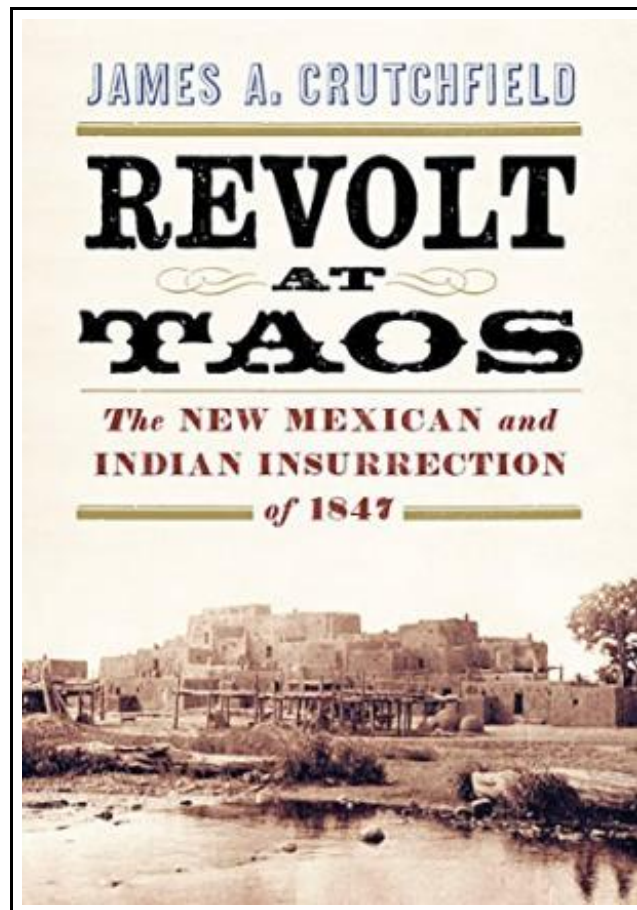


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Westholme/BOMC. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. On January 19, 1847, Charles Bent newly appointed governor of the American-claimed territory of New Mexico was scalped and murdered at his home in Don Fernando de Taos, north of Santa Fe, by Mexican settlers and Indians from nearby Taos Pueblo, who refused to recognize the U.S. occupation. Five other leading citizens were massacred in Taos, and some 15 more the next day; the rebellion climaxed in early February, when a U.S. Army force laid siege to hundreds of rebels occupying the church in Pueblo de Taos. Surviving participants in the earlier Taos murders were arrested, tried in American-dominated courts, and, within weeks, hanged for their actions. The murder of Bent and the others at Taos and the subsequent trials and executions brought with them misunderstanding, controversy, mistrust, and recrimination on both sides of the issue. The events also subjected President James Polk's administration to censure over what some critics believed was an overextension of presidential authority in claiming New Mexico as a territory. James Crutchfield the winner of the Owen Wister Award for Lifetime Achievement in Western History and Literature traces the fast-moving events surrounding the revolt, which left the native inhabitants of New Mexico wondering how their neighbors and kinsmen could be tried and executed for what they considered the honorable defense of their country. 229.



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