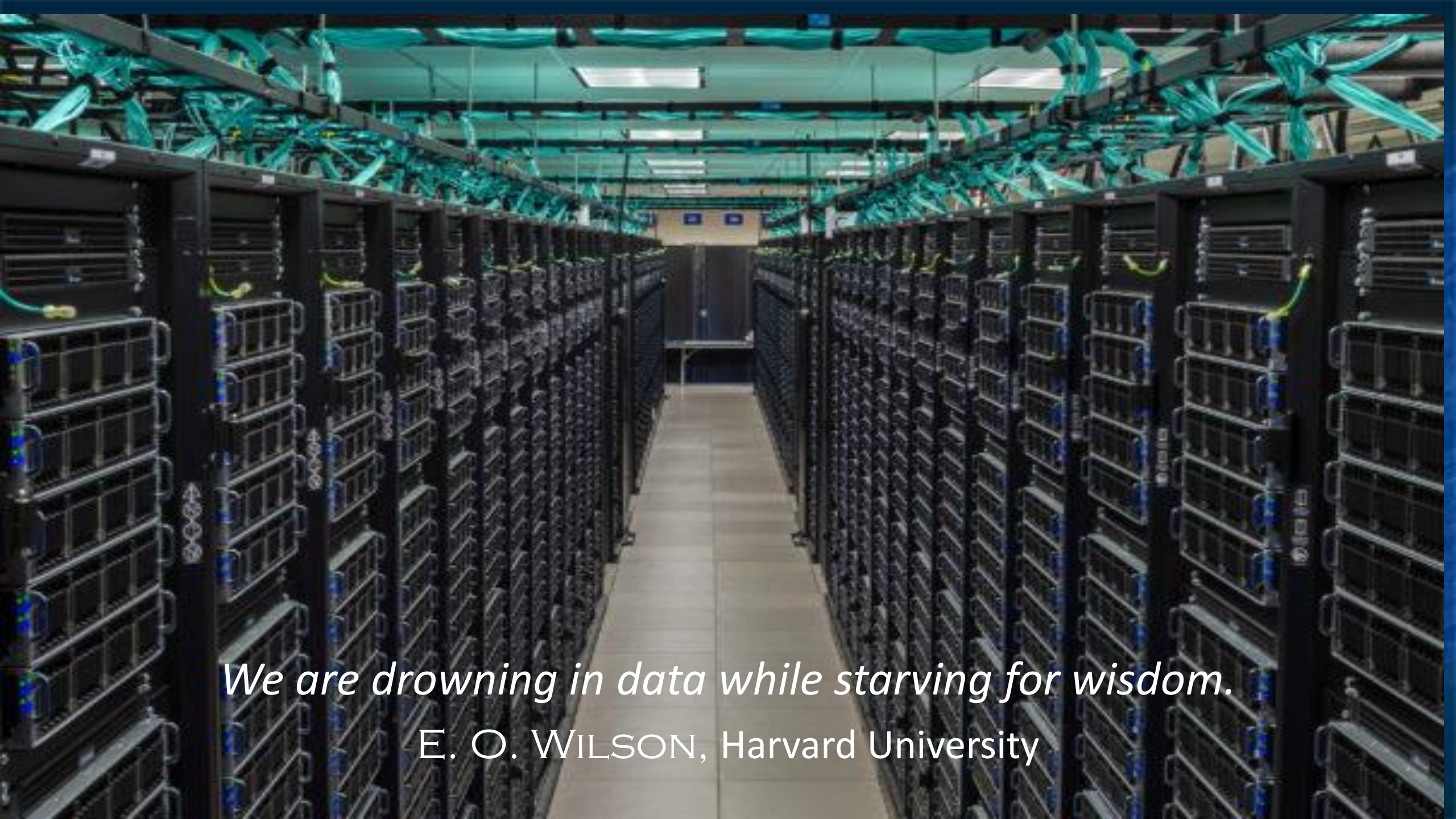


# INDIGENOUS WISDOM: RE-RIGHTING HISTORY







*We are drowning in data while starving for wisdom.*

E. O. WILSON, Harvard University



The Solution:  
*Consilience*

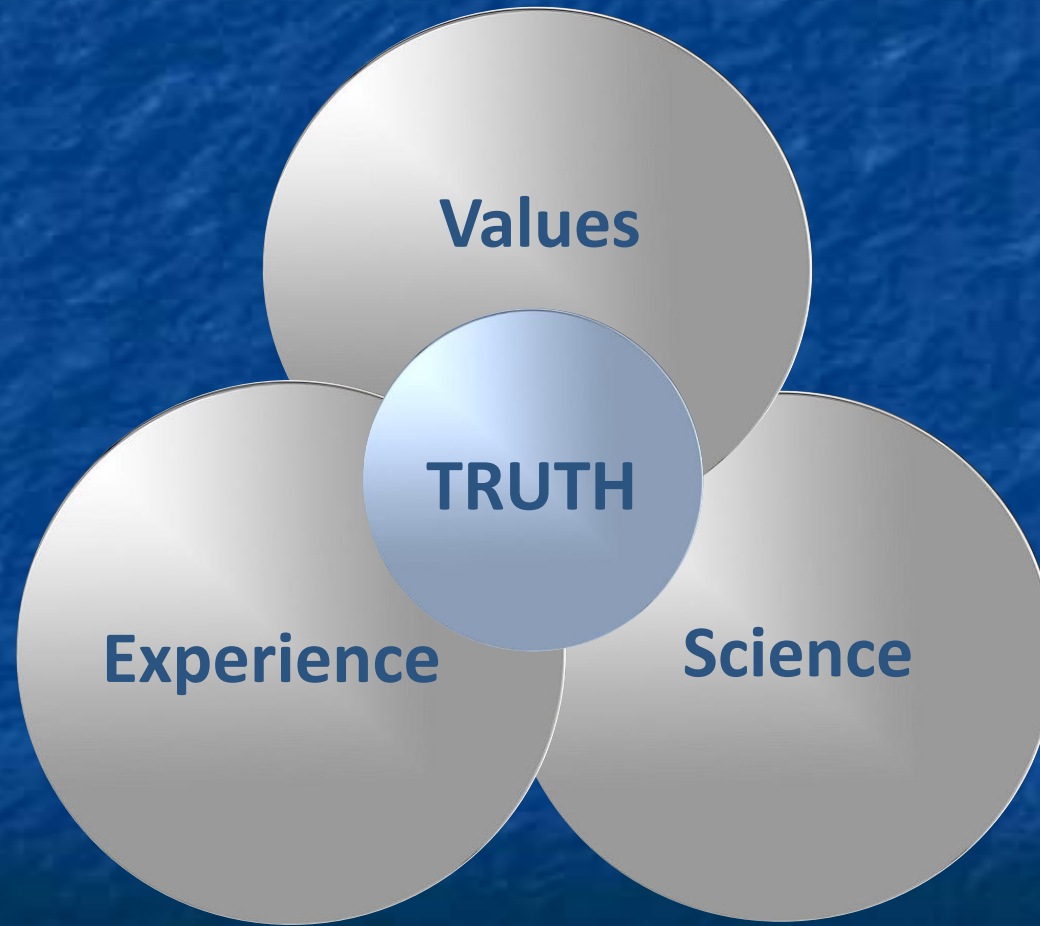
From the Latin words  
“Jump Together”



Knowledge from separate sources  
*jumps together* to reveal powerful  
simple truths. (Whewell was trained  
as scientist, priest, and architect.)

WILLIAM WHEWELL, 1847  
Cambridge University

# Consilience: The Test for Truth







## Values

Personal Values

Cultural Values

Biosocial Values





If the wise elders of the village don't teach  
the children, the village idiots will certainly do so.  
African Proverb

**Experience**

Personal Stories  
Practical Expertise  
Cultural Wisdom





**Science**

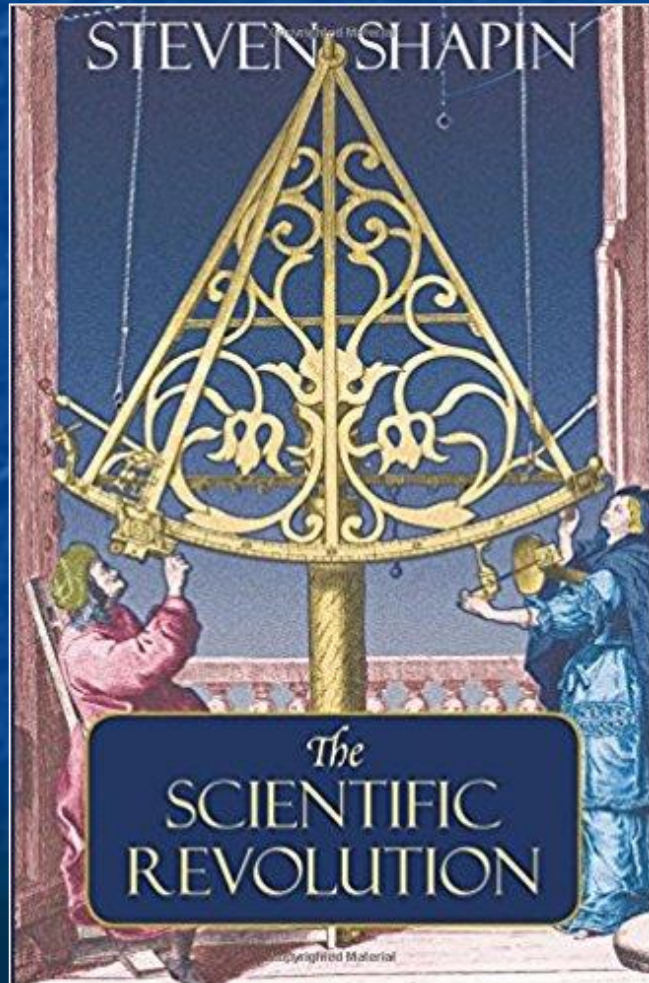
Modern Science

Indigenous Science

Blended Knowledge



**Western Science** describes how the world is—without making value judgments.



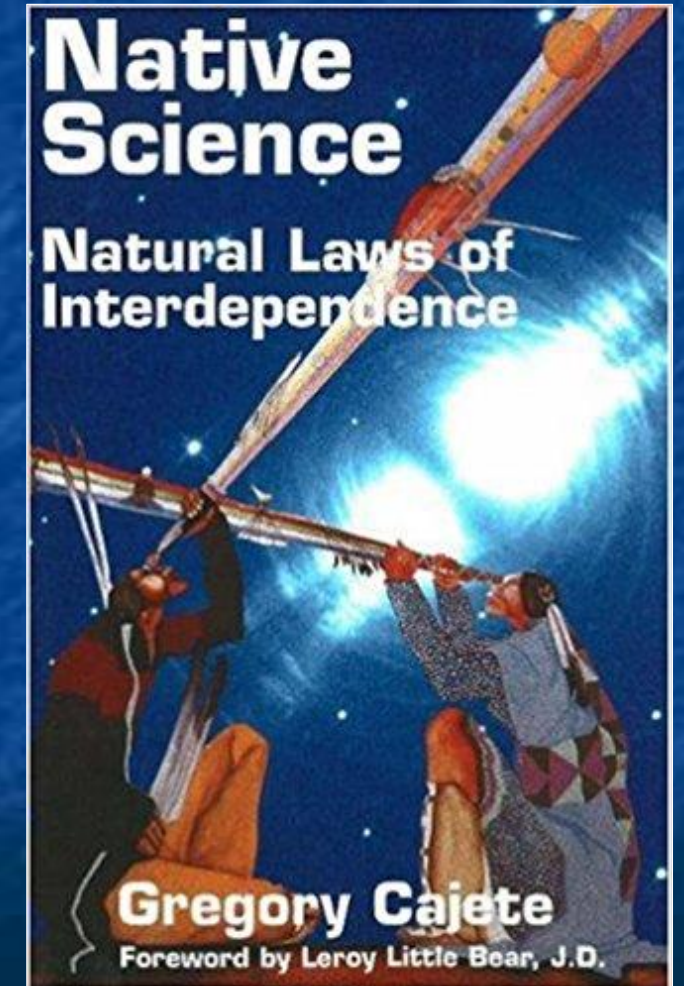
### **Blended Knowledge**

Let us put our minds together  
and see what life we can  
make for our children.

SITTING BULL



**Native Science** describes how the world should be—with life in harmony.





# INDIGENOUS WISDOM: RE-RIGHTING HISTORY

Cultures of Respect

Dominator Cultures

Re-RIGHTING History







## INDIGENOUS WISDOM

Much knowledge about  
human nature predates  
Western science.

HERBERT VILAKAZI  
Zululand University





The old African men and women, particularly the women, were consummate child psychologists.

HERBERT VILAKAZI





For most human history, humans have lived in cultures of respect. The Zulu language calls this world-view *Ubuntu*.





