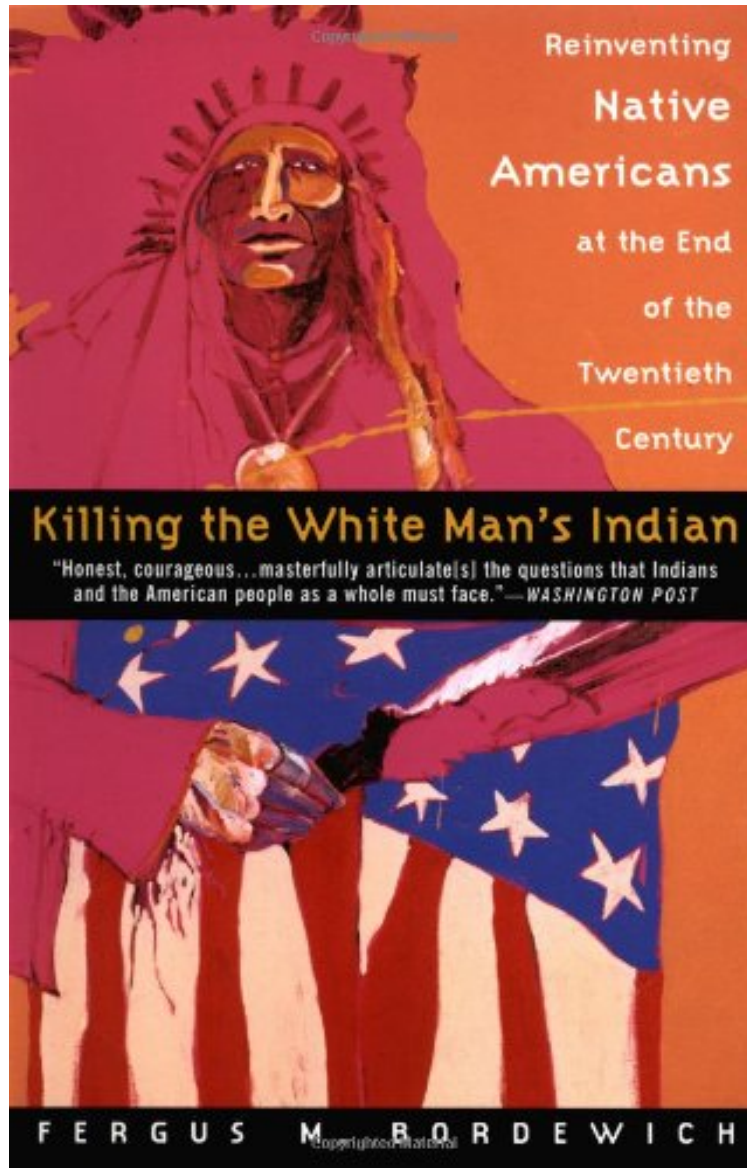


Killing the White Man's Indian: Reinventing Native Americans at the End of the Twentieth Century

