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est l’attrait manifeste de Daniel W. Gade pour des études liant nature et culture. De son propre aveu, il cherche ainsi à se situer aux limites d’une épistémologie fusionnant espace, temps, écologie et culture, tant dans des axes politiques qu’expérientiels (chapitre VIII). Cette visée, bien ambitieuse, est cependant beaucoup moins réussie, selon nous. Les notions et théories ont évolué depuis les années 1970 et 80, âge d’or des recherches du professeur Gade. Que ce soit en ethnobotanique, en écologie politique ou quant aux rapports au lieu et à l’espace, ses chapitres thématiques n’incluent malheureusement pas les courants et les auteurs les plus récents. Pour cette raison, ses conclusions semblent parfois teintées d’une aura de déterminisme culturel assez contestable, par exemple lorsqu’il interprète la culture locale dite « verticale » (section 3.7) ou lorsqu’il décrit une supposée « psychologie » universelle des paysans andins (section 1.6.4.2). Heureusement, de belles fulgurances, en conclusion, permettent de construire, ou de reconstruire, un lien plus probant et plus actuel autour de la question du lieu et des changements humains.

En somme, cet ouvrage est une excellente vitrine du travail remarquable de Daniel W. Gade et une importante source d’informations, toujours d’actualité, quant aux dimensions culturelles, politiques et naturelles de la vallée andine de l’Urubamba. Le livre constitue enfin un riche tremplin pour ré-analyser les résultats descriptifs à l’aune des nouveaux développements conceptuels sur les relations nature et culture.
orientalism, radicalized discourse, self-determination, social construction, and sovereignty. Examples are drawn from the Ainu of Japan, the Rapanui and Hawaiians of Oceania, the Aboriginal people of Australia, the Saami of Norway, the Maori of New Zealand, the Ogoni of Nigeria, the North American nations of Canada and the United States, and the Indigenous societies of Latin America including the Guaraní of eastern Paraguay, the Andean peoples of Peru, and the Zapatistas of Mexico. An index and a glossary would have been a welcome inclusion to such a wide-ranging selection of topics, people, and theoretical concepts.

Part one, ‘Colonization and Indigenous peoples’, examines the local views and global perspectives on colonization. The opening from David Maybury-Lewis’ book, Indigenous peoples, ethnic groups, and the state, offers a satisfying historical introduction. This is followed nicely by an excerpt from Grant McCall’s second edition of Rapanui: Tradition and survival on Easter Island, Brett Walker’s non-Western case study demonstrating that the subjugation and decimation of indigenous peoples is not exclusive to European conquest, and Michael Dudley and Keoni Agard’s history of the US colonization of Hawai’i taken from their book on Hawaiian sovereignty. This section is appropriately closed with Linda Smith’s reflections on the ethnocentrism and epistemological imperialism of Western knowledge.

Part two, ‘Colonialism, genocide, and the problem of intention’, maps the negative consequences of colonization and the ways that nation-states have ostensibly attempted to redress the situation. This section begins with an evocative extract from a 1992 statement by Russell Means, founder of the American Indian Movement, who spoke of “a little matter of genocide”, referring to the ongoing genocide of Native peoples beginning with the first European boats landing on Turtle Island. Means’ statement inspired the title of Ward Churchill’s book, A little matter of genocide (1999). Frankly, given the power and sentiment of Means’ words, it is surprising that the statement is not an epigraph to Maaka and Andersen’s entire volume. The adverse impacts of colonialism were not always intentional, as Noble Cook’s discussion of compound epidemics demonstrates. However, many impacts were deliberately systematic, as the chapters by Colin Tatz as well as Suzanne Fournier and Ernie Crey compellingly portray. Richard Robbins, in the final chapter of this section, details a more insidious and nuanced collapse of Indigenous autonomy through the culture of capitalism.

Part three, ‘Social constructs of colonialism’, will really invigorate class discussion on questions of truth and discourse. Stuart Hall unpacks the concept of the West and introduces students to a treasure chest of conceptual tools. Audra Simpson discusses the creation and maintenance of collective indigenous identity among the Kahnawake Mohawk nation, an identity that challenges the geo-political boundaries between the US and Canada. Chris Cuneen investigates the social relations that lead to an over-representation of indigenous people in the Australian criminal justice system. Matthew Restall debunks the false assumption that Indigenous peoples are bound to extinction as a result of conquest and colonialism. And, Sarah Carter examines the self-fulfilling policies that viewed the Cree of western Canada as poor farmers and subsequently impeded their ability to compete with non-Native farmers.

Part four, ‘The Indigenous struggle and the politics of indigeneity’, explores the aspirations of Indigenous peoples to regain their autonomy. Anthony Hall takes a global perspective on Indigenous movements, Trond Thuen describes the persistent necessity of Indigenous peoples to explain their identity, their rights, and the politicization of their peoplehood. Ronald Niezen highlights the significance of self-determination, distinguishes between people and peoples, and discusses the politics of shame. Joe Sawchuk examines the political organization
of Indigenous people and the politics of representation. Gerald Alfred takes an indigenous perspective on sovereignty and argues that the concept is hierarchical and incommensurable with traditional structures, which may offer better vehicles for self-determination. Roger Maaka and Augi Fleras promote the notion of “constructive engagement” — as opposed to “unproductive disengagement” — in order to redefine the relationships between Indigenous peoples and nation-states.

To do justice to The Indigenous experience in a review, one would need to read some nineteen books and a couple of edited volumes (not to mention the thirteen books and four edited volumes suggested for further reading) before situating this volume in the context of the literature from which it has been compiled. While the true litmus test is to trial the material out on students for a semester, educators should feel confident that each excerpt has been thoughtfully chosen and can stand alone as an informative pedagogical text for postgraduate and upper-level undergraduate students. With a carefully selected range of time-tested excerpts from anthropology, history, Indigenous studies, and political science, this book will be of interest to cultural sociologists, sociocultural anthropologists, social geographers, and Indigenous studies scholars. The only question remaining for educators is how to divide the chapters, perhaps interspersed with a few more recent additions from the contemporary literature, across the number of lectures and tutorials in their undergraduate or postgraduate course.

Rédéferences


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