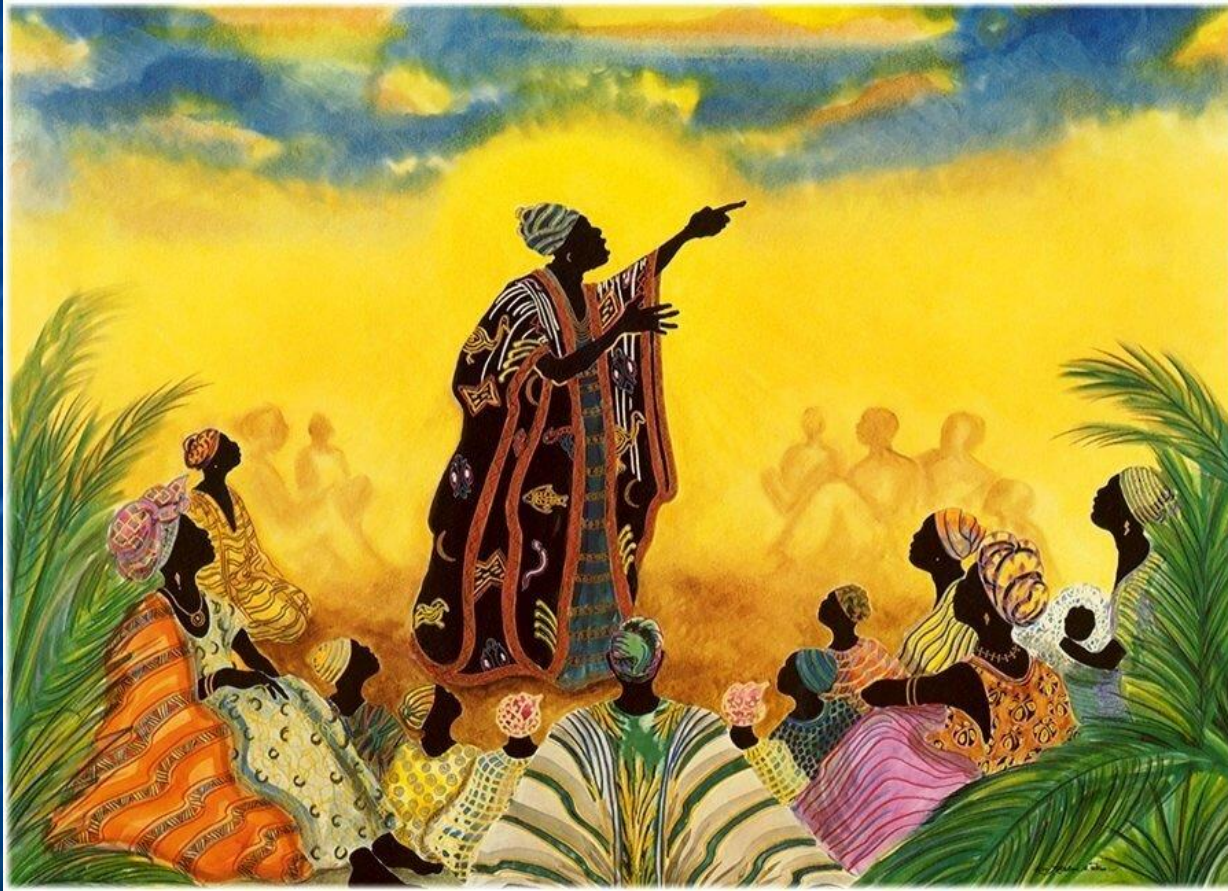
## Living in Harmony is in Human DNA

For hundreds of thousand of years, humans evolved in hunter-gatherer and agrarian groups.  
Our genetic code equips us to thrive in cultures of cooperation and mutual concern.

PETER GRAY



# The Power of the Spoken Word



Western civilization is grounded in written language. But Indigenous peoples used oral history from sages with superior memorization abilities. The Iroquois Great Law of Peace took several days to recite.

Human brains evolved to quickly learn any languages regularly heard during the first dozen years of life. Knowing the language of other tribes promoted learning, trade, cooperation, and peacemaking.





## Keepers of the Culture

Wise elders preserve the tribe's long-term memory using brain modules evolved for that role. Talented children were initiated into this role to preserve knowledge across generations. Keepers of the culture encoded vast knowledge in story, song, ritual, and oral history.

Louis Cozolino, 2014



# Indigenous Peoples as Oral Historians



Australian Aboriginal culture keepers could name every plant and animal in their ecology. They also were the world's first oceanographers.

Their oral history described events occurring hundreds of generations ago as they point to the location of former islands immersed after the ice age.





## *The Memory Code*

The brain links memories with locations. Thus, landmarks, stars, and architectural wonders like the pyramids and Stonehenge were mnemonic tools to help recall centuries of memories.

LYNNE KELLY



# Traditional Egalitarian Values



The community meets the needs of all.

The village participates in rearing the young.

Children and elders are held in great respect.

Humans seek to live in harmony with all of Creation.

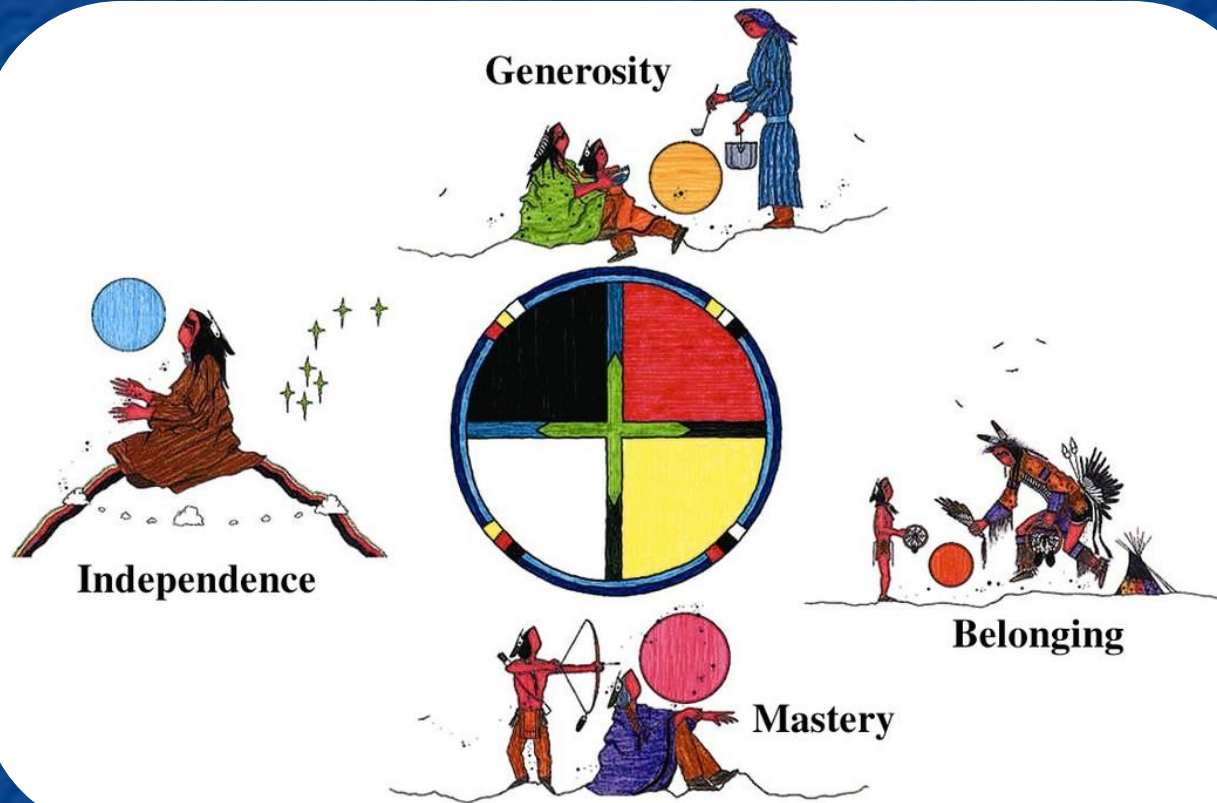


# The Circle of Courage

– Martin Brokenleg

Larry Brendtro and I taught together at Augustana University. He was writing an article on historic leaders in youth work and asked about notable Native Americans in this field. I replied, “There are none. Rearing children was the job all in the tribe.”

We decided to tap Native wisdom on what all children need to thrive. The result is the Circle of Courage shown in this Lakota art by George Blue Bird.

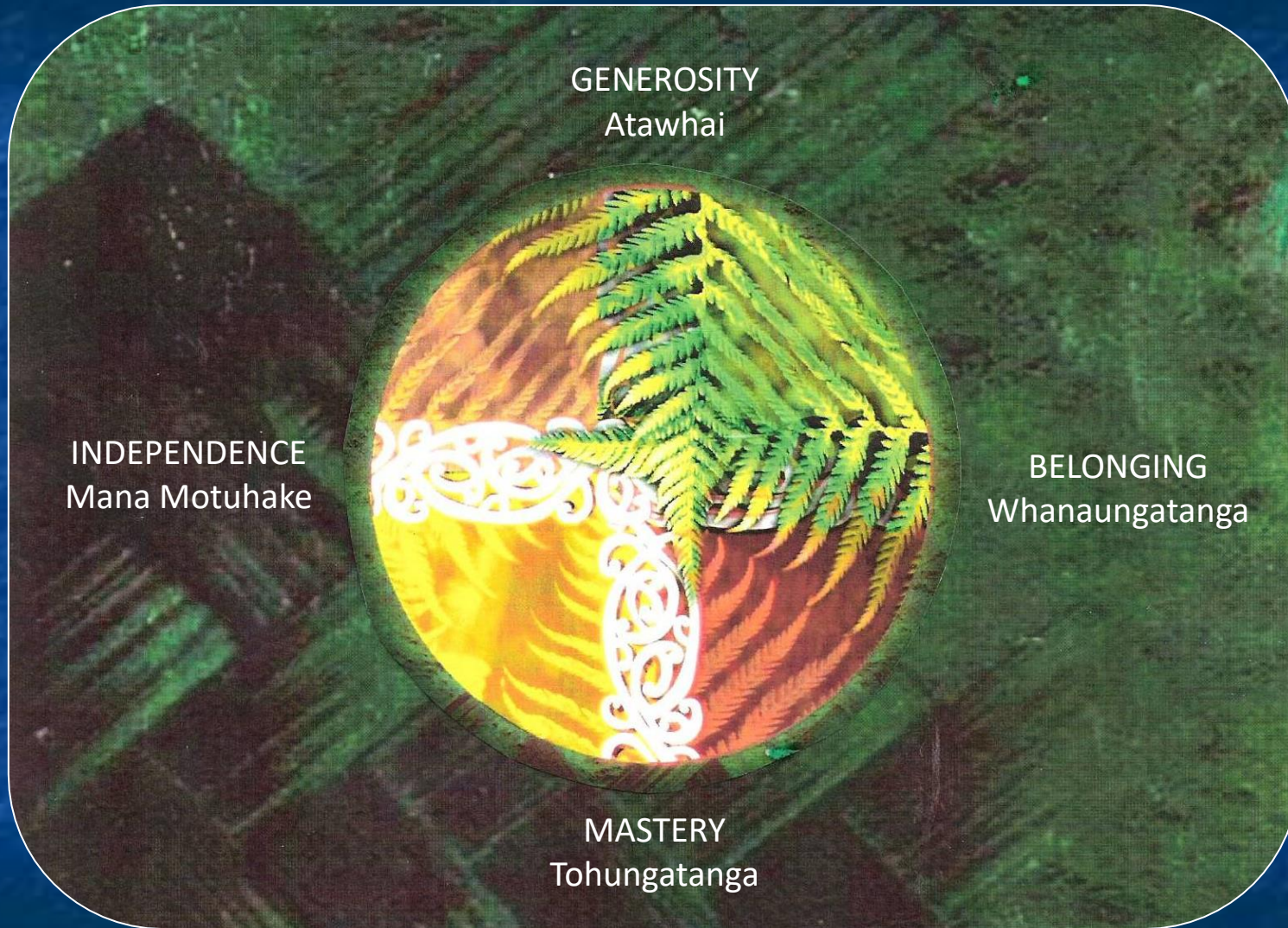






A First Nations carver expresses the Circle of Courage as animals on a totem.





## Circle of Courage In Maori Culture

AOTEAROA  
(NEW ZEALAND)





South Africa adopts the Circle of Courage in youth development policies.

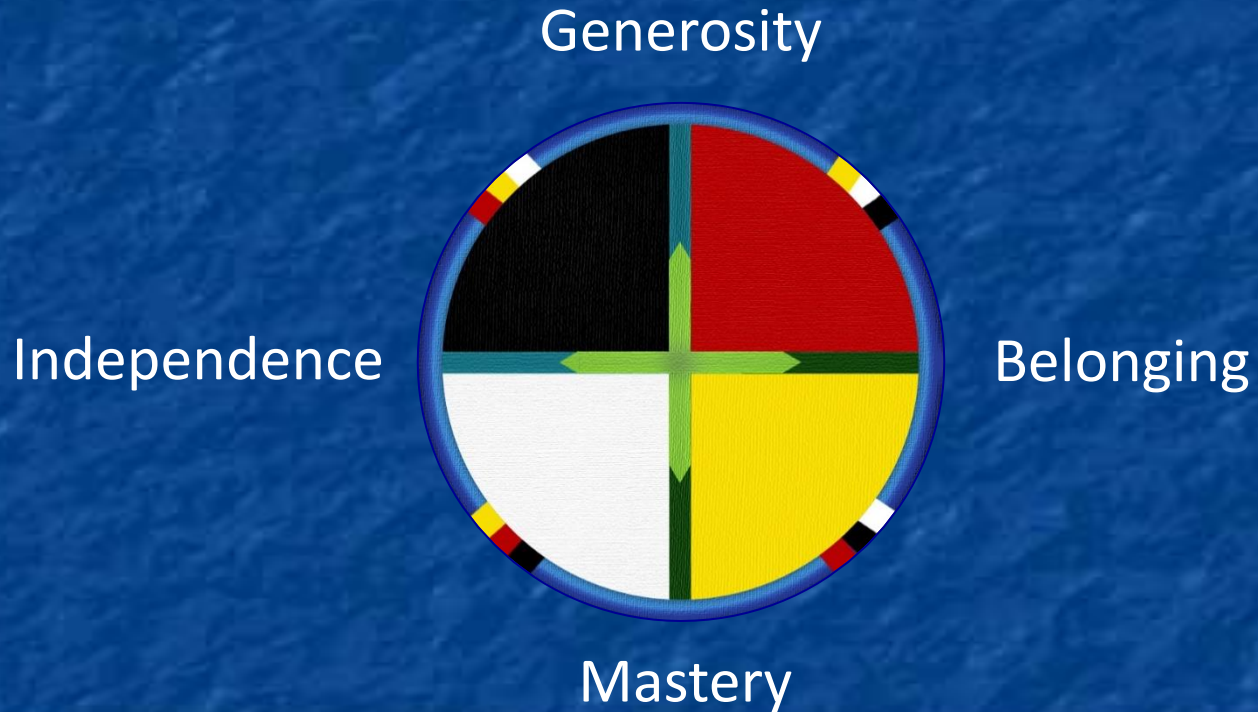


# The Circle of Courage

A Consilience of Evidence

The Circle of Courage is grounded in centuries of knowledge from traditional Indigenous cultures.

These four needs are validated by a consilience of research on human development, resilience science, and neuroscience.





# Focusing on Universal Needs



Abraham Maslow observed that meeting developmental needs is the path to well-being. Most emotional problems result from unmet needs.



