## Contents

Acknowledgements | ix

Introduction | 1

1 A Unified Field Theory of the Great Plains | 17

2 Exploring the Explorers | 45

3 Spiritual and Intellectual Resistance to Conquest, Part 1: Custer and Riel | 63

4 Spiritual and Intellectual Resistance to Conquest, Part 2: Messianism, the 1885 Northwest Resistance, and the 1890 Lakota Ghost Dance | 79

5 Spiritual and Intellectual Resistance to Conquest, Part 3: John Joseph Mathews’ *WahKon-Tah* and John G. Neihardt’s *Black Elk Speaks* | 111

6 Intellectual Justification for Conquest: Comparative Historiography of the Canadian and US Wests | 127

7 Homesteading as Capital Formation on the Great Plains | 143

8 The Women’s West | 167

9 And Still the Waters | 185

10 Dust Bowls | 205

11 Mitigating but Not Rethinking: George W. Norris, Tommy Douglas, and the Great Plains | 217

12 Planning and Economic Theory | 243

13 Mouse Beans and Drowned Rivers | 265

14 Oil | 275

15 Arts, Justice, and Hope on the Great Plains | 291

Conclusion | 319

Notes | 333

Credits | 365

Index | 367