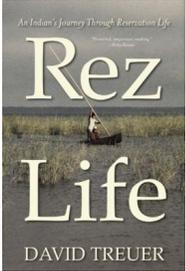


Books by the Stack



Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life by David Treuer

David Treuer, who grew up on an Ojibwe reservation, draws on his background, storytelling skills, and eye for detail to craft a multifaceted journey into the history of reservations, and a look at what life is like on the rez today. This is history told from the inside out, a rare and captivating story of hardship and resilience.

Why you'll like it: *Native American life, plain spoken, history and culture.*

About the Author:

Celebrated novelist David Treuer has gained a reputation for writing fiction that expands the horizons of Native American literature. In *Rez Life*, his first full-length work of nonfiction, Treuer brings a novelist's storytelling skill and an eye for detail to a complex and subtle examination of Native American reservation life, past and present. With authoritative research and reportage, Treuer illuminates misunderstood contemporary issues of sovereignty, treaty rights, and natural-resource conservation. He traces the waves of public policy that have disenfranchised and exploited Native Americans, exposing the tension that has marked the historical relationship between the United States government and the Native American population. Through the eyes of students, teachers, government administrators, lawyers, and tribal court judges, he shows how casinos, tribal government, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have transformed the landscape of Native American life. A member of the Ojibwe of northern Minnesota, Treuer grew up on Leech Lake Reservation, but was educated in mainstream America. Exploring crime and poverty, casinos and wealth, and the preservation of native language and culture, *Rez Life* is a strikingly original work of history and reportage, a must read for anyone interested in the Native American story.

Questions for Discussion

1. What problems do communities face on the reservations? Off? How have they changed?
2. What does 'sovereignty' mean for reservations, emotionally and legally, and what does it mean to you? Do all these definitions match? Should they?
3. Where is the line between memory and history? Is it distinct? Is it important?
4. What place do memories have in the book and in our own lives?
5. Have reservation issues touched your life? If so, how? If not, why not?
6. Family and heritage are clearly important in *Rez Life*. How do your relationships with your family and heritage dictate the manner in which you live your life? Does this feel like a responsibility or a blessing? Both?
7. Change is almost as hard to affect as it is to accept. What changes have reservations undergone since their inception? Do You think reservations should attempt more change? Where and why?

8. What role does the United States Government play in reservation politics?

9. Nationalism and a kind of isolationism are both themes in *Rez Life*. How do reservations provide community and support and how do they take it away?

10. Do you find the end of the book is ultimately uplifting? Why or why not?

(Questions by Minnesota Book Awards)



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