# Traditional Wisdom on Turtle Island



Adapted from *Moccasin Paths* by Adrienne Brant James and Tammy Lunday



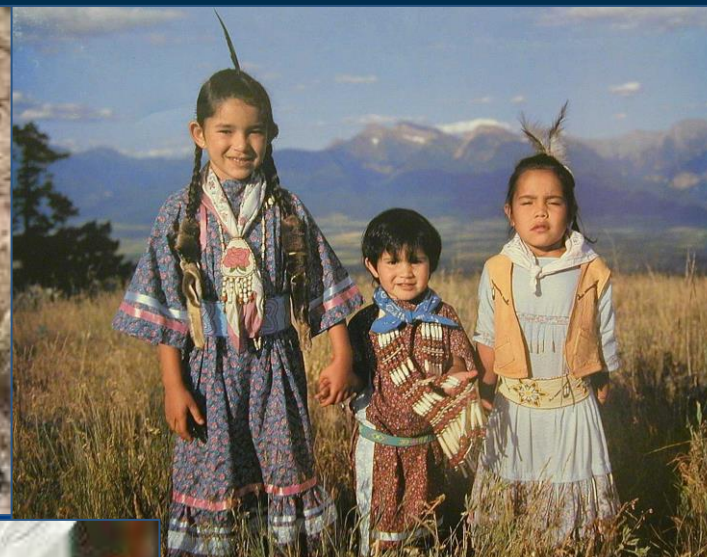


## Children are Sacred Beings

The old are dedicated to the service of the young, as their teachers and advisors, and the young in turn regard them with love and reverence.

OHIYESA  
[CHARLES EASTMAN]  
1911





Educating the young becomes the top cultural priority.





Indigenous knowledge was preserved in oral history.





Continent-wide Native trade and commerce



## Major Trade Cities In North America

Good Earth  
1400-1700



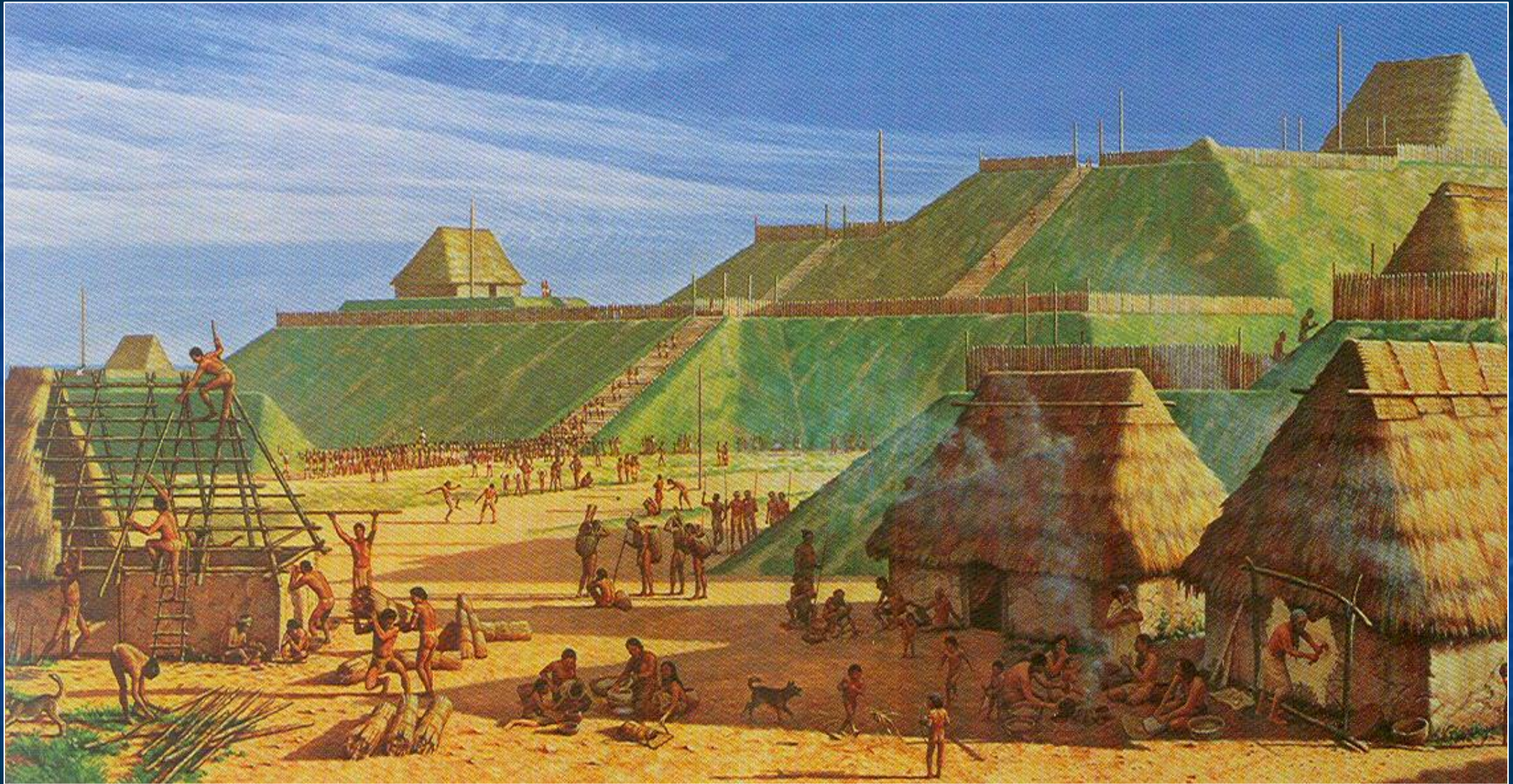
**Cahokia**  
1100-1400





# Cahokia: North American trade center

800-1300 AD



Population of 20,000 exceeded London and Paris



# Good Earth on the Sioux River

1400-1700 AD



Population of 10,000 exceeded Boston and New York





*Good Earth* refers to the name Native peoples use for Mother Earth which sustains life, and where we go home on leaving this life.

CALVIN HARLAN  
Omaha Tribe





### “The Three Sisters”

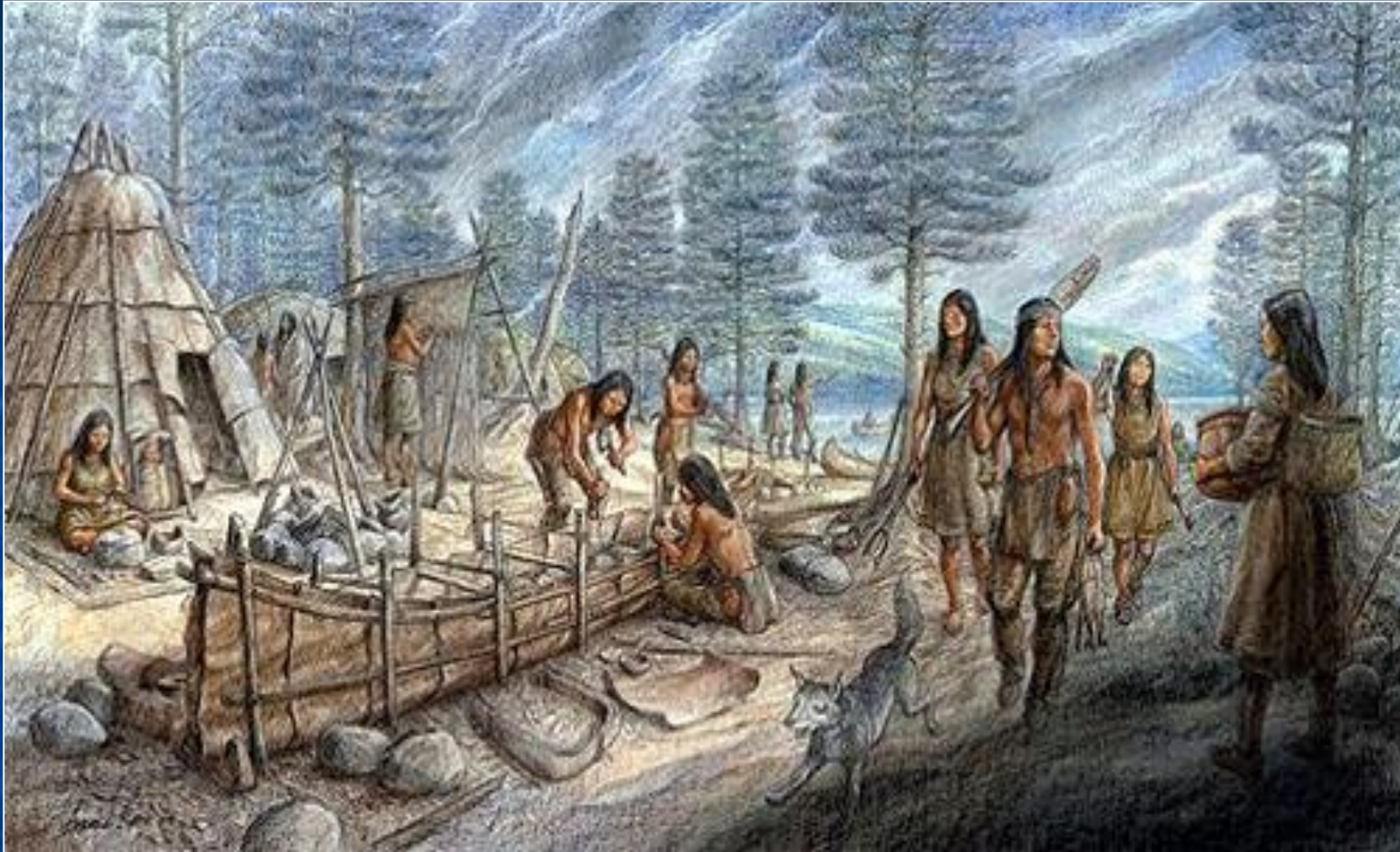
Iroquois family growing corn, beans, and squash in the Native science of companion planting.





Sixty per cent of the world's food supply originated with Natives in the Americas.





Relationships of Respect Build Democratic Values



## Egalitarian Power-Leveling Strategies



### **Teaching Values**

Generosity replaces dominance.

### **Good-natured Teasing**

Humor corrects arrogant behavior.

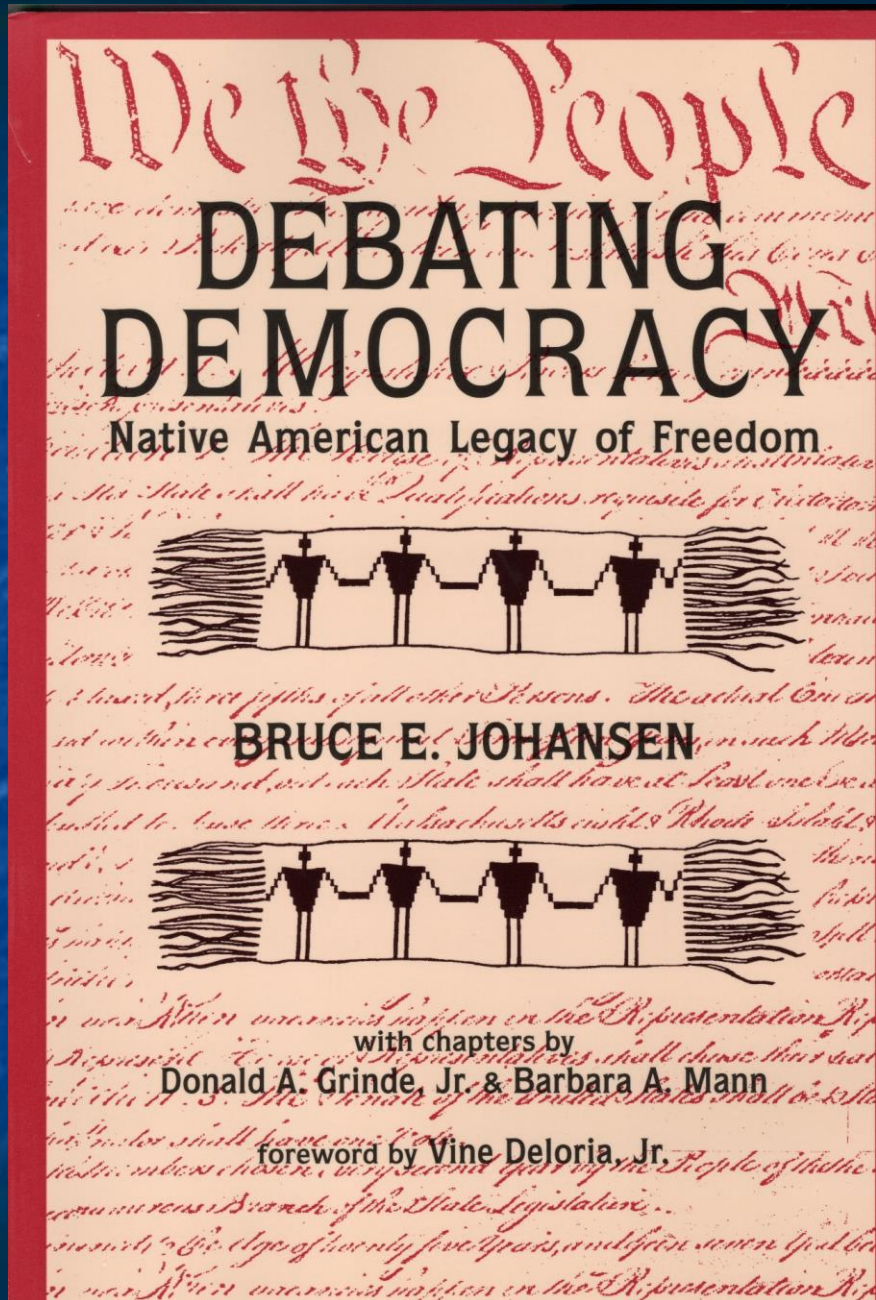
### **Withholding Attention**

Ignore persons who pursue power.

Indigenous peoples were usually able to prevent power-hungry persons from gaining dominance.

CHRISTOPHER BOEHM





Native Americans laid the foundation for freedom and equality long before Europeans.

OHIYESA  
[Charles Eastman]



# The Great Law of Peace: The Iroquois Confederacy



Oral History of Democratic Principles





Today: Canada, New York

The Iroquois Confederacy dates  
to the solar eclipse of 1142



# “We the People...”

## The Iroquois Great Law of Peace



- ◇ Leaders are servants.
- ◇ Women share power.
- ◇ Decisions are by consensus.



# A Balance of Power

Clan Mothers choose chiefs and can remove them from power.



The Iroquois Confederacy was founded by Mother of the Nations Jikohnsaseh along with the Peacemaker and Hiawatha.





