

“Sioux Performing a War Dance” (1890s)

Abstract

This is an illustration by Rudolf Cronau, a German painter and travel writer who made his first career depicting scenes of American life—and especially of the American West—to the German public. He eventually resettled in the United States in the 1890s, living in Washington D.C., and became a naturalized American citizen in 1901.

The illustration here appears in Friedrich Ratzel’s *Völkerkunde* (translated in English as *The History of Mankind*), a richly illustrated popular book on ethnography/anthropology, which borrows images from a wide variety of sources. Native Americans appear frequently in Ratzel’s book and many other contemporary publications, reflecting the fascination Native Americans held for Germans in the nineteenth and well into the twentieth century.

Source



Source: Friedrich Ratzel, *Völkerkunde* vol. 2, 2nd ed., Leipzig, 1894, p. 565.

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