

# PRELUDE TO THE DUST BOWL

## Drought in the Nineteenth-Century Southern Plains

By Kevin Z. Sweeney

 UNIVERSITY OF  
OKLAHOMA PRESS

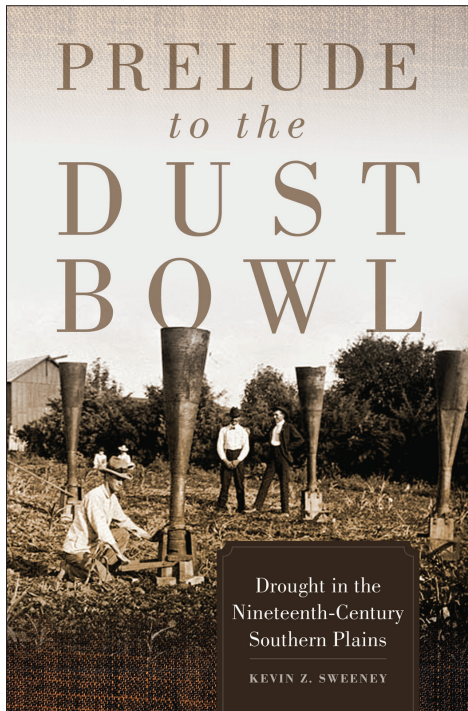
AUGUST 2016

\$34.95s CLOTH 978-0-8061-5340-7

304 PAGES, 6.125 X 9.25

6 B&W ILLUS., 2 MAPS

U.S. HISTORY/ENVIRONMENT



*Considers the role of drought in Anglo-American settlement of the plains*





Before the drought of the early twenty-first century, the dry benchmark in the American plains was the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. But in this eye-opening work, Kevin Z. Sweeney reveals that the Dust Bowl was only one cycle in a series of droughts on the U.S. southern plains. Reinterpreting our nation's nineteenth-century history through paleoclimatological data and firsthand accounts of four dry periods in the 1800s, *Prelude to the Dust Bowl* demonstrates the dramatic and little-known role drought played in settlement, migration, and war on the plains.

Stephen H. Long's famed military expedition coincided with the drought of the 1820s, which prompted Long to label the southern plains a "Great American Desert"—a destination many Anglo-Americans thought ideal for removing Southeastern Indian tribes to in the 1830s. The second dry trend, from 1854 to 1865, drove bison herds northeastward, fomenting tribal warfare, and deprived Civil War armies in Indian Territory of vital commissary. In the late 1880s and mid-1890s, two more periods of drought triggered massive outmigration from the southern plains as well as appeals from farmers and congressmen for federal famine relief, pleas quickly denied by President Grover Cleveland. Sweeney's interpretation of familiar

events through the lens of drought lays the groundwork for understanding why the U.S. government's reaction to the Dust Bowl of the 1930s was such a radical departure from previous federal responses.

*Prelude to the Dust Bowl* provides new insights into pivotal moments in the settlement of the southern plains and stands as a timely reminder that drought, as part of a natural climatic cycle, will continue to figure in the unfolding history of this region.

Kevin Z. Sweeney is Professor of Geography and History at Wayland Baptist University. His research is grounded in the environmental and social history of the southern Great Plains and the Southwest.

<b>ORDER</b>			<b>UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS</b> · 2800 VENTURE DRIVE · NORMAN, OK 73069-8216		
<b>PRELUDE TO THE DUST BOWL</b>			OR CALL: (800) 627-7377 OR (405) 325-2000 · FAX: (800) 735-0476 OR (405) 364-5798 · ORDER ONLINE AT OUPRESS.COM		
<b>Drought in the Nineteenth-Century Southern Plains</b>			NAME _____		
By Kevin Z. Sweeney			ENCLOSED IS MY		
PRICE EACH QTY SUBTOTAL			[ ] MONEY ORDER [ ] CHECK (TO OUPRESS)		
\$34.95 Cloth			ADDRESS _____		
SHIPPING & HANDLING* _____			PLEASE CHARGE MY		
TAX _____			[ ]  [ ]  [ ]  [ ] 		
TOTAL _____			CITY _____		
			CARD NO. _____		
			EXPIRATION DATE _____		
			DAYTIME PHONE _____		
			SIGNATURE _____		

\*PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDERS FROM INDIVIDUALS. FOR DOMESTIC ORDERS, PLEASE ADD \$5.00 USPS SHIPPING FOR THE FIRST BOOK AND \$1.50 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. FOR UPS/PRIORITY SHIPPING, ADD \$8.00 FOR THE FIRST BOOK, AND \$2.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. INTERNATIONAL ORDERS, INCLUDING CANADA, ADD \$15.00 USPS SHIPPING FOR THE FIRST BOOK, AND \$10.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL BOOK. RESIDENTS OF OKLAHOMA MUST INCLUDE 8.25% SALES TAX. CANADIAN ORDERS ADD 5% GST. WE ACCEPT CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, AND AMERICAN EXPRESS. PRICES AND AVAILABILITY SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA IS AN EQUAL-OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. WWW.OU.EDU/EOE