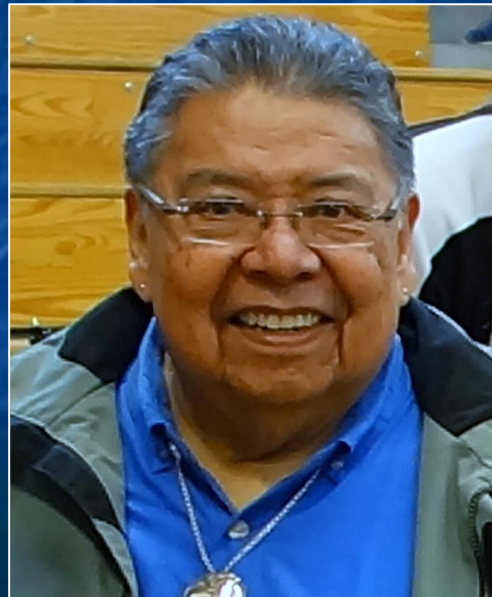
Living in Harmony with People and Nature



# Women are Sacred in Indigenous Cultures

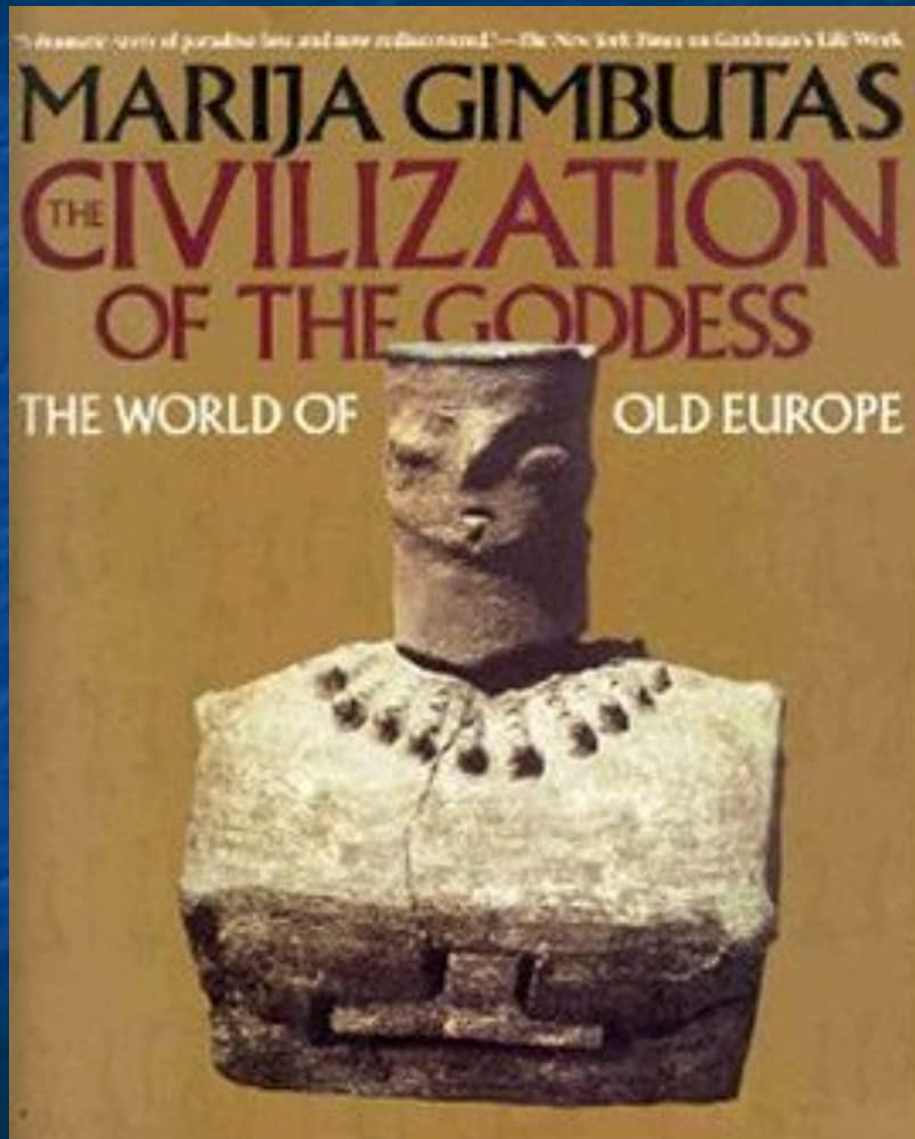
In religions native to North America, the heroes are women. The Navajo say, "Grandmother created the world." The sacred model to the Kiowa is Star Woman. In Lakota culture, White Buffalo Calf Woman saved her people. In contrast, religions that originated in the Middle East have male heroes such as Moses and Mohammed.

MARTIN BROKENLEG





Until 4,000 BC, Indigenous Europeans also had Egalitarian communities.



MARIJA GIMBUTAS (1921-1994) was a Lithuanian-born American archeologist and anthropologist and the leading scholar on “Old Europe.”

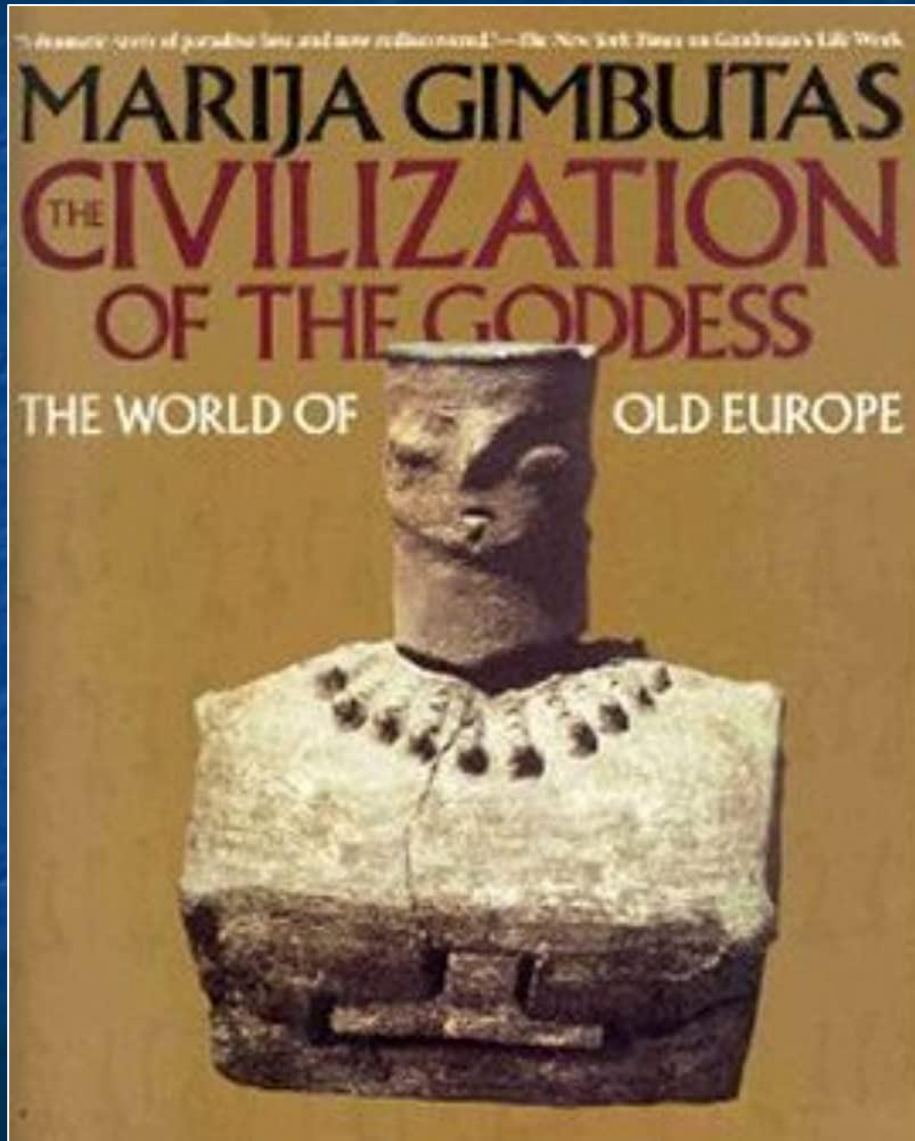




Her Lithuanian culture was closely connected with Nature and female mythology. Gimbutas recounts a tradition of kissing mother earth each morning and evening.



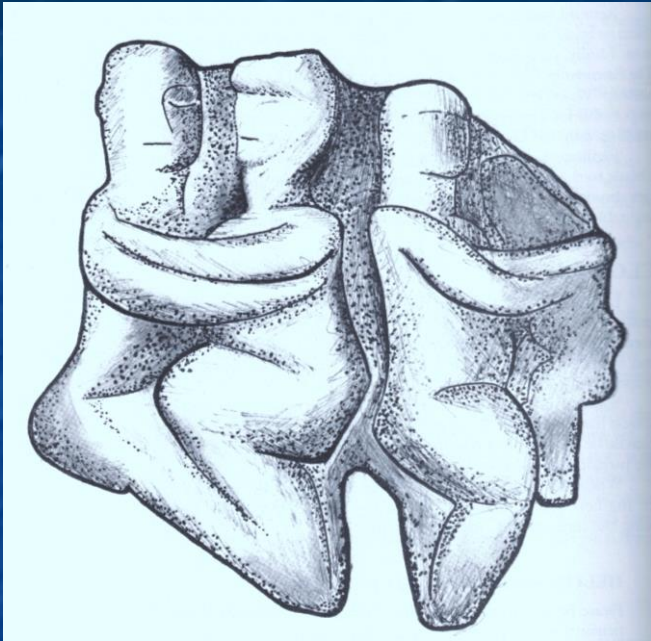
# Women were Revered



Their most prominent art objects show pregnant women described in sacred mythology of the female goddess, the bringer of life.



Art in “Old Europe” shows life in harmony with others and nature.



***Sacred Marriage*** 6,000 BC carved in bluish stone shows a couple in love and the result, the sacred mother - child bond.

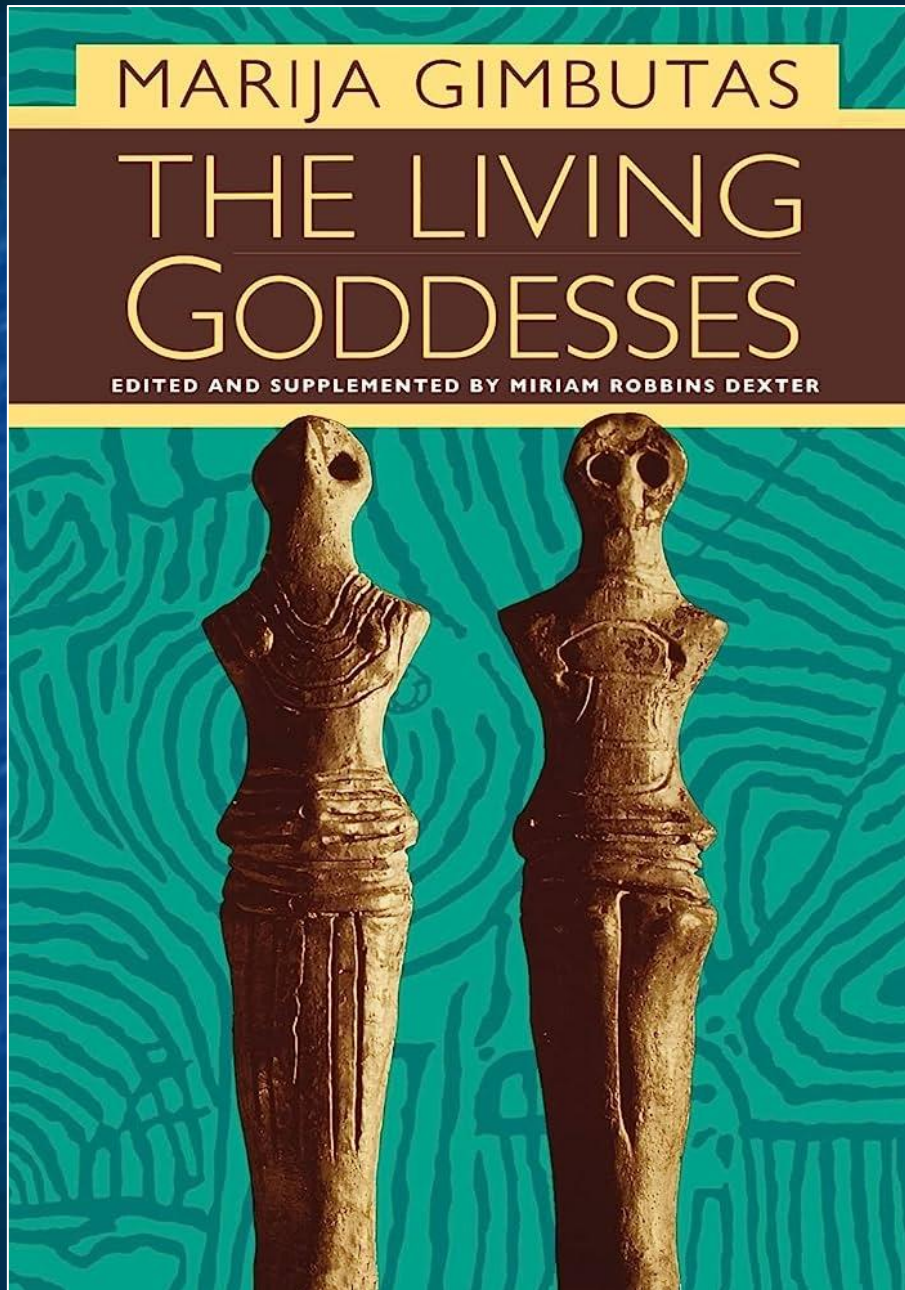


***The Natural Male*** provides for his family. There were no images of male dominance.



***Love, joy, and the beauty and wonder of life*** in this art from near Crete in 1500 BC. These isolated islands preserved their peaceful cultures for centuries.





Old Europe was an Advanced Civilization  
Citizens lived peaceably in well-designed  
agricultural communities. These were  
matrilineal cultures with equality of sexes.

Artists made beautiful artifacts using metallurgy  
and pottery. A written language emerged.  
There were no weapons of war.

While Europe would be overrun by patriarchal  
warriors, like a marble cake, it would preserve  
elements of the earlier peaceful civilization.

