

Journal #4323

from sdc

1.3.19

“Indigenous Peoples’ History” Resource Guide

Native Voices: Speaker Event

1/18/18

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Indigenous Peoples’ History: An Annotated Bibliography

Teaching American Indian history, or history in general, has transformed dramatically over the past 20 years. Much of this is due to technological advancements such as PowerPoint, online resources, and web platforms such as Blackboard. But in large part it is also due to our changing perspectives on the past. The one truism to remember when teaching history is that all history is revisionism.

Our present-day realities shape the way we think about the past and interpret historical trends and figures. All too often, wide-eyed freshmen (and many others) cling to the notion that somehow history is a social science. Many institutions place the field in the social sciences department, right alongside psychology, sociology, and anthropology. It’s true that history is based on a set of facts and events that are unchangeable. For example, Christopher Columbus’ three ships—the Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria—landed on an island in what is today the Bahamas in the year 1,492 of the Gregorian calendar. But our interpretation of those facts changes dramatically from generation to generation. Years ago, many people learned that Columbus “discovered” America and that the world changed for the better because of it, a belief held so strongly that the United States has a federal holiday commemorating the man. Today, I would venture to guess that very few college-level instructors teach this interpretation of Columbus and his voyage. While all may not portray him as a man driven by greed who committed countless atrocities, most at least complicate the narrative and point out that there is more than one story about Columbus.

In many ways, tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) are on the cutting edge of such historical revisionism. Long before perspectives on Columbus changed at mainstream institutions, TCUs offered an Indigenous perspective on the man and what his voyage meant for the millions of people living in the Americas. Indeed, a uniquely Native interpretation of events has been applied to the field of history at TCUs, setting them apart from their peer institutions. Fortunately, mainstream colleges and universities have diversified, opening the door to Native voices and historical interpretations. The historiography is also changing. Today there is an ever-growing body of literature that revamps our understanding of the past. Much of it is based on new evidence, both oral and archival, but other studies give new interpretations using the same historical records that previous generations of historians utilized.

Below are 10 history books that TCU educators may find useful. While Native historians have authored some of them, there are also titles by non-Natives, further evidence that Native voices are influencing the wider academy. In another 20 years, I am sure that some of these books will seem antiquated and out of

touch with the then present realities. Just remember, all history is revisionism—and if you think that historians and educators today have had the final word on Columbus, you're wrong.

Calloway, C.G. (1997). *New Worlds for All: Indians, Europeans, and the Remaking of Early America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Historian Colin Calloway helped revise American Indian history in the academy with the publication of this award-winning book. Unlike previous studies that focused on how Europeans imposed their institutions on Native people and changed them forever, Calloway explores how the contact experience was a two-way street. He argues that Native people and culture profoundly influenced the invading Europeans and that, together, they created a new, distinctly American society.

Denetdale, J.N. (2007). *Reclaiming Diné History: The Legacies of Navajo Chief Manuelito and Juanita*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

In her first book, Jennifer Nez Denetdale pulled few punches in her excoriation of the academy and how Western scholarship is another form of imperialism. The first citizen of the Navajo Nation to earn a Ph.D. in history, Denetdale employs some unique methods to make her case. She examines popular constructions of Chief Manuelito and Juanita, studying photographs, stories, and even their clothing. Uncompromising and ideological, Denetdale's study helped forge a new path in the academy for Indigenous peoples' history.

Dunbar-Ortiz, R. (2014). *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Perhaps more than any publication in the past decade, this book dramatically showcases recent historical revisionism. It is a scorching condemnation of the United States as a settler-colonial state built on White supremacy and genocide. Dunbar-Ortiz rips previous historical interpretations (including many in this bibliography) as perpetuating national myths and rationalizing land theft and murder. Even the multiculturalism that informs many histories today fails to escape Dunbar-Ortiz's indictment, which she claims is "an insidious smoke screen" that obscures the country's "national chauvinism" and sordid history. Written concisely and accessibly, this book packs a powerful ideological punch.

Fixico, D.L. (2013). *Indian Resilience and Rebuilding: Indigenous Nations in the Modern American West*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Donald Fixico, a Native historian who currently teaches at Arizona State University, has authored or edited numerous volumes over the past 30 years. In his most recent book, he re-conceptualizes modern American Indian history as one of great achievement and progress. Where most histories focus on the tragedies of allotment, assimilation, termination, and relocation, Fixico explores the expansion of sovereignty and self-determination. Native nations were on the "verge of extinction in 1890," he says, but persevered and went on to build their communities, harness resources, and protect their land base. The road was hard

and there remain many obstacles ahead, but Fixico maintains historians should “look anew at what has been accomplished by Indians” over the past century.

Hoxie, F.E. (2012). *This Indian Country: American Indian Activists and the Place They Made*. New York: Penguin.

