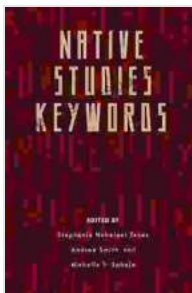


Critical Issues in Indigenous Studies

Indigenous studies is an interdisciplinary field that examines the histories, cultures, and experiences of Indigenous peoples around the world. It is a field that is characterized by its commitment to Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty, and its focus on the social, political, and economic issues that Indigenous peoples face.



Native Studies Keywords (Critical Issues in Indigenous Studies) by Omotayo Adesanya

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In recent years, Indigenous studies has become increasingly important as Indigenous peoples have gained greater recognition and influence on the global stage. This has led to a growing awareness of the critical issues facing Indigenous peoples, and a greater demand for research and scholarship that can help to address these issues.

History of Indigenous Studies

The history of Indigenous studies can be traced back to the early days of European colonialism. As European settlers began to establish colonies in

the Americas, they encountered Indigenous peoples who resisted their attempts to conquer and control their lands. This resistance led to a number of wars and conflicts, and to the eventual dispossession of Indigenous peoples from their lands.

In the 19th century, as the United States and Canada expanded westward, Indigenous peoples were subjected to a process of forced assimilation. This process included the removal of Indigenous children from their families and communities and their placement in boarding schools, where they were taught to abandon their traditional cultures and languages.

In the 20th century, Indigenous peoples began to organize and fight for their rights. This movement led to the establishment of Indigenous self-governing bodies, such as the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in Canada and the National Congress of American Indians in the United States. It also led to the development of Indigenous studies as a field of academic inquiry.

Challenges Facing Indigenous Studies

Indigenous studies is a field that faces a number of challenges. These challenges include:

* **Lack of funding:** Indigenous studies programs are often underfunded, which makes it difficult to attract and retain qualified faculty and to provide students with the resources they need to succeed. * **Marginalization:** Indigenous studies is often marginalized within academia, which can make it difficult for Indigenous scholars to get their work published and to have their voices heard. * **Racism and discrimination:** Indigenous scholars and students often face racism and discrimination from non-Indigenous people, which can make it difficult for them to pursue their studies and careers.

Contemporary Debates in Indigenous Studies

Contemporary Indigenous studies is characterized by a number of debates, including:

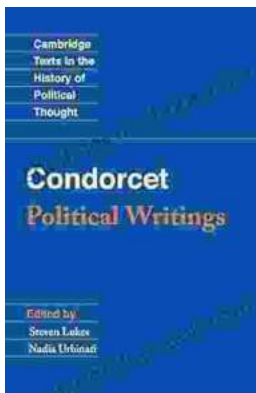
* **Sovereignty and self-determination:** Indigenous peoples are increasingly asserting their sovereignty and self-determination, which is challenging the existing power structures that have historically marginalized them. * **Land rights and treaty rights:** Indigenous peoples have a long history of fighting for their land rights and treaty rights. These struggles continue today, as Indigenous peoples face pressure from governments and corporations that want to exploit their lands and resources. * **Cultural revitalization:** Indigenous peoples are working to revitalize their cultures and languages, which have been damaged by colonialism and assimilation. This work is essential for ensuring the survival of Indigenous cultures and communities. * **Identity and Indigeneity:** Indigenous peoples are increasingly defining themselves on their own terms, which is challenging the traditional definitions of Indigeneity that have been imposed on them by non-Indigenous people. * **Decolonization and reconciliation:** Indigenous peoples are working to decolonize their societies and to build relationships of reconciliation with non-Indigenous people. This work is essential for creating a more just and equitable world.

Indigenous studies is a vital field of study that is helping to challenge the dominant narratives about the history, cultures, and experiences of Indigenous peoples. It is a field that is growing in importance as Indigenous peoples continue to assert their rights and self-determination.

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