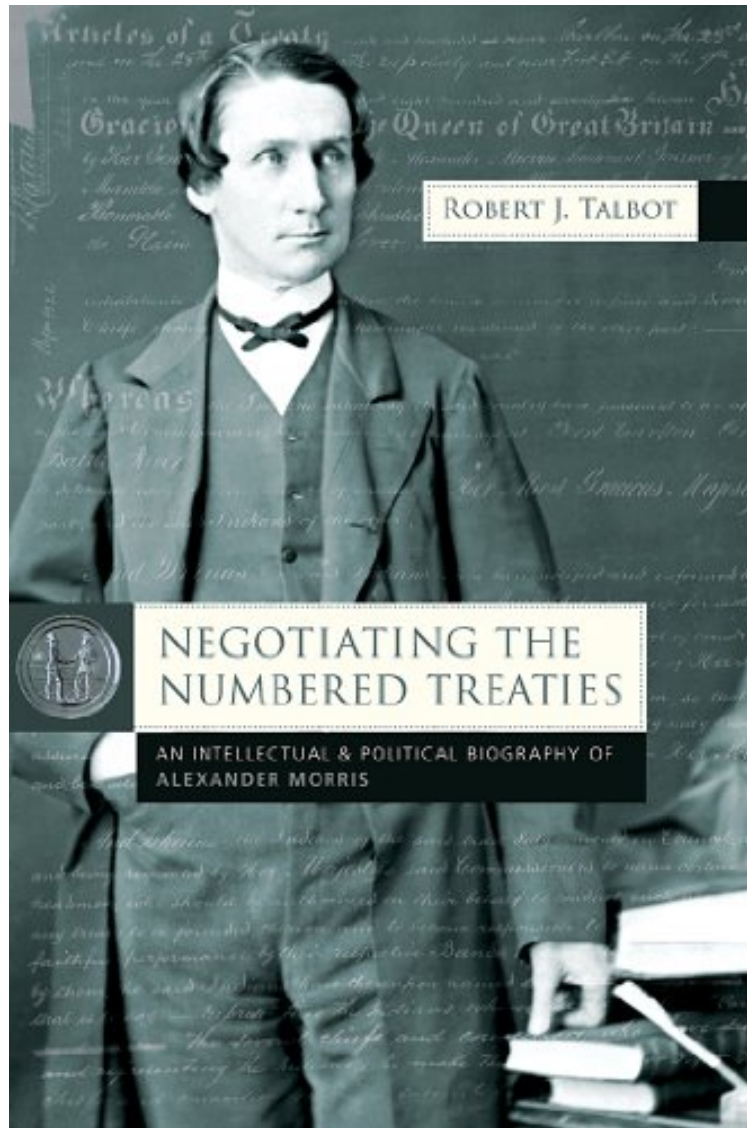


(Pdf free) Negotiating the Numbered Treaties: An Intellectual and Political History of Alexander Morris

Negotiating the Numbered Treaties: An Intellectual and Political History of Alexander Morris

Robert Talbot

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Robert Talbot : Negotiating the Numbered Treaties: An Intellectual and Political History of Alexander Morris before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Negotiating the Numbered Treaties: An Intellectual and Political History of Alexander Morris:

Alexander Morris, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and the North West Territories in the 1870s, was the main negotiator of many of the numbered treaties on the prairies and has often been portrayed as a parsimonious agent of the government, bent on taking advantage of First Nations chiefs and councillors. However, author Robert J. Talbot reveals Morris as a man deeply sympathetic to the challenges faced by Canada's Indigenous peoples as they sought to secure their future in the face of encroaching settlement and the disappearance of the buffalo. Both Morris and the First Nations negotiators viewed the treaties as the basis of a new, reciprocal arrangement, but by the end of his appointment, Morris was seriously at odds with a federal administration that preferred inaction over honouring its treaty promises.

Alexander Morris, the main negotiator of many of the numbered treaties on the prairies, has often been portrayed as a parsimonious agent of the government, bent on taking advantage of First Nations chiefs and councillors. Author Robert J. Talbot takes a different view. He sees Morris as a man deeply sympathetic to the challenges faced by Canada's Indigenous peoples as they sought to secure their future in the face of encroaching settlement and the disappearance of the buffalo. In Talbot's analysis, Morris held the chiefs in high esteem - he viewed them as wise and pragmatic leaders and skilled negotiators who made a convincing case for more favourable terms than Morris's colleagues in government were prepared to offer. As Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba and the North West Territories in the 1870s, Morris was responsible for negotiating Treaties 3 to 6, and renegotiating Treaties 1 and 2. According to Talbot, both Morris and the First Nations negotiators viewed the treaties as the basis of a new, reciprocal arrangement among those who would share the land. Indeed, by the end of his appointment, Morris was seriously at odds with a myopic federal administration that favoured inaction over honouring its treaty promises. Talbot's research reveals Morris as a man of his time - but also a man who managed to embrace a larger concept of nationhood than successive federal governments imagined or were willing to accept. This is Morris's story, but it is equally the story of the prairie treaties and the western expansion of Canada. This book is a must read for anyone seeking to understand confederation, the western expansion of Canada, and the treaties that are so important in First Nations - governmental relations today. About the Author Robert J. Talbot is an Ottawa-based historian with an extensive interest in Aboriginal/governmental relations and originally from the Treaty 4 area.