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## Review of *Tribal Government Today: Politics on Montana Indian Reservations*

Walter C. Fleming  
*Montana State University-Bozeman*

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**Tribal Government Today: Politics on Montana Indian Reservations** (Revised Edition). James J. Lopach, Margery Hunter Brown, and Richmond L. Clow. Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1998. xiv+286 pp. Maps, tables, notes, references, index. \$32.50 cloth (ISBN 0-8708-1477-X).

In this revision of their 1990 Westview Press edition, the authors state that their aim "is not only to scrutinize the workings of Montana's seven reservation governments but also to identify what is representative of tribal politics throughout the West" (5). A chapter is therefore devoted to an overview of tribal governance in each reservation in Montana.

The major difference here (aside from a much-needed index) is the inclusion of an epilogue, "Tribal Governments in Transition." Users must therefore be cautious: since the authors have not revised each chapter, the information and observations about individual reservations is current only to about 1985. Thus, much of this discussion is no longer "about the condition of contemporary tribal government," as the preface claims.

Electing to amend through the epilogue, the authors devote a section to developments on each reservation since initial publication, making the epilogue, arguably, the revised edition's most important chapter. Here the authors begin with a review of recent court rulings affecting tribal self-rule, specifically tribal judicial systems, in relation to civil regulatory jurisdiction. Against this backdrop, they undertake to update activity for each reservation, beginning with the struggles of the Northern Cheyenne and Fort Belknap reservations to revise their constitutions, and proceeding to the difficulty experienced by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes to define the distance of separation between the powers of the tribal government and their judicial system. In an earlier chapter concerning the Fort Peck reservation, readers are told that one of the strengths and hopes of the

tribe's economic development plan in 1983 was its support of A and S Tribal Industries. The epilogue tells us that A and S Industries collapsed in 1994, ending what the authors had described as "an economic miracle, a model of non-casino reservation development (236)." On the Crow Reservation, the political patronage system under study previously continues to be as controversial as it was in the early 1980s.

*Tribal Government Today* offers a unique look not only at Indian politics, but historical, economic, and cultural influences. The authors contribute perspectives from a variety of disciplines: James Lopach is a political scientist, Margery Hunter Brown was a professor in the School of Law, and Richmond Clow works in Native American Studies, all three at the University of Montana. In sum, this compilation provides students and professionals with an excellent overview of twentieth-century tribal politics in Montana.

Sadly, one of the authors, Margery Hunter Brown, passed away in 1998, and this revised edition is fittingly dedicated to her memory. *Tribal Government Today* is a wonderful legacy of an outstanding scholar who contributed substantially to the study of American Indian law. **Walter C. Fleming,** *Center for Native American Studies, Montana State University-Bozeman.*