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Remembering Greasy Grass: The Battle, Aftermath, and Legacy in Native American History and Memory

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The Battle of the Greasy Grass (Little Bighorn) is a watershed event in the westward expansion of the United States. It is also a foundational experience of the trials and tribulations of Native American life in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The common narrative surrounding this battle is one that focuses on the redemption of defeat. The Anglocentric story of George Custer and his last stand conjures images of America's Manifest Destiny. However, the true gravity of the moment gets lost in translation as the voices of an underserved population are drowned out. Through study of Native eyewitness accounts this project seeks reject the traditional narrative of what happened on the plains of Montana on June 25, 1876. Additionally, with the help of testimonies from a younger generation of Native Americans keen on honoring the legacy of their predecessors, this conflict and its aftermath can be properly contextualized, and the voices of a marginalized and underserved population uplifted.