Fergus M. Bordewich

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Fergus M. Bordewich : Killing the White Man's Indian: Reinventing Native Americans at the End of the Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Killing the White Man's Indian: Reinventing Native Americans at the End of the Twentieth Century:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A New Narrative of the American Indian By Andrew Chance This book is significant because of the proposition that a new narrative is developing about American Indians/Native Americans in the United States. Dramatic changes are occurring in Indian Country in the 21st Century and the very question of what it means to be an American Indian in this new century will become a more and more contested subject. As Bordewich points out in his book, Native people are intermarrying with non-Indians at an accelerated rate. Blood quantum in terms of Indian blood among many tribes is declining and tribes are lowering their blood quantum requirements (or eliminating them) for tribal membership. There is tension over this issue among some tribal groups already and this will increase in the decades ahead. As of the 1990 US Census, two-thirds of Indian people lived in urban areas. This trend continues as younger, and well educated, tribal members move to urban areas for employment opportunities. These are simple facts and they serve to point out that a new narrative of the American Indian is developing. Bordewich deals with these issues and many more, and that is why his book is important to read if the reader wants to go beyond the old romantic view of Native Americans. The older narrative that became popular during the 1960s and 1970s was based upon terms such as exploitation, oppression, resistance, liberation as Indian people struggled to preserve their tribal identities and develop a sense of nationalism. Tribal identities were revitalized through Indian activism and the self-determination of tribal governments. But, success brings new challenges and this is what Bordewich speaks to in this book. The author also mentions casinos, but didn't really anticipate their impact when he wrote this book well over ten years ago. The growth of casinos has been phenomenal since Bordewich wrote this book, and their development may have more to do with the public perception of a new Indian identity than any of the other issues he mentions. Read this book if you are open minded and want to learn about the new developing narrative of Indian identity. And, if you don't really think that a non-Indian like Bordewich can write authoritatively about American Indians, I recommend that you also read Paul Chaat Smith's EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT ABOUT INDIANS IS WRONG. Paul Chaat Smith is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and a former AIM member. His book gives you his view on the development of a new narrative about American Indian identity in the 21st century. Whether some nostalgic non-Indians like it or not, Indian Country is dramatically changing, and the larger American public perception of Indian identity will eventually change with it. These are the facts.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating book that sheds some well needed light on ... By John T. Smith A Fascinating book that sheds some well needed light on the past and present of fellow American citizens! A MUST read!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Victor Mark Kogan Excellent!

In the face of a new lightly romanticized view of Native Americans, *Killing the White Man's Indian* bravely confronts the current myths and often contradictory realities of tribal life today. Following two centuries of broken treaties and virtual government extermination of the "savage redmen," Americans today have recast Native Americans into another, equally stereotyped role, that of eternal victims, politically powerless and weakened by poverty and alcoholism, yet whose spiritual ties with the natural world form our last, best hope of salvaging our natural environment and ennobling our souls. The truth, however, is neither as grim, nor as blindly idealistic, as many would expect. The fact is that a virtual revolution is underway in Indian Country, an upheaval of epic proportions. For the first time in generations, Indians are shaping their own destinies, largely beyond the control of whites, reinventing Indian education and justice, exploiting the principle of tribal sovereignty in ways that empower tribal governments far beyond most Americans' imaginations. While new found power has enriched tribal life and prospects, and has made Native Americans fuller participants in the American dream, it has brought tribal governments into direct conflict with local economics and the federal government. Based on three years of research on the Native American reservations, and written without a hidden conservative bias or politically correct agenda, *Killing the White Man's Indian* takes on Native American politics and policies today in all their contradictory--and controversial--guises."

From the Publisher In the face of a new lightly romanticized view of Native Americans, *Killing the White Man's Indian* bravely confronts the current myths and often contradictory realities of tribal life today. Following two centuries of broken treaties and virtual government extermination of the "savage redmen," Americans today have recast Native Americans into another, equally stereotyped role, that of eternal victims, politically powerless and weakened by poverty and alcoholism, yet whose spiritual ties with the natural world form our last, best hope of salvaging our natural environment and ennobling our souls. The truth, however, is neither as grim, nor as blindly idealistic, as many would expect. The fact is that a virtual revolution is underway in Indian Country, an upheaval of epic proportions. For the first time in generations, Indians are shaping their own destinies, largely beyond the control of whites, reinventing Indian education and justice, exploiting the principle of tribal sovereignty in ways that empower tribal governments far beyond most Americans' imaginations. While new found power has enriched tribal life and prospects, and has made Native Americans fuller participants in the American dream, it has brought tribal governments into direct conflict with local economics and the federal government. Based on three years of research on the Native American reservations, and written without a hidden conservative bias or politically correct agenda, *Killing the White Man's Indian* takes on Native American politics and policies today in all their contradictory--and controversial--guises." From the Inside

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