
Two attorneys, both professors of political science, have written this book on American Indians and the American legal system to clarify American Indian people's place vis-a-vis the United States system of justice. The first chapter provides a much-needed historical context for the current situations. The authors trace the rather convoluted pattern of Indian-U.S. relationships from first contact with the "great white father" through the treaty system, allotment, the Indian Reorganization Act, termination policies, and self-determination, evaluating the malign or benign effects of several presidents. Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon had positive influences on legislation focusing on American Indians; however, during the Eisenhower and Carter administrations, Indians did not fare as well. The Reagan administration has been openly hostile to American Indian rights, and Deloria and Lytle provide the historical background for evaluating recent problems.

The authors outline and discuss the large body of law which regulates the lives of American Indians, explaining the often-conflicting tribal, state, and federal jurisdiction over Indian people. Particularly enlightening are the examples of how traditional tribal law operates differently from either state or federal law, yet ultimately is usually just as successful in adjudicating justice. The traditional emphasis on conciliation and restitution by tribal courts is compared to the American judicial system which relies on determination of guilt and retribution. Deloria and Lytle make the difficult subject of law understandable on a non-technical level.

Readers interested in the various legal interest groups will get information on the Indian Rights Association, the National Congress of American Indians, and the Native American Rights Fund. Separate Explorations in Sights and Sounds. No. 4 (Summer 1984)
chapters focus on the criminal and civil justice systems, giving examples of each type of case. Key terms such as Indian Country and tribal sovereignty are defined, and the impact of important legislation such as the Major Crimes Act, The Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, and Public Law 280 (termination legislation) is discussed in general terms. The final chapter outlines legal rights of American Indians, including an explanation of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. Deloria and Lytle make the book particularly useful to the specialist by providing an index of cases to supplement research on specific legal issues, Indian history, or political anthropology.

The final sentence of the discussion repeats what the book has been explaining and what too often is forgotten, that, like all Americans, "Indians are citizens and residents of the United States and the states wherein they reside and as such are entitled to the full benefits and privileges that are offered to all citizens." American Indians did not gain American citizenship until 1924, and even as citizens they have often been accorded only second-class status.

Deloria and Lytle argue cogently that American Indians must be granted American justice in reality as well as in law.

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The pamphlet opens with a description of Norway, the land and its agricultural economy, the increased population that resulted from the industrial revolution, and the development of a cash economy. Three pages of photographs and a map of land use in Norway supplement this section. The fixed classes of the agricultural system included a large number of border or freeholders and husbands or cotters who considered themselves free but who were often landless despite their free status. In 1825, Norwegian migration to America began, by 1835 it had picked up speed, and by 1860 nearly 70,000 Norwegians had emigrated to the U.S. It was largely a migration of agricultural people driven by conditions of land, climate, and the pressures of the Industrial Revolution to search for better lives in the United States.

A description of the typical passage to the New World including the overland journey to Wisconsin takes readers with the Norwegian immigrants to this state. The pattern of Norwegian settlement in