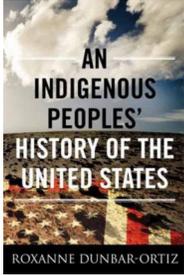


Books by the Stack



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Told from the point of view of Native Americans, Dunbar-Ortiz challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how the policies against the indigenous peoples was genocidal and imperialist.

Why you'll like it: *Enlightening. Scholarly. Thought-provoking.*

About the Author: Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz grew up in rural Oklahoma, the daughter of a tenant farmer and part-Indian mother. She has been active in the international Indigenous movement for more than four decades and is known for her lifelong commitment to national and international social justice issues. Her 1977 book *The Great Sioux Nation* was the fundamental document at the first international conference on Indigenous peoples of the Americas, held at the United Nations' headquarters in Geneva. Dunbar-Ortiz is the author or editor of seven other books, including *Roots of Resistance: A History of Land Tenure in New Mexico*. She lives in San Francisco.

Questions for Discussion

1. What did you learn growing up about Indigenous People in the United States, their culture, history and myths that surround them? What was your source of learning? Has reading this book changed your understanding of what you thought you knew?
2. What stories, fact, or historical events mentioned in the book are most memorable to you? How did they touch you?
3. What narratives did you learn about the United States American holidays as they relate to native people? How have your understandings changed? How do those changes affect your sense of personal and national identity?
4. How did you respond to this book's retelling of United States history?
5. Has this book changed your understanding of the history of a particular place or region in the United States which is important to you?
6. Do words such as invaded genocide and unlimited warfare describing the settlement of the United States alter your understanding? How does this contrast with words like clash of cultures and assimilation? Why does the way we tell the story matter so much?
7. If you don't identify as Indigenous, are you aware of the voices and concerns of contemporary Indigenous peoples? Who or what has raised your awareness?
8. If you do identify as Indigenous, how is the sense of place connected to your identity?

9. How do we as a nation talk about (or not talk about) the death marches, ethnic cleansing, physical and cultural genocide, land theft and other racist policies and actions?

10. Dunbar-Ortiz quotes the late Native Historian Jack Forbes who often stressed that, “while living persons are not responsible for what their ancestors did, they are responsible for the society they live in, which is a product of that past.” What responsibility do we, our communities and our nation have for the ways in which our society is product of the past?

11. Dunbar-Ortiz states that the central question of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* is “How might acknowledging the reality of United States history work to transform society?” How might acknowledging the reality of United States history work to transform your understanding of your own identity, and the stories told in your family, your local community, and/or your congregation?

12. How has your knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Peoples' history in the United State deepened or changed through your reading?

(Questions provided by the Unitarian Universalist Association)



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