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Despite evidence of warfare and violent conflict in pre-Columbian North America, some revisionist writers continue to argue that scholars have exaggerated the scale and scope of Native American violence. They contend that scholarly misrepresentation has denigrated indigenous peoples as "savages" when in fact they lived together in peace and harmony. In rebutting that contention, this groundbreaking book presents clear evidence from multiple academic disciplines that indigenous populations engaged in violent, bloody behavior long before European contact. In eleven well-documented and thoroughly researched chapters, fourteen leading scholars dispassionately describe sources and consequences of Amerindian warfare and violence, including ritual violence. Originally presented at a landmark symposium, their findings construct a convincing case that bloodshed and killing have been woven into the fabric of indigenous life in North America for many centuries. The editors argue that a failure to acknowledge the roles of warfare and violence in the lives of indigenous North Americans is itself a vestige of colonial repression depriving native warriors of their history of armed resistance. Denying the existence of warfare and killing, they maintain, has served to define native cultures from non-native perspectives, and the way to counter such ahistorical perspectives is to let the facts speak for themselves.