
*The Encyclopedia of Native American Economic History* offers a unique perspective on economic development in North America, primarily because it constantly reminds the reader of the fundamental contradictions that this process has entailed. A view of economic processes fundamentally different from orthodox scholarly analysis emerges in many of the volume’s entries. In total a picture of economic activity is projected that links consumption, cultural conflict, social and ecological reproduction, and the transformation of group identity. This volume takes exploratory steps toward the development of alternative explanations of economic growth and change in society, particularly as these processes relate to the meaning of race and ethnicity. The book’s strongest sections are those that offer a multi-faceted view of the overlapping effects of political, social, and economic institutions on Native American groups. The volume includes several entries of this kind dealing with topics such as the legal status of Native American lands, agricultural development, environmental degradation, and the manner in which Native American groups have organized cultural and economic life historically.

Nonetheless the book contains several weaknesses that require attention in future revisions. For instance much of the content is superfluous, offering somewhat trivial information about topics such as the linguistic origins of the names of various states and cities. This material needs to be more closely tied to the topic of Native American economic history or simply deleted from the text. Moreover some necessary topics are absent from the volume: more extensive coverage of topics related to occupational, employment, income, and consumption patterns is needed as they pertain to Native Americans as a group and to individual nations.

Overall *The Encyclopedia of Native American Economic History* is a valuable resource for students, instructors, and others interested in studying the economic side of the Native American experience. Important citations and conceptual material is identified in the text which does not appear collec-
Ethnic Studies Review Volume 23

tively elsewhere are included. For this reason alone this book should be included in public and university library collections. More significantly the volume brings greater attention to a relatively understudied area related to race, ethnicity, and economic development. Hopefully its presence will prompt increased discussion of this subject and further the development of this field of study.

Robert Mark Silverman
Jackson State University


The aim of this volume is to illuminate various black and white boundaries in the United States through an examination of the “cultural dimensions of racial inequality.” Fourteen essays touch on a wide variety of subjects including African American corporate executives, fast-food workers in Harlem, Afrocentrism, single-parenting, rap music, and feminism, to name only some. The authors of these essays strive to move beyond a static structure versus culture dualism and to instead highlight the theoretical and empirical importance of cultural scripts, all without reducing discussion to the level of “blaming the victim.”

The chapters contain much compelling material, some of which is not often covered from the particular perspectives offered in this collection. For instance Katherine Newman and Catherine Ellis show that intraracial stigma facing African American and Latino fast-food workers in Harlem is super-added to the more generally recognized problems of working in a high-turnover, low-pay industry. Maureen Waller’s chapter on the separation of reproduction and marriage explores cultural motives that inform the differing decisions of low-income white