Acclaimed historian Frederick Hoxie traces American Indian history using biographies of Native activists who worked on behalf of their tribal communities. Some of the subjects in this book will be familiar to readers, while others will not. But by illuminating these obscured histories, Hoxie shows how individuals have deftly utilized political and legal channels for the betterment of Indian Country and the larger Native community.

Jennings, F. (1975). *The Invasion of America: Indians, Colonialism, and the Cant of Conquest*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. *Francis Jennings' groundbreaking book did the same for professional or academic history as Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* did for popular history. While Brown's bestseller focused on the American West, Jennings uses New England as his case study of European conquest and its catastrophic effect on the Native nations. Jennings was writing during the Watergate scandal and a low point in Americans' trust in government institutions, which clearly had a profound influence on the tenor of this study.*

Mann, C.C. (2005). *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*. New York: Vintage Books.

Charles C. Mann was not trained as an academic historian, but he does have a profound gift for writing. This acclaimed, bestselling popular history is both highly readable and intellectually stimulating. Mann brings to the masses a dramatic reconceptualization of the Americas before contact. Utilizing a variety of methodologies, his book shows how Native people transformed landscapes and made impressive technological advancements long before the arrival of Europeans.

Nabokov, P. (Ed.). (1991). *Native American Testimony: A Chronicle of Indian-White Relations from Prophecy to the Present, 1492-1992*. New York: Penguin.

Unlike the other books on this list, Nabokov's edited volume presents a collection of Native voices from the past 500 years, offering Indigenous perspectives on major historical events and developments. Recently, Nabokov has been heavily criticized for his book *The Origin Myth of Acoma Pueblo*, which revealed sacred stories without the tribe's consent. This volume, however, has been widely acclaimed, including accolades from Vine Deloria Jr. who penned the foreword. The book presents a wide array of Native viewpoints on issues ranging from Anglo trade practices during the colonial or early republic eras to the Alcatraz occupation and beyond.

Richter, D.K. (2001). *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

“If we shift our perspective to try to view the past in a way that faces east from Indian country, history takes on a very different appearance,” asserts historian Daniel Richter. That is how this Pulitzer Prize finalist approaches the early history of what would evolve into the United States. Rather than succumb to the classic national story of westward expansion, readers view the contact experience and its repercussions from Indian Country, which, Richter reminds us, was America until recently.

Roessel, R. (1974). *Navajo Livestock Reduction: A National Disgrace*. Chinle, AZ: Navajo Community College Press.

Diné College founder Ruth Roessel compiled this collection of stories and oral histories chronicling the federal government’s livestock reduction program of the 1930s. All of the stories are firsthand accounts from Navajo people who experienced this tragic chapter in American history. Moreover, this was one of the first titles from the first tribal college press, further underscoring the historiographical significance of Roessel’s work. Difficult to find, this gem is as much about self-determination and sovereignty in the historical discourse as it is about livestock reduction.

Bradley Shreve, Ph.D., taught history at Diné College for several years and currently is managing editor of Tribal College Journal.

You might also be interested in

- [Frontiers and Perspectives](#)
- [The Ojibwe Who Slew the Wiindigo](#)
- [Nanaboozhoo and the Wiindigo: An Ojibwe History from Colonization to the Present](#)
- [Haskell Ag Lab Called Key to UNL’s Work in Northeast Nebraska](#)

Employment Opportunities

- [Assistant, Associate, Full Professor \(Basic Science\)](#) December 21, 2018
- [English Assistant Professor](#) December 21, 2018
- [Data Curation Librarian](#) December 21, 2018
- [Research Station Archeologist-Arkansas Archeological Survey](#) December 21, 2018
- [English as a Second Language \(ESL\) Assistant Professor](#) December 20, 2018

Native Voices: Speaker Event 1/18/18



- [Home](#)
- [Speaker Event 1/18/18](#)
- [Online Exhibit](#)

Schedule

Native Voices Welcome Reception

5:00 pm in the Savitt Medical Library (UNR)
with Native American-inspired refreshments.

Program in the Lower Level Foyer

6:00 pm Opening Prayer

6:15 pm Guest Speaker Presentations on Food

Sovereignty

- Dr. Melissa Nelson
- Dr. & Chef Lois Ellen Frank

7:00 pm Book Signing



Speakers

Melissa K. Nelson, Ph.D. (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) - President/CEO - a Native ecologist, writer, media-maker and indigenous scholar-activist. She is the President/CEO of The Cultural Conservancy, which she had directed since 1993. She is Professor of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University.
<http://www.nativeland.org/aboutus/>



Lois Ellen Frank, Ph.D. (Kiowa) - A Santa Fe, New Mexico based chef, author, Native foods historian and photographer Lois Ellen Frank was born in New York City and raised on Long Island, New York with her father's side of the family. She is from the Kiowa Nation on her mother's side and Sephardic on her father's side.
<http://redmesacuisine.com/loisellenfrank/>

From Grist's 2018 50 List

Joseph Kunkel, Executive Director, Sustainable Native Communities Collaborative, Santa Fe, New Mexico

He has a blueprint for native communities

Native American reservations currently need to add 200,000 units of affordable housing, says Kunkel. And filling that shortfall with well-designed structures

could bring down energy costs, so family dollars can go toward healthier food and better quality of life.

