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Review of *American Indian Nations from Termination to Restoration, 1953-2006* by Roberta Ulrich

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American Indian Nations from Termination to Restoration, 1953–2006. By Roberta Ulrich. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2010. xv + 311 pp. Photographs, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$45.00.

Roberta Ulrich's blistering, 250-page tour of dozens of different Indian groups undergoing termination and restoration can at times leave the reader dizzy and gasping for air. With so many different communities undergoing such diverse experiences, it is often hard to see the utility of housing these stories under one roof. Convenience is welcome, but analytical coherence is better. Ulrich herself provides little justification for the project and rarely draws illustrious conclusions across tribal experiences. She does, however, dutifully collect all the stories together and provides a clear structure that allows readers easily to discern common themes and patterns. For that, scholars of American Indian history should be grateful.

The first half of Ulrich's work covers the process of termination and its effects on individual tribes, while the second chronicles efforts to restore and rebuild those same communities. Suggestive chapter subtitles, such as "Ambush" for the Menominees or "Cooperating" for the Coos and Coquilles, provide shorthand explanations for why specific tribes were terminated or restored, though on close inspection these descriptions rarely distinguish tribal experiences (after all, many tribes felt ambushed by termination and all cooperated with the federal government for restoration). Still, considering the

broad topic, it is hard to see how Ulrich could have done more to ease the reader's journey.

With respect to the substantive arguments, however, more work needs to be done. Finding that "Congress showed no particular logic as it decided which tribes to remove from federal rolls," Ulrich turns to tribal actors to explain why their tribe was terminated and to describe the decision's effects. Here, the analysis reads thin, as the author overly relies on oral recollections at the expense of investigating contemporary sources, weighing conceivable explanations, and providing definitive interpretations. These problems of evidence, analysis, and narrative persist in the second half of the book, though Ulrich seems more comfortable staking claims for how tribes restored federal recognition. The author is at her best demonstrating the hard work needed to rebuild tribal communities following restoration.

After strong early chapters, however, a formulaic pattern emerges in which tribal leaders simply collected signatures, obtained congressional restoration, and then instituted beneficial programs, often with the help of gaming revenues.

Without more, then, this book serves as a helpful introduction to the termination experience. For scholars seeking a more complete explanation of the "how and why," much of that work is left unfinished.

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