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Review of *Indian Reservations in the United States: Territory, Sovereignty, and Socioeconomic Change* by Klaus Frantz

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Indian Reservations in the United States: Territory, Sovereignty, and Socioeconomic Change. Klaus Frantz. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999. xxvi+370 pp. Illustrations, maps, tables, notes, references, index. \$25.00 paper (ISBN 0-226-26089-5).

This book addresses complicated social, economic, and political factors that have shaped the development of American Indian reservations. Authored by an Austrian geographer, it is a revised translation of the second edition in German. Its interdisciplinary approach is relevant to geography, history, American Indian studies, sociology, economics, anthropology, and political science.

Drawing largely from archival and field research conducted in the 1980s, Frantz explores the effects of US policy on American Indian land holdings, populations, cultures, socioeconomic status, and sovereignty. Misguided land acquisition, allotment, and assimilation policies administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs left Indians impoverished, poorly educated, and without adequate resources to establish new economies. Policies designed to create new forms of economic livelihood were developed without concern for the diversity of people or the land. Frantz cor-

rectly stresses that throughout this history many Indian peoples managed to maintain fundamental elements of their cultural and political identities to such an extent that today's reservations remain distinct enclaves with limited sovereignty. These lands, however, are frequently marginal in terms of agricultural potential, but some are rich in petroleum, coal, uranium, timber, and other natural resources.

Perhaps the book's greatest contribution is its focus on the socioeconomic characteristics of reservations during the 1980s, especially several in Arizona which have received only scant scholarly attention. Frantz probes the complexities of issues involved in the struggles Indian governments have waged to preserve their water rights, to improve their standards of living, and to regain control of their own affairs. Along with providing photographs of reservation scenes, the book is richly enhanced with numerous maps, charts, and tables that provide statistical socioeconomic information about housing, employment, poverty levels, educational attainment, and other matters. The concluding chapter provides a bit of updated information on developments in the late 1980s and 1990s regarding such issues as gaming and repatriation. The author notes that gaming on reservations has had mixed results.

Despite the book's strengths, it contains a few significant problems. Its statement that a provision of the General Allotment Act provided for federal boarding school for reservation Indians is incorrect. Frantz says that the Minerals Act of 1972 is the source of federal authority for mining operations on reservation lands when actually the controversial General Mining Law of 1872 accomplished this exploitative objective. The book contains unsubstantiated comments and is poorly cited, except in cases where information came from oral interviews, and the quality of its chapters is uneven. Frantz's discussion of water rights is substantially stronger than his discussion of sovereignty. Moreover, the book rarely notes the differences in values, beliefs, and worldview of the nations under consideration. By painting a homogenous picture of these diverse cultural traits, it fails to provide a cultural context illustrating the varying strategies indigenous nations developed for cultural survival in the face of non-Indian encroachments. Finally, its suggestion that the hampering of sustainable economic development on reservations by a web of kinship and political relations can be overcome by employing non-Indian managers constitutes a stereotypical observation.

These problems notwithstanding, this useful book merits widespread interdisciplinary reading. **James Riding In**, *School of Justice Studies, Arizona State University*.