“If we can figure out ways of solving the housing issue in Indian country, I think that will start to alleviate other pressures,” says the architect, planner, and educator.



Kunkel’s nonprofit design firm helps tribes develop greener communities. Kunkel takes both a technical and cultural approach to development projects: He and his firm weave together architectural design and sustainable planning with the nuanced cultural traditions of each tribe they work with. In an ongoing project with the Crow Creek Sioux community in South Dakota, for example, he’s developing housing with open-plan areas for living and dining, non-toxic finishes, solar elements, and an integrated storm shelter.

The process can transform the way communities live. At the same time, it’s a return to old ideas, says Kunkel, who is a member of the Northern Cheyenne: “The teepee was a structure that understood the climate in which it was built.”

Mariah Gladstone

She'll teach you to cook bison lasagna

Founder, Indigikitchen

Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Montana

Gladstone spent her summers on Montana’s Blackfeet Reservation, where the nearest grocery store was 40 miles away — and where diabetes rates are [sky-high](#).



That’s no coincidence, she says. It’s the result of the appropriation of Indian lands, the eradication of essential food species, the destruction of ecosystems, and the suppression of culture. “We have lost a lot of traditional knowledge associated with preparing, hunting, and gathering those foods,” she explains, like the bison, berries, and roots that her tribe once relied upon. Groups like the Native Farm Bill Coalition are working to provide Native Americans with access to fresh produce and meat, but according to Gladstone, communities have to be interested for such initiatives to succeed.

Her project, [Indigikitchen](#), attempts to revive that knowledge and reawaken that interest. Every week, she releases two-minute videos showcasing recipes such as butternut bison lasagna and pumpkin seed brownies. They are simple, nourishing, and environmentally friendly. Since she launched the project in fall 2016, she’s

given a TEDx talk, testified in the Senate on the proposed Farm Bill, and collaborated with the USDA on indigenous culinary customs. (“Hey guys,” she quips, “maybe you should add ‘or bison’ to your guidelines!”)

Her next project: using her Columbia University degree in environmental engineering to help the city of Whitefish, Montana, draft a climate-action plan.

Esau Sinnok

Rising seas threaten this Alaskan's town. He's suing.

Student and plaintiff

Fairbanks, Alaska

The Inupiat town of Shishmaref, Alaska, is on a tiny island off the coast of the Seward Peninsula. It’s closer to Russia than to any part of the lower 48 — remote by any measure. It’s also drowning in the rising Chukchi Sea. Sinnok, who was born and raised in Shishmaref, is making damn sure that the rest of the world knows about it.

“I was raised by my community,” Sinnok says. “Every single person back at home I think of as family members. I want to do anything I can to help them.”

You may have seen him at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015, or with the international coalition the Arctic Council, or in court with Our Children’s Trust, suing the state of Alaska for failing to protect its citizens from climate change.

Sinnok is currently a junior at University of Alaska Fairbanks. He’s on a schedule: He plans to intern with a state legislator after graduation, run his own campaign by 2022, and run for governor by 2030. He doesn’t say anything about the Oval Office — but we wouldn’t rule it out.

For more: [Grist 50: 2018 | Grist](https://grist.org/grist-50/2018/)
<https://grist.org/grist-50/2018/> Because the World Needs **Fixers**. ... Welcome to **Grist 50 2018**. Want a reason to feel hopeful ... We like to call these forward-thinking phenoms **Fixers**.? They are ...

It’s a chapter of U.S. and Canadian history that many prefer to forget—and that many of us never even learned.

[NASA’s list of the best air-filtering houseplants.](#)

[This app makes your phone buzz when you approach places where women made history.](#) *And the Native American equivalent in your community?* sdc

November 18, 1948.

Dear Parents,

It will be your privilege this year to have your children spend Christmas at home with you. The holidays will extend from DECEMBER 18th. to JANUARY 3rd. This is a privilege which is being granted if you observe the following regulations of the Indian Department.

1. THE TRANSPORTATION TO THE HOME AND BACK TO THE SCHOOL MUST BE PAID BY THE PARENTS.

The parents must come themselves to get their own children. If they are unable to come they must send a letter to the Principal of the school stating that the parents of other children from the same Reserve may bring them home. The children will not be allowed to go home alone on the train or bus.

