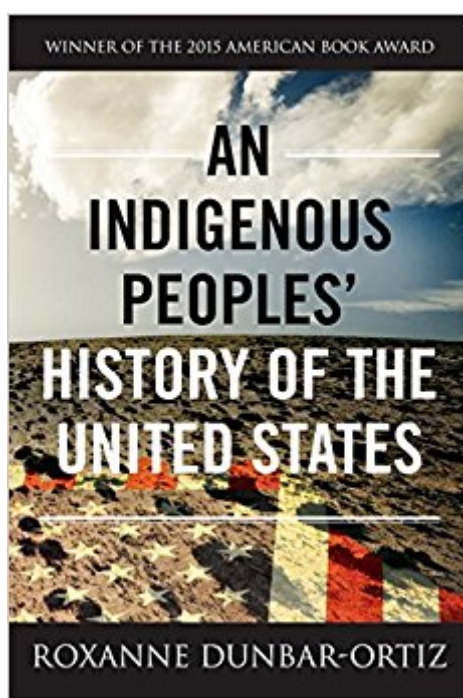


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An Indigenous Peoples' History Of The United States (ReVisioning American History)



Synopsis

2015 Recipient of the American Book Award
The first history of the United States told from the perspective of indigenous peoples
Today in the United States, there are more than five hundred federally recognized Indigenous nations comprising nearly three million people, descendants of the fifteen million Native people who once inhabited this land. The centuries-long genocidal program of the US settler-colonial regimen has largely been omitted from history. Now, for the first time, acclaimed historian and activist Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz offers a history of the United States told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples and reveals how Native Americans, for centuries, actively resisted expansion of the US empire. In *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, Dunbar-Ortiz adroitly challenges the founding myth of the United States and shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. And as Dunbar-Ortiz reveals, this policy was praised in popular culture, through writers like James Fenimore Cooper and Walt Whitman, and in the highest offices of government and the military. Shockingly, as the genocidal policy reached its zenith under President Andrew Jackson, its ruthlessness was best articulated by US Army general Thomas S. Jesup, who, in 1836, wrote of the Seminoles: "The country can be rid of them only by exterminating them."
Spanning more than four hundred years, this classic bottom-up peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reading this book is not a pleasant experience. But it is a good experience. So many horrific wrongs committed in the past have been proclaimed as heavenly goods; and those of us alive today, as the unwitting inheritors of these distortions, build our homes on top of them, not realizing that the lush green grass beneath our feet just barely covers highly toxic waste only inches below. Then we wonder why we suffer from untold dis-eases. It is not pleasant to discover that we have been living on top of a toxic dump; but it is very good to be alerted to that fact. Only then can we begin to clean up the mess. And we must clean up the mess. So while some may dismiss this book, saying, "That's all ancient history now. It's not like we can undo the past and give Native Americans their land back. Let's just move on" - as if to say that this book's topic is not relevant to our lives in the present - the truth is that this book can be approached as a catalog of the hidden, toxic lies that the dominant culture continues to tell itself, right up until the present moment and that are built into our current lives without our being aware of them. As such, this book is of great and immediate value to every one of us, right now. In summary, Dunbar-Ortiz shows how European-Americans have continually reframed Native Americans' role in our national myth-narrative - always with the purpose of maintaining the basic structure of that narrative. That myth-narrative, as she describes it, is the laughable notion of liberty-through-empire - the idea that it is America's divinely appointed duty to violently impose free-market capitalism on the rest of the world's peoples in order to lift them up and liberate them (even though only a relative few ever do well in this system).

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