MARIJA GIMBUTAS





## A Dramatic Paradigm Shift

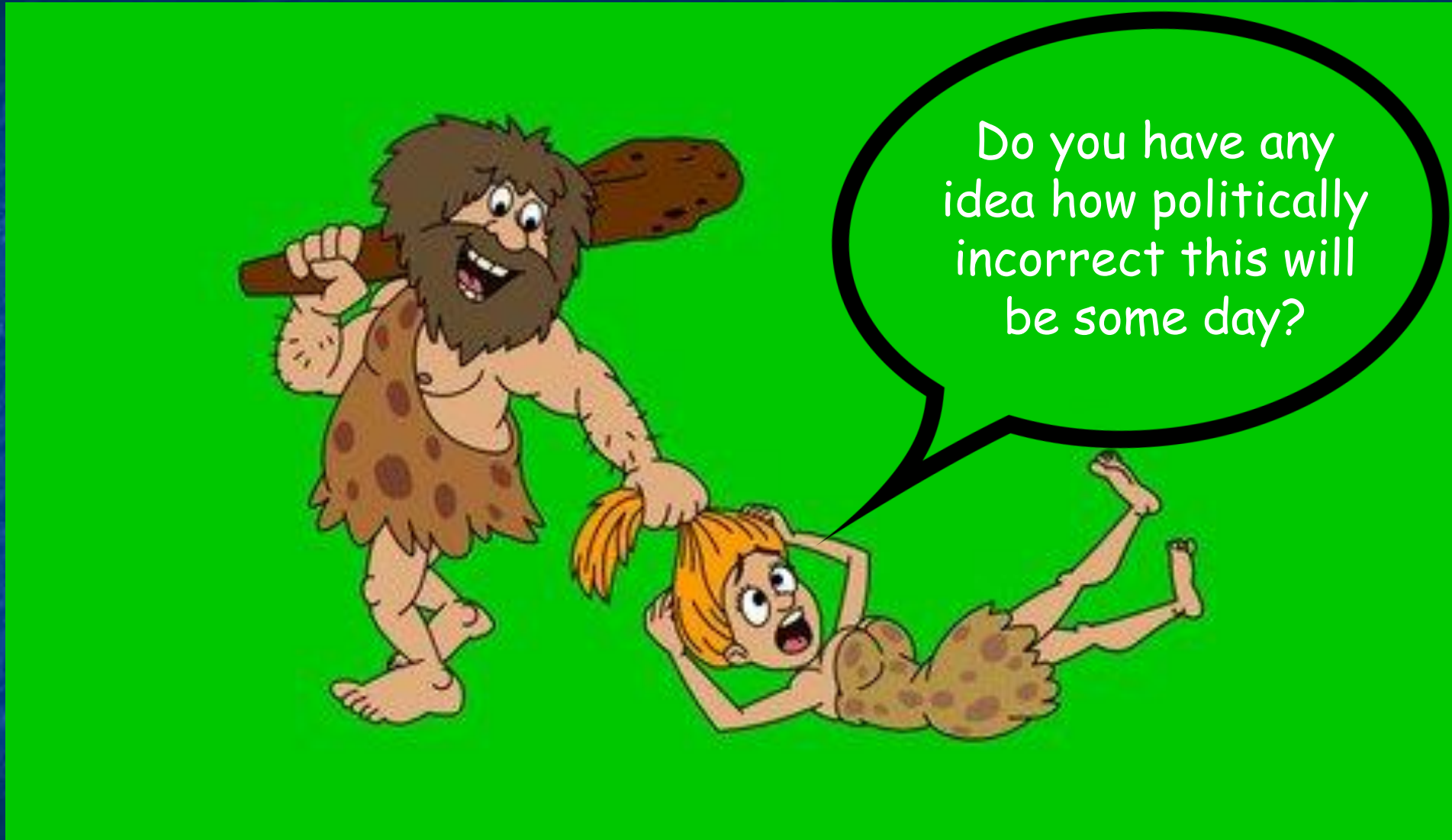
Gimbutas challenged the myth that men have always dominated women with a wealth of evidence from linguistics, religion, archeology, and anthropology.

Her theory that Indigenous “Old Europe” was once an advanced egalitarian civilization was initially ignored by scholars locked in the patriarchal mindset. But as her theories gained increasing credibility, she and colleagues were subjected to a deluge of vicious criticism and ridicule from conventional academics.

Thomas Kuhn describes the *paradigm shift* as old notions collapse and a new science is born. Years after her death, DNA research would validate her theory of Old Europe.



# The Patriarchy Myth: Men Have Always Dominated Woman



The Gimbutas Maxim: It takes women to tame men and boys.



# INDIGENOUS WISDOM: RE-RIGHTING HISTORY

Cultures of Respect

Dominator Cultures

Re-RIGHTING History

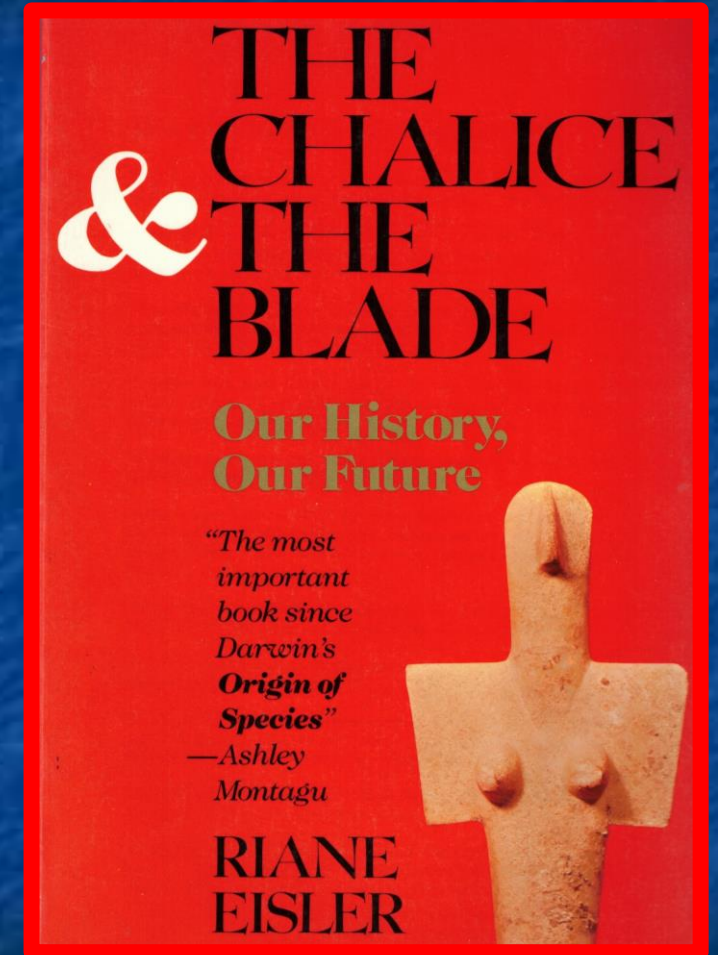






A Collision of Cultures  
Partnership Cultures  
of respect for others and  
nature prevailed across the  
long history of humanity.

Dominator Cultures  
invaded Europe about 5,000  
years ago and ruled until  
the advent of democracy.







## Nomadic Herdsmen Developed Violent Dominator Cultures

Though farmers are cooperative, herdsman without a stable community are on their own. To protect their herd from theft, they become hypervigilant – any sign of threat can trigger a violent defensive reaction. Aggression becomes embedded in their brain chemistry and values. This reactivity can persist across generations, even when they are no longer guarding animals.

ROBERT NISBETT & DEV COHEN



# THE COLONIZATION OF EUROPE



**Fierce Horse Warriors** changed the course of human history.  
(Nova PBS)



## Kurgan Invasions begin 4,400 BC.



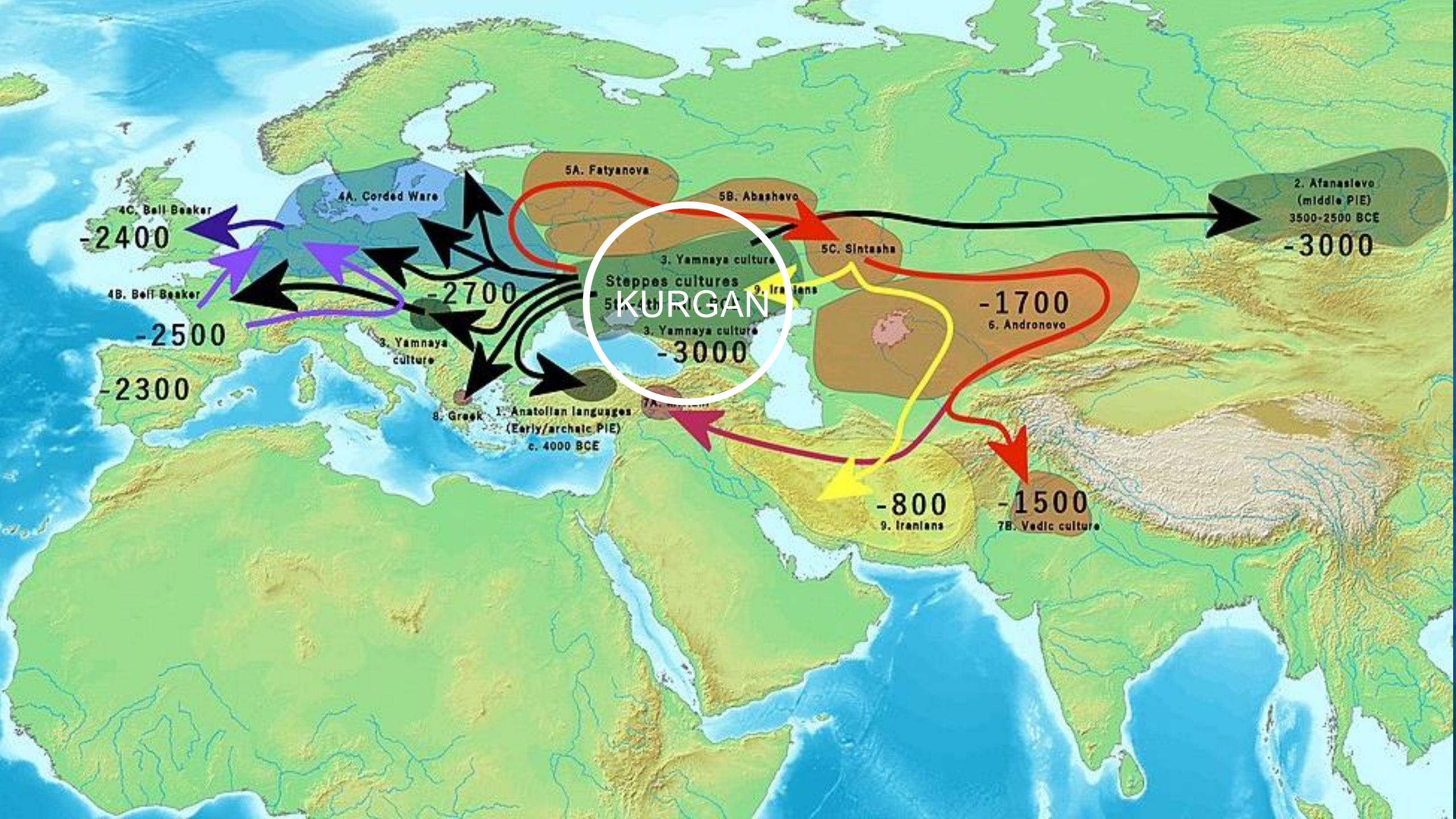
“Kurgan” is the Russian name for burial mounds where powerful male warriors were entombed with their horses, weapons of war, and sacrificed humans.

From the barren steppes of southern Russia came fierce nomadic warriors on horses with weapons and chariots of war.

Waves of violent invaders from this bronze age Yamnaya culture decimated peaceful Old Europe in centuries of cultural genocide.

The Proto-Indo-European tongue of the intruders replaced the existing European languages.









## The Cultural Conquest of Indigenous Europe



### Partnership Cultures

Matrilineal organization

Egalitarian ethic of caring

Peaceful, little violence

Life in harmony with nature

### Dominator Cultures

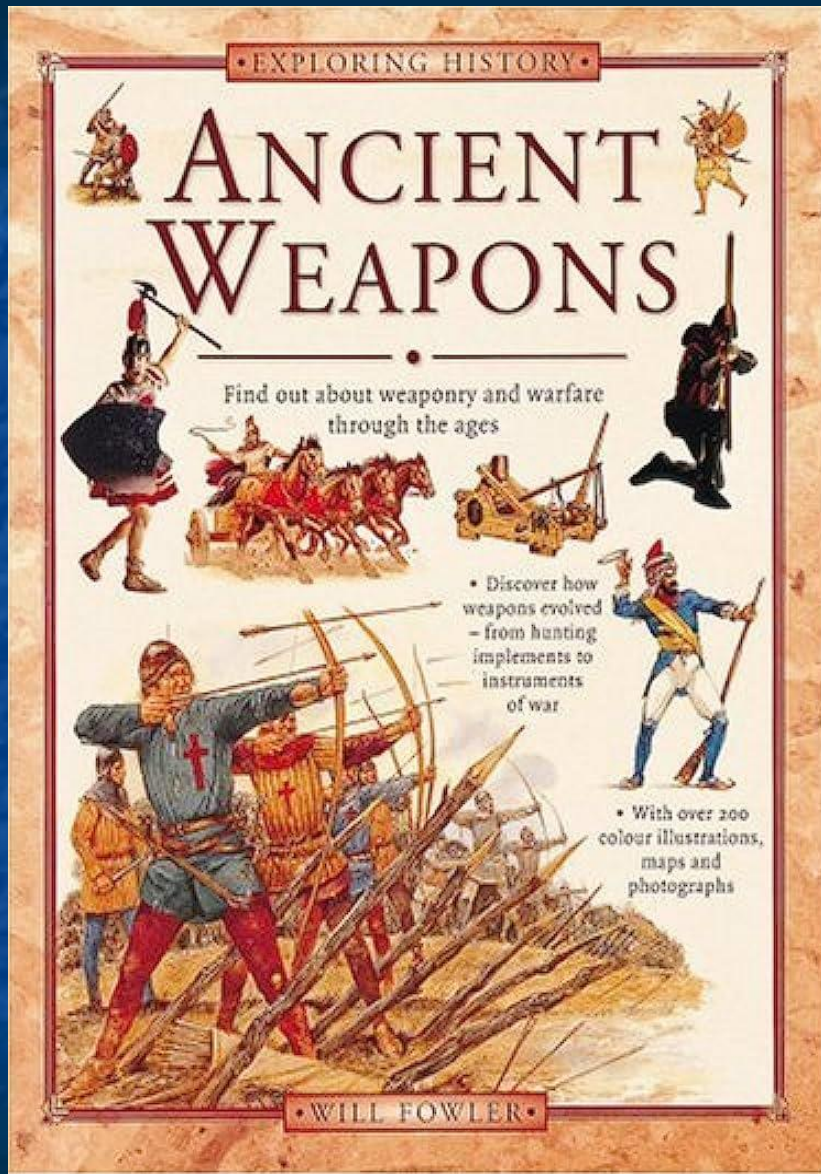
Patriarchal organization

Dictatorial drive for power

Violence and plundering

Nature is to be exploited





Old Europe used metallurgy to make works of art. But the Kurgan invasion brought Bronze weapons—daggers, halberds, and battle-axes.



