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## Review of Atlas of American Indian Affairs

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*Atlas of American Indian Affairs*. By Francis Paul Prucha. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. Preface, maps, notes and references, index. 191 pp. \$47.50.

It is hard to imagine anyone better qualified to produce an Indian affairs atlas that Marquette University's Francis Paul Prucha, leading authority on federal Indian policy and author of many important works in Indian history. The project began after the Bureau of the Census neglected to draw up a series of maps showing Indian population by county in 1980 as it had in 1960 and 1970. Prucha filled the void by creating his own maps, and favorable reaction by scholars encouraged him to expand the project. The result is sure to become a standard reference tool.

Prucha includes only brief introductions to each of the ten sections within the book, providing some important explanation and context by avoiding "yet another survey of Indian-white relations in the United States, illustrated with a number of maps." (preface) An extensive notes and references section, however, gives the interested reader a wealth of detail and bibliographic information.

The volume begins with maps that present an overview of traditional cultural and tribal areas as judicially established by the Indian Claims Commission. That is followed by a section that depicts Indian population by county from the 1890 census to the 1980 census and traces the burst of urban Indian population from 1960 through 1980. Also included are sections on land cessions, reservations, and various institutions important in the history of government relations, such as trading houses, agencies, schools, hospitals, and forts. The distinctive situations in Oklahoma and Alaska each receive separate treatment, and a number of especially important historical events and local circumstances are likewise singled out and given individual attention. Prucha concludes with a series of maps on post-Civil War military encounters produced originally by cartographer Rafael D. Palacios for Ralph

K. Andrist's *The Long Death: The Last Days of the Plains Indians* (1964).

The book is at its best in revealing important long-term changes over time like the progressive intrusion of European westward movement, the gradual reduction of Indian lands, and fluctuations in the distribution of federal military strength on the frontier. But it appears to have been produced on a modest budget. All maps are done in a simple black and white format, and some are difficult to interpret or glean much from at all on their own. The urban Indian maps, for example, seem especially incomplete. With no specific designation of cities, they convey only a very general sense of Indian urbanization that, without turning to the notes section near the end, takes most readers no further than what is common knowledge. Deficiencies in modes of presentation, however, limit the book's usefulness only slightly. For the most part, essential information is readily apparent in spite of a style that is short on "gloss and glitter" and less pleasing to the eye than what many are accustomed to in high-priced atlases. Scholars and students of Indian affairs will still find the book to be enormously useful.

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