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Review of *Ruling Pine Ridge: Oglala Lakota Politics from the IRA to Wounded Knee* By Akim D. Reinhardt

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of Indian Affairs (later renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs), along with complicated divisions inculcated by government policies, often collectively known as internal colonialism. With astonishing detailed accuracy, he looks at the main differences of settlement patterns, with Lakota “full-blooded” families preferring creekbed and riverine areas (water and wood availability), while some men and “mixed-blood” families preferred meadow lands for grazing. This discussion is periodically offset by serious flaws, such as a failure to note the 1877 taking of the Black Hills, or Agent Daniel Royer’s native treachery in wanting more troops in 1890 to suppress the Ghost Dance.

After the establishment of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act councils during the Collier administration, the central political problem for Pine Ridge became the following decades of submission to OIA/BIA authority, or maneuvering around its monetary policies. These relations produced social change, of a sort, though tending toward dysfunctional colonialism that wrought more fractionalization and individuation among a once culturally cohesive people. The “self-determination” period directly afterwards was as likely to reproduce this bureaucratic and oppressive maze as it was to bring about real autonomy or self-direction.

Reinhardt does well in observing U.S. paternalism towards the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council, which he ascribes to the many government agents exercising a powerful and often petty control over all monetary and nearly all social life on the reservation and to constant bickering over the unequal distribution of nearly all goods and services between the mixed bloods and full bloods. He maintains, correctly, that the traditionalists were aware of all these dynamics in “ruling” Pine Ridge, sometimes attempting to manipulate them in their favor but mostly resisting their corrosive effects.

Dick Wilson’s 1972 ascendancy to the chairman’s position coincided with continuing racism and discrimination toward Indian people in the border towns, including the killing of Raymond Yellow Thunder in Gordon, Nebraska, and a growing movement that appeared to align itself with AIM during these civil-war-like conditions. These political and violent conflicts, ending in

*Ruling Pine Ridge: Oglala Lakota Politics from the IRA to Wounded Knee.* By Akim D. Reinhardt. Foreword by Clara Sue Kidwell. Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2007. xxviii + 274 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95.

This well-documented book covers twentieth-century Pine Ridge politics by linking two events at Wounded Knee: the United States massacre of 1890 under cover of “war” on the Ghost Dance, and a 1973 American Indian Movement/Traditionalist reoccupation and subsequent siege.

In explaining the dysfunctionality of the political economy on Pine Ridge, Reinhardt looks at the long-term effects of colonialism and its bureaucratic replacement in the Office

the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee and a siege by U.S. and GOON paramilitary forces, are skillfully described by Reinhardt, though he devotes too much text to the Gildersleeve trading post conflicts on Pine Ridge and, referring back to 1890, mistakenly ascribes Indian Agent Royer's infamous title "Young Man Afraid of Lakotas" to Standing Rock Agent James McLaughlin.

*Ruling Pine Ridge* reads strong, having captured the essence of OIA/BIA internal colonist control over Pine Ridge throughout most of the twentieth century. In this respect, it is an important historical resource for understanding contemporary political struggles of American Indian reservations and Native Nations.

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