Old Europe had comfortable housing for all with no armed fortresses. Warlords redesigned cities for military defense with castles, walls, and moats.





## Europe becomes a Dominator Culture

This reshapes government, religion, education, science, and fuels the abuse of women and children.

Violence becomes popular as entertainment, a precursor to our own time. Here Achilles murders Queen Penthesilea in 5<sup>th</sup> century art on colored vases.



The Gimbutas Kurgan theory is vindicated.



**What happened to the men and women of Old Europe?**

New DNA research on the male Y chromosome shows that 5,000 years ago, the Kurgan invasions virtually eliminated existing male populations across Europe. To this day, most males of European descent have significant Kurgan DNA.

**Male “Displacement”**

The Y chromosome is passed from father to son. This indicates the invaders perpetrated mass killing of local men and boys. But about 60 per cent of the full genetic sequence was passed on since women survived. Almost certainly they endured widespread sexual coercion and rape.

COLIN BARRAS, 2019





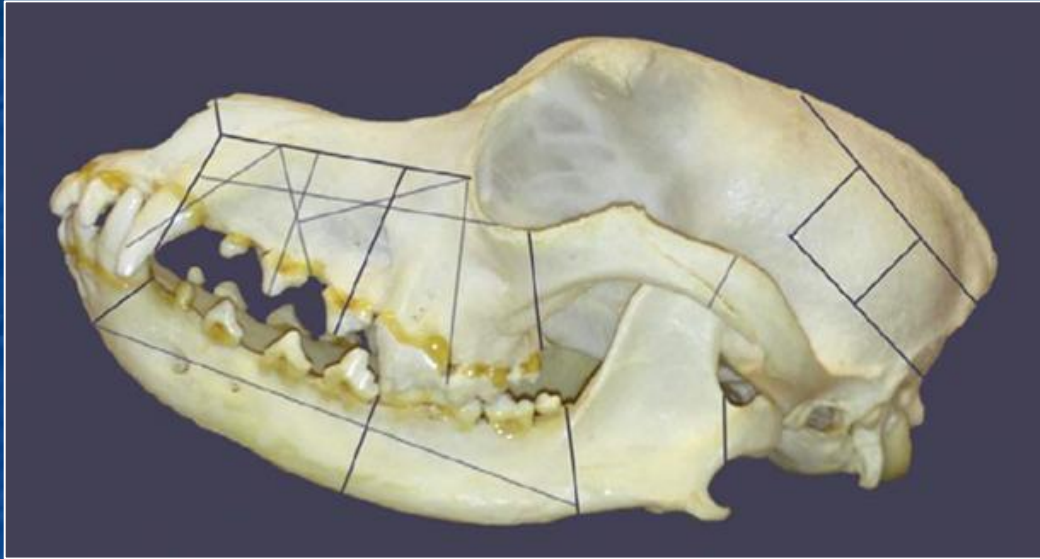
Oral history depicts roving war-bands of youth who ravaged Europe. This violent tradition originated in the steppes of Russia. Carvings suggest the size of war-bands as 8 males.  
Eric Powell (2023)



Archeologists unearth 8 males with 8 horses buried 100 AD near a Celtic military stronghold



# Raising Violent Boys



Archeologists located wolf and dog bones as the site of Wolf-Band initiations on the Russian steppes. The skull was cut into pieces shown by lines traced here, to be worn as ornaments by the boy warriors.

DAVID ANTHONY & DORCAS BROWN

Mythology, linguistics, and archeology document this Indo-European initiation rite turning boys into savage warriors.

Teens 13-19 who were not the eldest male lacked a family inheritance. They were inducted into a war-band in a ceremony held at the winter solstice. Wolves or dogs were killed, roasted, and eaten as youth thus became wolves.

For part of each year, they maturated in bands led by an experienced male. They were free to rape, pillage, and abduct women so long as they didn't attack their own tribe. Upon turning 20 years of age, they left the wolf-band, ready to marry.

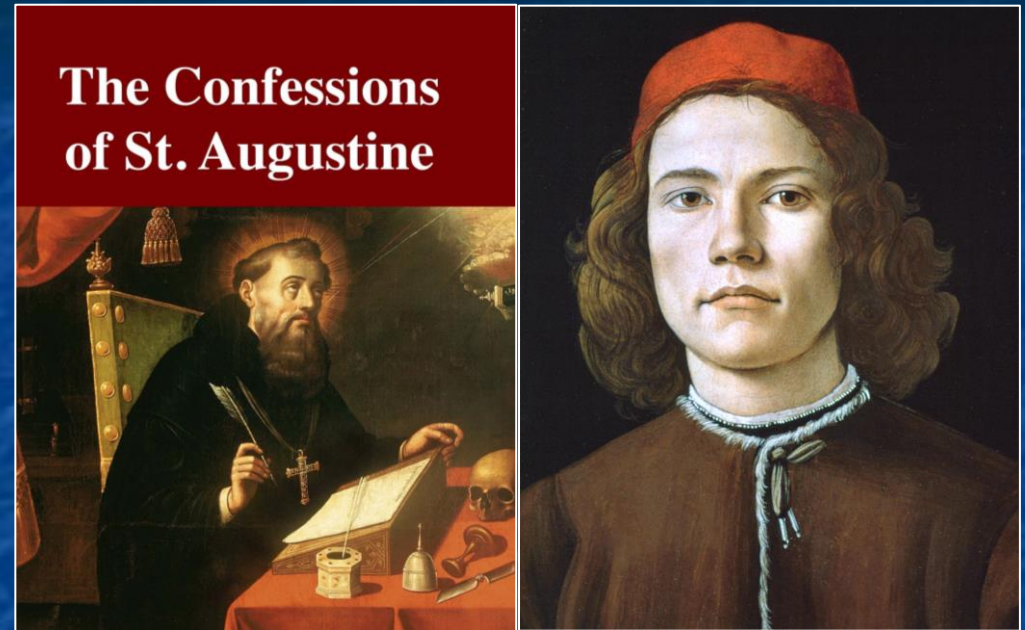


# Contrasting Cultures of Respect with Dominator Cultures



*I was taught that when I was the oldest in a group of children, it was my responsibility to protect and care for those younger than me.*

MARTIN BROKENLEG



*I would be ashamed to be less vicious than they as they bragged of their beastly wickedness . . . We delighted in doing ill, not only for the pleasure of the act, but even for a desire of praise.*

ST. AUGUSTINE, 400 AD





## Democratic Traditions Ended

Raw power became the measure of progress – elevating powerful men above women and weaker men.

Scholars locked in this mindset labeled Old Europe “barbarism” and patriarchal power was “civilization.”

MARIJA GIMBUTAS



# Patriarchal Dominator Cultures Disrupt Old Europe



Women, children, and slaves become property – chattel.

Massive wealth disparities separate rulers and peasants.

Violence, crime, and warfare reach extreme levels.

Health problems plague populations.





## The Myth of Democracy in Athens

The widely cited legend that Athens was the seedbed for democracy conceals the reality that this was a slave society where only men holding property could vote.

Men in power were also entitled to sexually exploit women, and pottery art romanticized prostitution. The notion that predatory male behavior pervades human history is false. This is a toxic effect of dominator cultures.

EVA KEULS





## Inventions for War

The Kurgans had used mounted horses and deadly weapons to conquer Old Europe.

Then European monarchs used ships and cannons to enslave peoples in the Americas, Africa, Australia, Asia, and Pacific Islands.





# THE SECOND WAVE OF COLONIZATION: EUROPE DOMINATES THE WORLD



**Never Colonized by Europe:**  
Japan, Korea, Thailand, Liberia





“Jesus possessed a great force, the love force, but Christianity became disfigured when it went to the West. It became a religion of kings.”

MAHATMA GANDHI





## Colonizing Africa: The Papal Bull of 1455

Pope Nicholas V granted Portugal rights to enslave Muslim and African people. He called for non-Christian peoples to be invaded, captured, vanquished, and reduced to perpetual slavery to Christian monarchs. This fueled the slave trade.

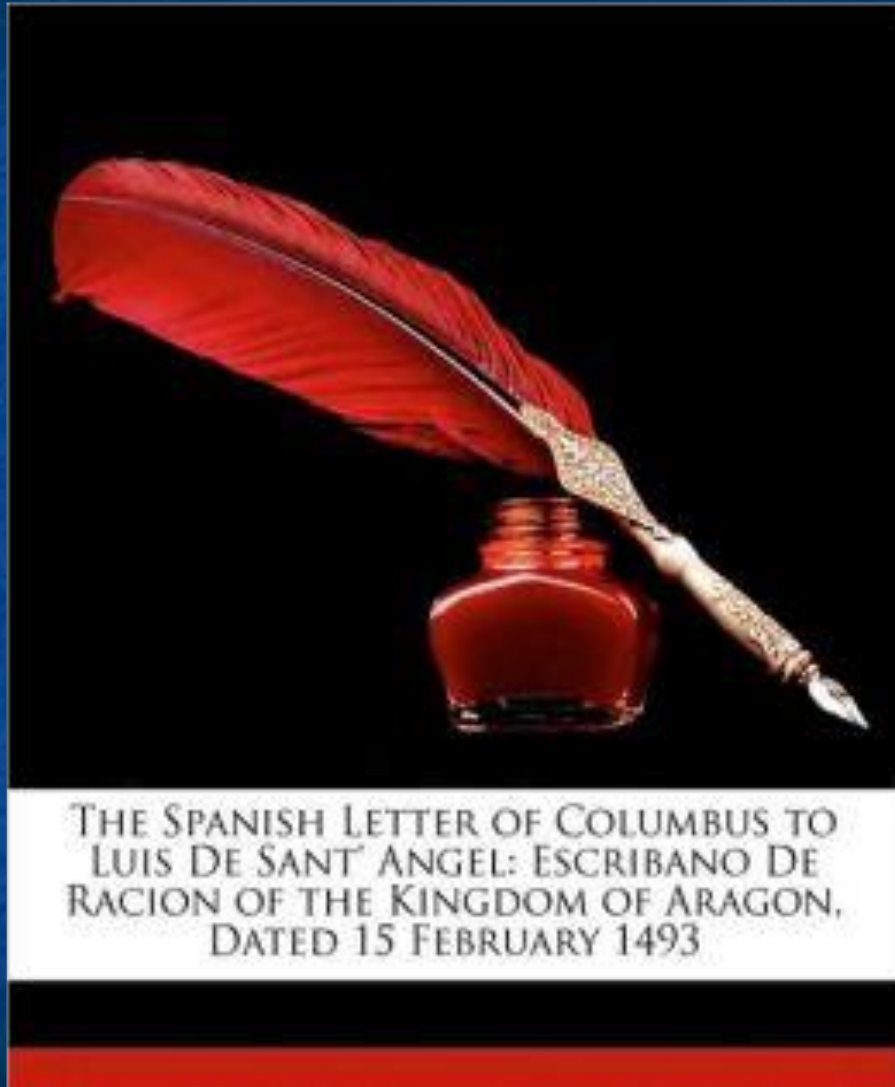




1492: Columbus blew in and the world changed.



# The Fatal Letter



## Columbus Described Natives

Generous, kind, loving, extraordinarily timid, ingenious, men of commanding stature, with no weapons of war, and carrying on inter-island commerce in canoes longer and faster than Spanish 18-oared galleys.

He then declared that they and their lands were owned by Spain, taking hostages to display in Europe.





## Colonizing the Americas: The Papal Bull of 1493

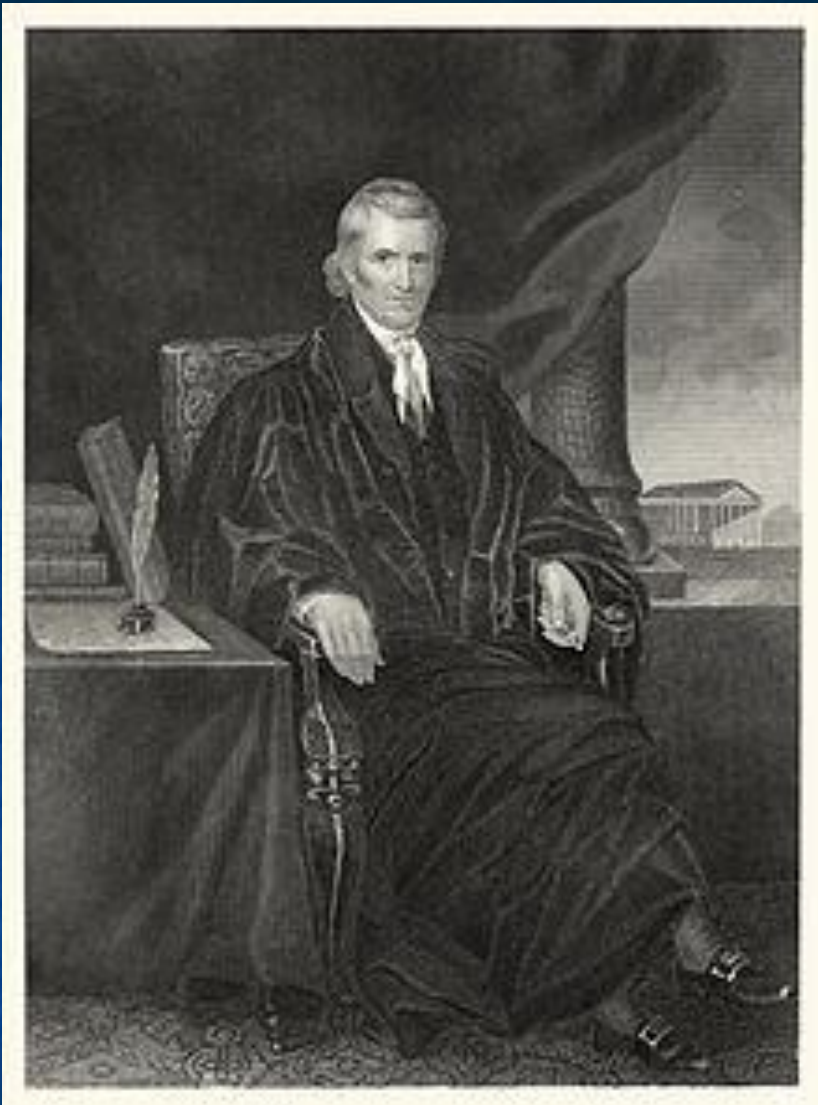
Pope Alexander VI gave this land to Christian monarchs because of the “inferior character of native cultures.”

He authorized explorers and military leaders to convert, torture, enslave, or kill to seize the lands unless the foe was a “Christian prince” in which case he could keep the land.