2. THE PARENTS MUST BRING THE CHILDREN BACK TO THE SCHOOL STRICTLY ON TIME.

If the children are not returned to School on time they will not be allowed to go home for Christmas next year.

[This cruel Christmas letter from an Indian boarding school offers a vital history lesson.](#)

“As 2018 draws to a close, I’m continuing a favorite tradition of mine and sharing my year-end lists. It gives me a moment to pause and reflect on the year through the books, movies, and music that I found most thought-provoking, inspiring, or just plain loved,” he wrote on Facebook. “It also gives me a chance to highlight talented authors, artists, and storytellers – some who are household names and others who you may not have heard of before.”

Barack Obama’s favorite books of 2018:

“Becoming” by Michelle Obama (obviously my favorite!)

“An American Marriage” by Tayari Jones

“Americanah” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

“The Broken Ladder: How Inequality Affects the Way We Think, Live, and Die” by Keith Payne

“Educated” by Tara Westover

“Factfulness” by Hans Rosling

“Futureface: A Family Mystery, an Epic Quest, and the Secret to Belonging” by Alex Wagner

“A Grain of Wheat” by Ngugi wa Thiong’o

“A House for Mr Biswas” by V.S. Naipaul

“How Democracies Die” by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt

“In the Shadow of Statues: A White Southerner Confronts History” by Mitch Landrieu

“Long Walk to Freedom” by Nelson Mandela
“The New Geography of Jobs” by Enrico Moretti
“The Return” by Hisham Matar
“Things Fall Apart” by Chinua Achebe
“Warlight” by Michael Ondaatje
“Why Liberalism Failed” by Patrick Deneen
“The World As It Is” by Ben Rhodes
“American Prison” by Shane Bauer
“Arthur Ashe: A Life” by Raymond Arsenault
“Asymmetry” by Lisa Halliday
“Feel Free” by Zadie Smith
“Florida” by Lauren Groff
“Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom” by David W. Blight
“Immigrant, Montana” by Amitava Kumar
“The Largesse of the Sea Maiden” by Denis Johnson
“Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence” by Max Tegmark
“There There” by Tommy Orange
“Washington Black” by Esi Edugyan

AND WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK/MOVIE/VIDEO OF 2018?

[2018: The Year in America's Water](#)

Monitoring wells stand as silent sentinels on the grounds of a fire training site at Wurtsmith Air Force Base. Chemicals used at the site have contaminated nearby groundwater, rivers, and lakes. Photo © Brett Walton / Circle of Blue

What was water in the United States this year? For one, it was visible — and vividly so.

Red tides of algae and dead turtles on Florida’s coasts. Ashen skies and drained reservoirs in the western states, where fires and aridity reigned. Foaming rivers and lakes in Michigan, a consequence of PFAS chemicals stirred to a froth.

Such dramatic environmental change is not entirely new.

But the magnitude and severity of the changes today — larger, wetter, drier than



before — is new. Growing, too, is the number of people in harm’s way. The combination — the rumblings of a dyspeptic planet and people living in vulnerable areas — have forced regulators and politicians to take notice. [Read the full story](#)

https://blackthen.com/the-real-lone-ranger-was-an-african-american-lawman-who-lived-with-native-american-indians/?utm_source=Sites+News+%28all%29&utm_campaign=623a370e01-MAILCHIMP_RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_921c5d9fc0-623a370e01-103690429&mc_cid=623a370e01&mc_eid=e2af8e8327

weforum.org

Chocolate could be extinct by 2040

Cacao plants are slated to disappear by as early as 2050 thanks to...

These Are the Animals That Went Extinct in 2018

Mark Kaufman, Mashable

Kaufman writes: "With the end of 2018 comes the near-certain reality that some critters, after millions of years of existence on Earth, are gone for good."

[READ MORE](#)

Finding Fremont: Pathfinder of the West

Wed, Jan 02, 2019 at 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Price: Free

Additional Times

Thu, Jan 03, 2019 at 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Fri, Jan 04, 2019 at 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sat, Jan 05, 2019 at 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sun, Jan 06, 2019 at 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Mon, Jan 07, 2019 at 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Tue, Jan 08, 2019 at 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Contact Information

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Finding Frémont: Pathfinder of the West highlights Lt. John C. Frémont’s 1842-44 expeditions to Oregon country and Alta California, Mexico, to map and describe the Oregon Trail. These heroic journeys established Frémont as the “Pathfinder,” and set the stage for his public service as soldier and politician.

[Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas](#)

309 S. Valley View Blvd in Springs Preserve Las Vegas, NV 89107

Shutdown Leaves Food, Medicine and Pay in Doubt in Indian Country - The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/01/us/native-american-government-shutdown.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>