Chief Justice John Marshall

## The Doctrine of Discovery in Law

1823: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that European nations had an absolute right to the lands they “discovered” and colonized because of the “character and religion” of Natives and “superior genius” of Europe.”

This law is treated as valid since it was legal when discovery countries made their claims. (It applies in Africa, Asia, and the Americas)





## Manifest Destiny

The rallying cry for westward expansion: "God intended for superior Europeans to control North America."

*American Progress painting by John Gast, 1872*





Rural Europeans lived with farm animals so pollution crossed species evolving deadly diseases. Polluted cities also spawned plagues.

Colonizers had some immunity but victims of colonization did not. More Natives were killed by germs than weapons. Boarding schools spawned child burial grounds.

*Guns, Germs, and Steel*  
JARED DIAMOND





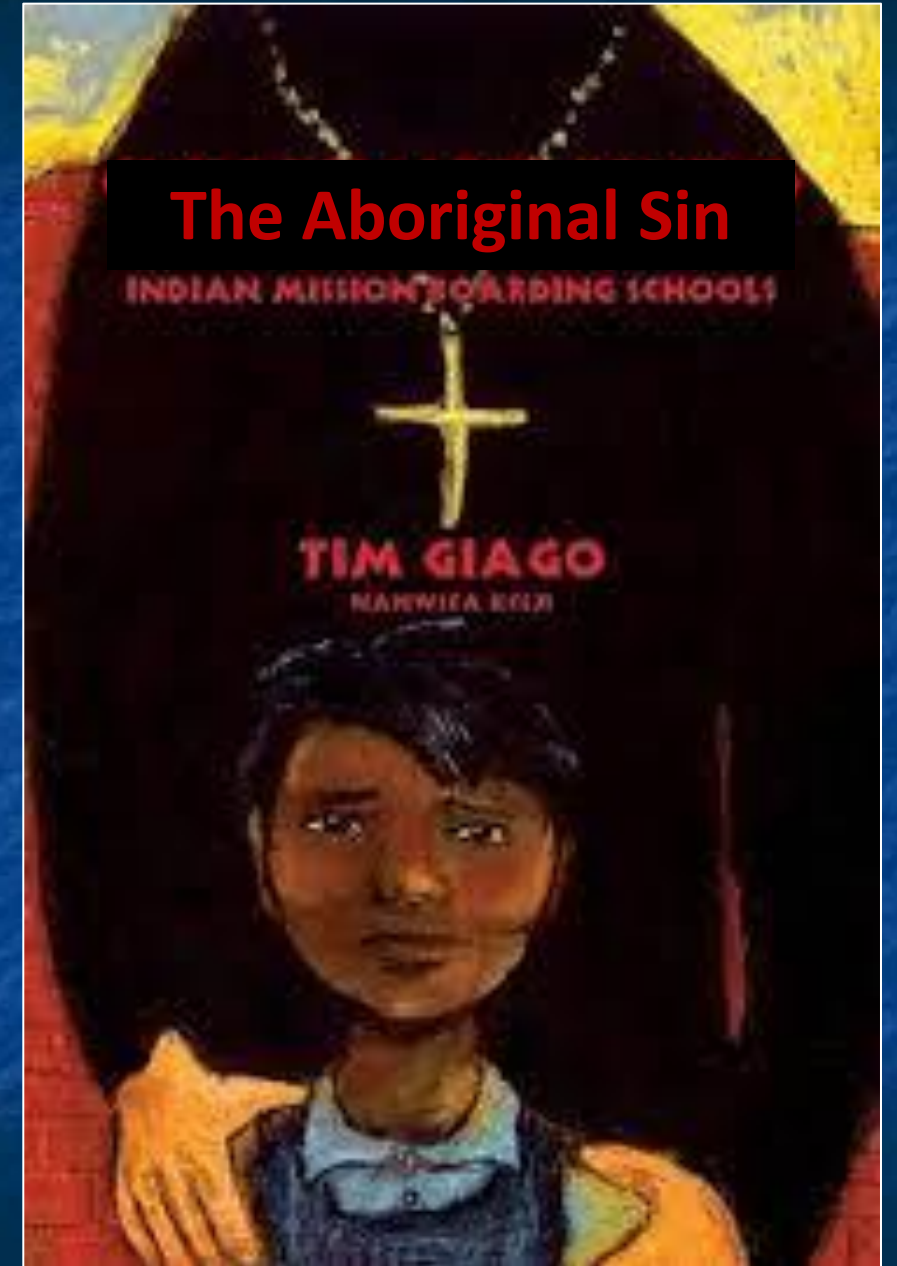
Education became a Weapon to Destroy Native Culture  
“Kill the Indian and save the man.” Captain Richard Pratt, Carlisle Indian School





Missionaries brought a “love thy neighbor” message which resonated with Native peoples. What they got were abusive boarding schools. Being stripped of language and family contact triggered intergenerational cultural trauma.

JANNA BRENDTRO & MARTIN BROKENLEG

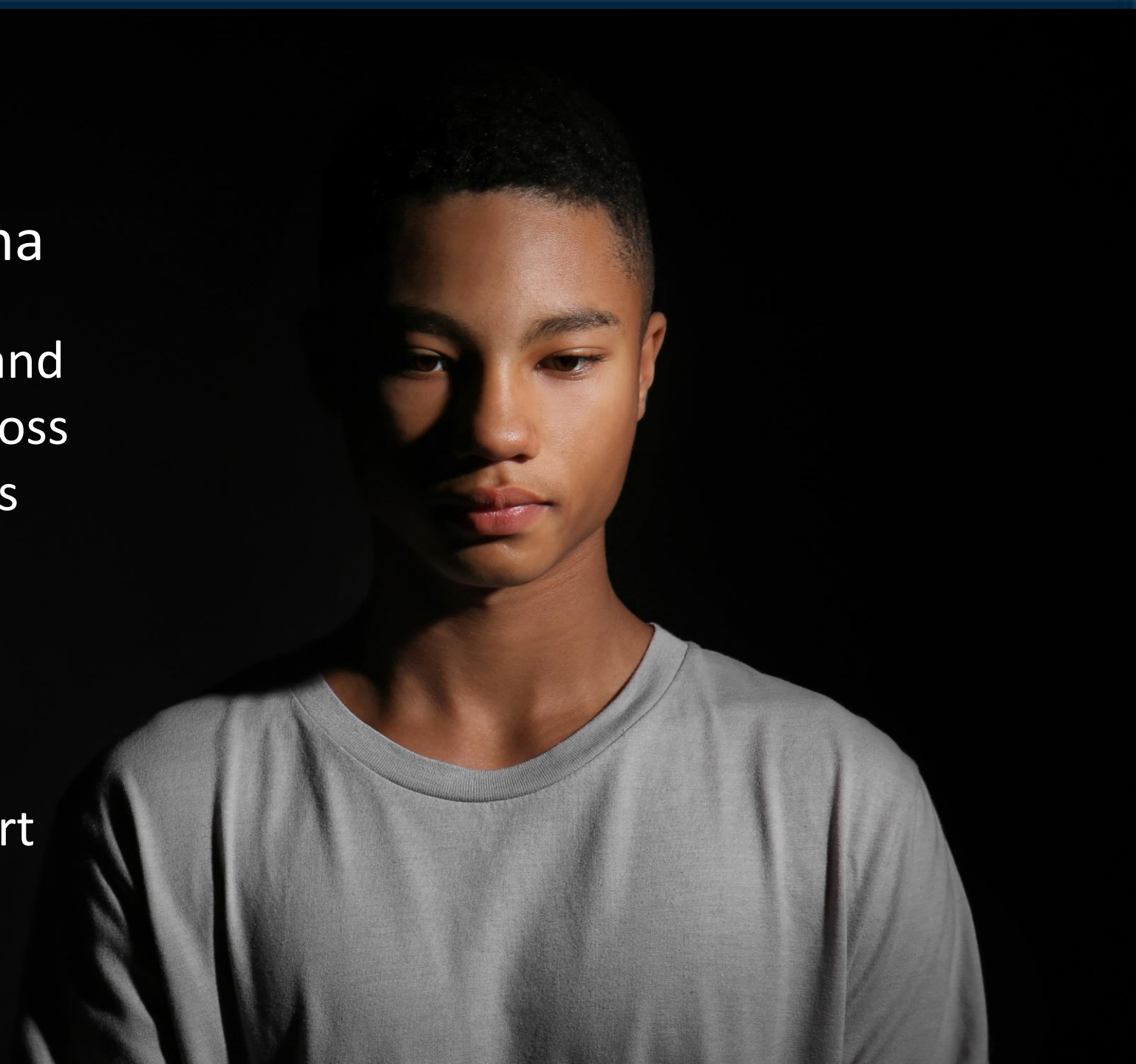




# Historical Cultural Trauma

The cumulative emotional and psychological wounding across the lifespan and generations results from massive group trauma experiences.

Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart  
University of New Mexico





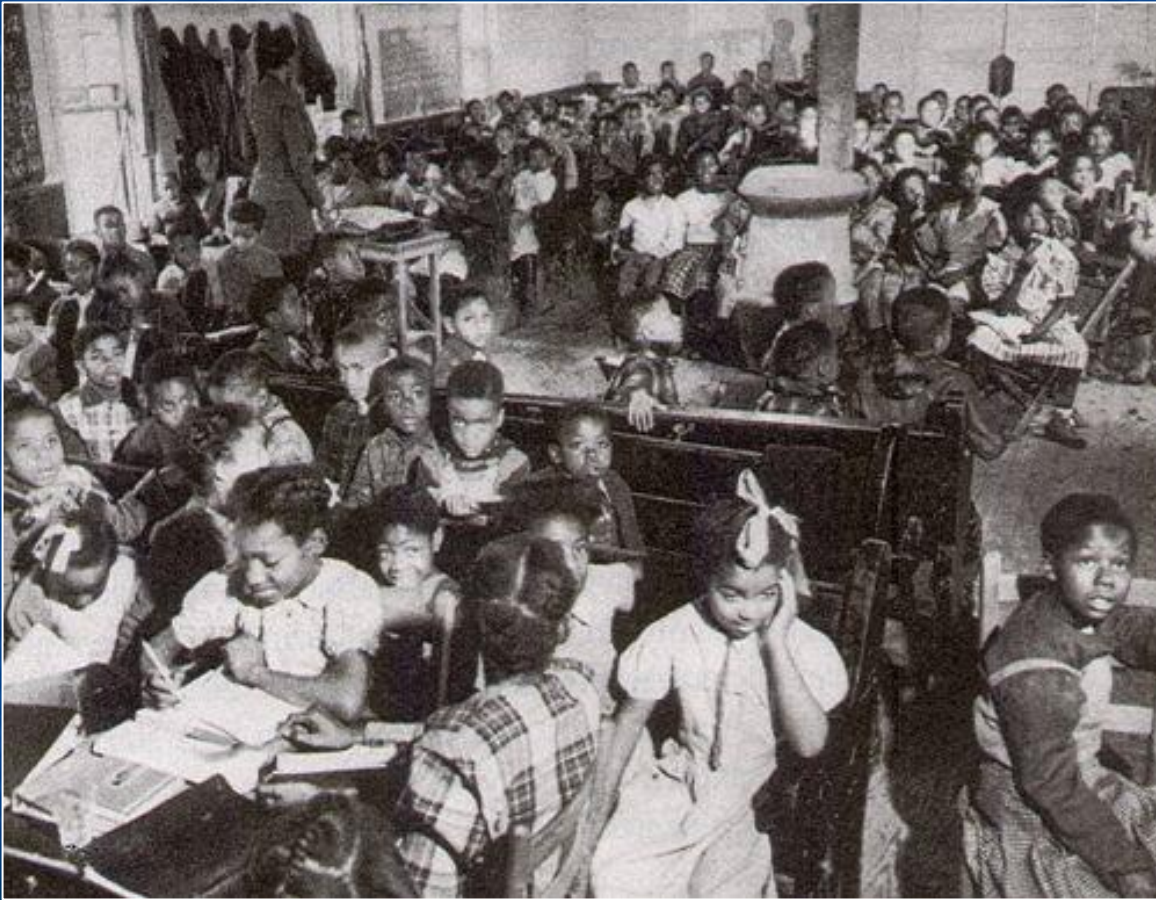


## Trails of Tears

Across the continent, tribes were forced to move to unsuitable lands. This mother on the Pine Ridge Reservation struggles with profound poverty.



Slavery and prejudice traumatized generations of African-Americans.



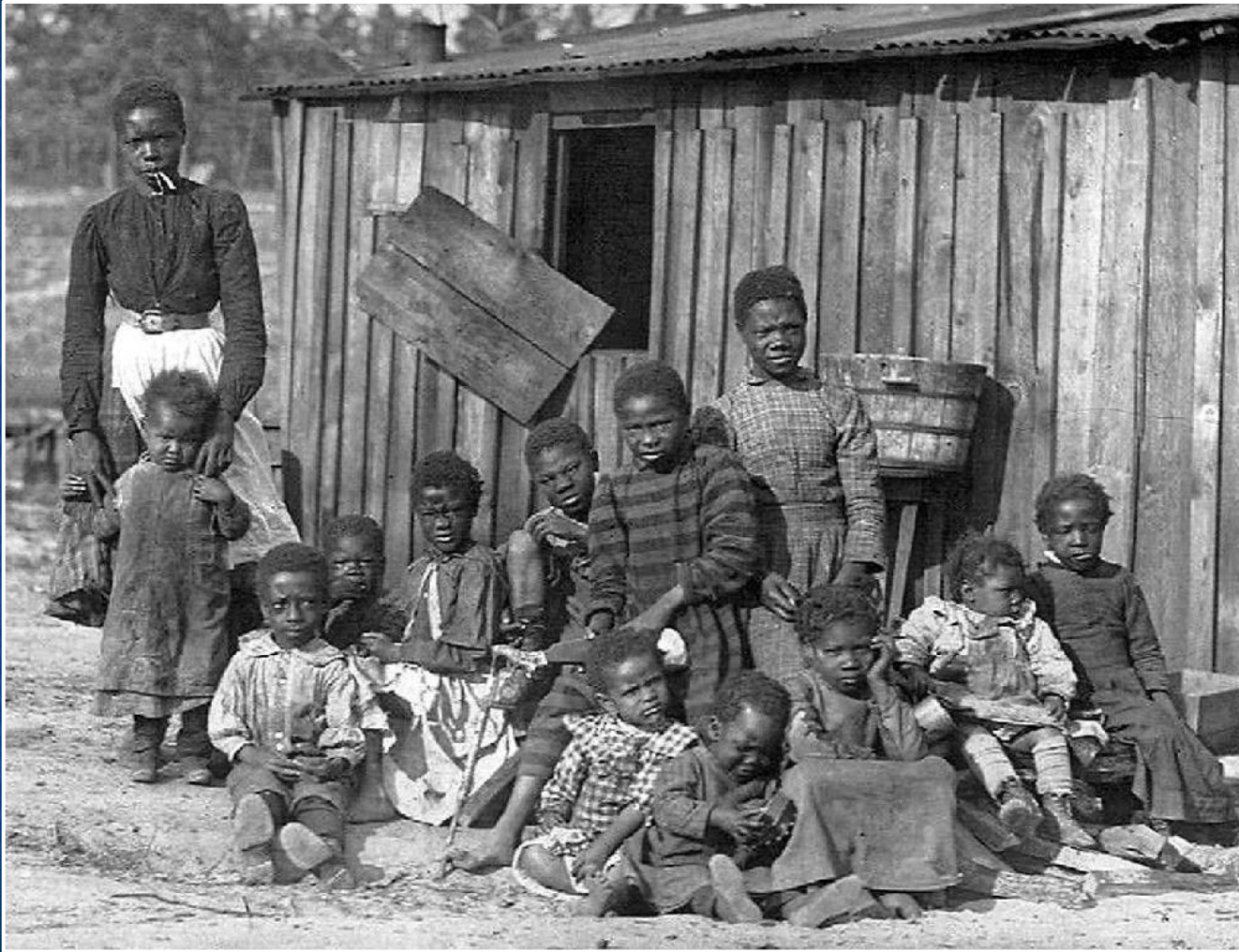
Growing up as a Black Boy

W. E. B. DU BOIS



*Hate, that stood out against the red dawn;  
Despair, that darkened noonday; and  
Doubt, that ever steals along with twilight.*





# Intergenerational Trauma

African Slavery and Poverty

Australian Stolen Generation

British Colonization of India

The Maori in New Zealand

Natives of the Americas

Pacific Island Nations

Chinese Slavery

The Holocaust





**Epigenetics:** Trauma in past generations can “switch on” genes that activate stress and trauma reactions. *Native healers, medicine people, and elders have always known this, and it is common knowledge in Native oral traditions.*

LEE BITOSI, Navajo Genetics Researcher



# Racial Trauma

KENNETH HARDY

## Surface Symptoms

Acting Out

Withdrawal

Helplessness

Hopelessness

Substance Abuse



## Hidden Wounds

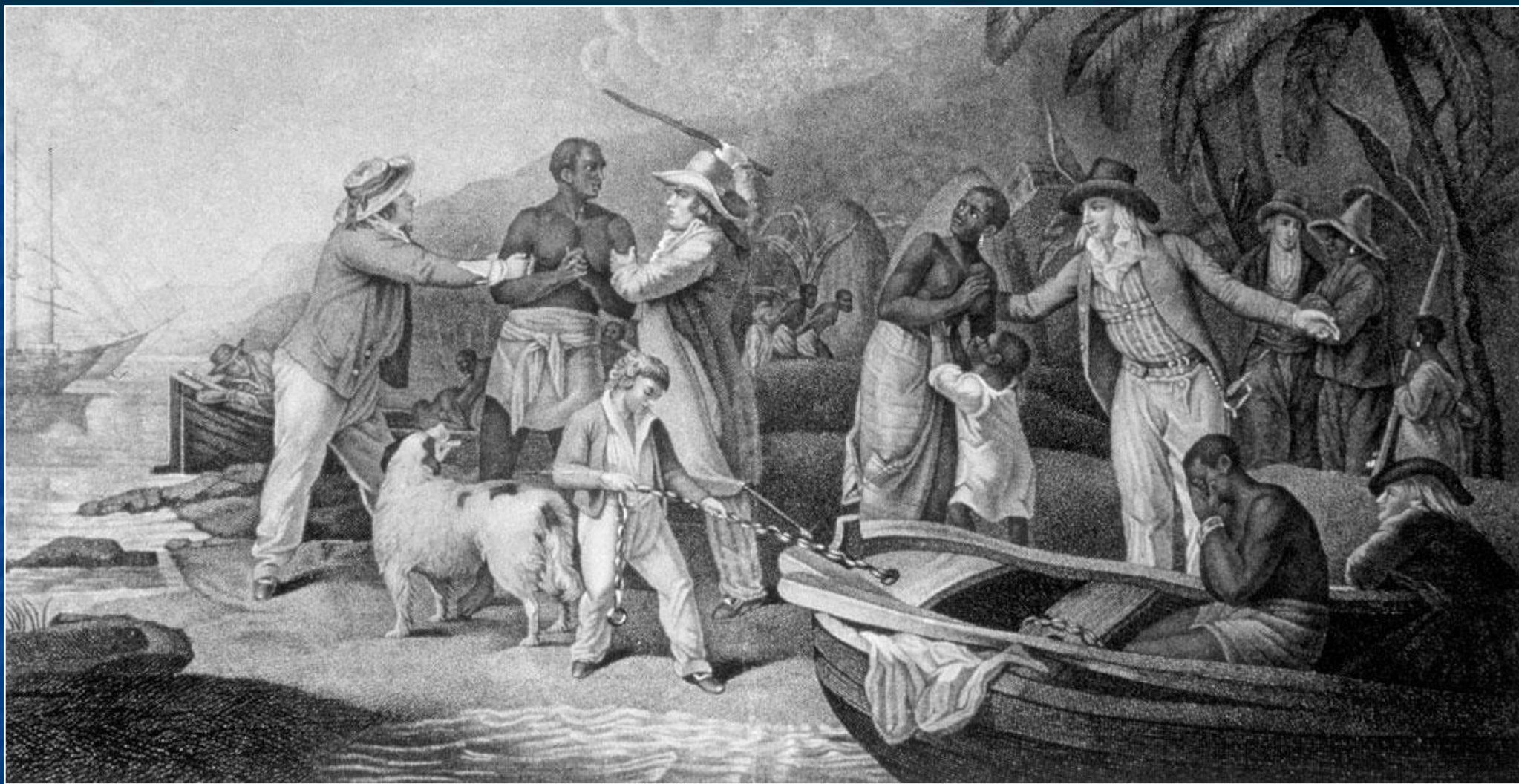
Disrespect

Voicelessness

Wounds of Rage

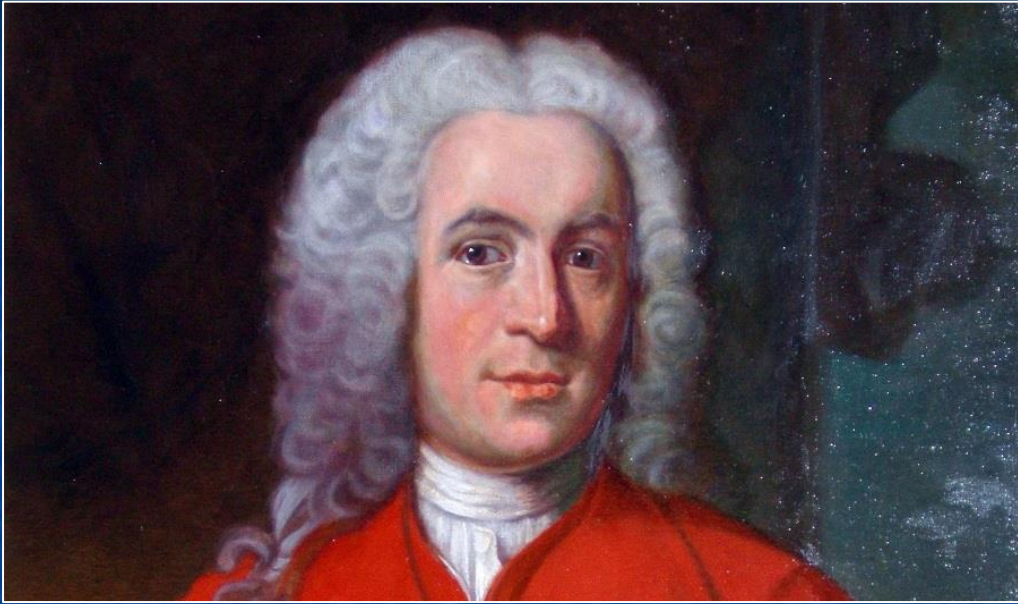
Wounded Self-Worth





The white racial supremacy myth justified domination of other cultures.





## The Roots of “Scientific” Racism

In 1767, Swedish biologist Carl Linnaeus invented the fiction of biological *race* by classifying humans based on appearance and personality.

*Europeanus*

White, gentle, inventive

*Asiaticus*

Yellow, melancholy, greedy

*Americanus*

Red, ill-tempered, stubborn

*Africanus*

Black, sly, lazy



ON THE ORIGIN OF  
SPECIES BY MEANS OF  
NATURAL SELECTION,

OR THE PRESERVATION OF FAVOURED  
RACES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE.

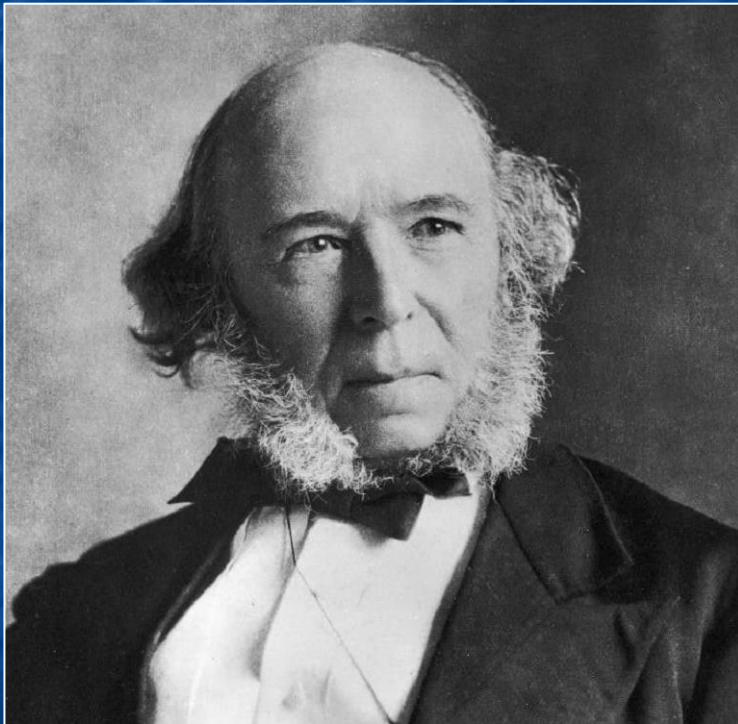
*Charles Darwin*

1859: *Origin of the Species*  
initially had this subtitle which  
appeared to embrace racism.



# Social Darwinism

1864: Biologist Herbert Spencer corrupts evolutionary science and fuels white supremacy coining the slogan “Survival of the Fittest.”



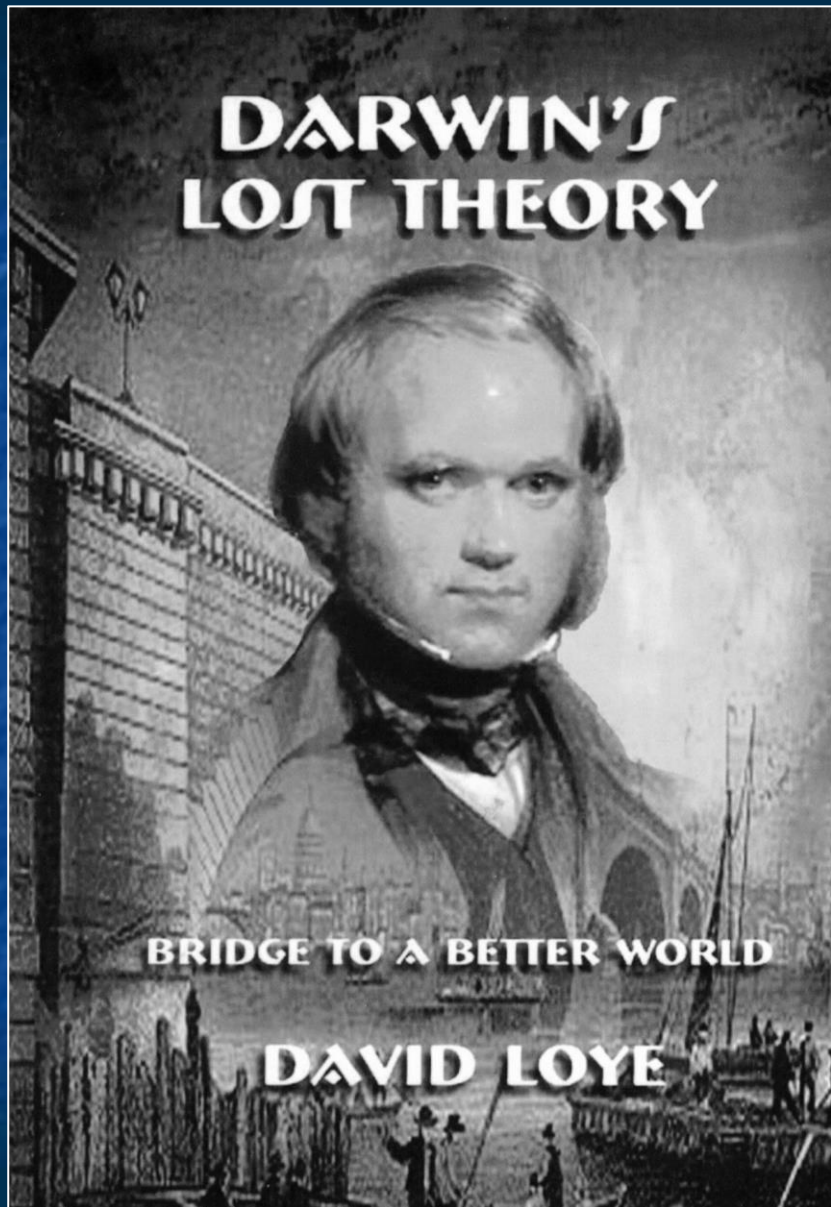
HERBERT SPENCER

Superior races naturally dominate inferiors.

Eugenics is essential to preserve racial purity.

Policies to help those less fit (e.g. the poor, immigrants) breed an inferior race.





1871: Darwin challenged this pessimistic mindset. In his book on human evolution, *Descent of Man*, Darwin speaks 95 times of “love.” In contrast, he only mentions “survival of the fittest” twice, and he criticizes this false view of evolution.

His new book was ignored by scientists with a violent view of human history. The real Darwin was silenced – he who wrote of “the ennobling belief in God” and provided the science that supports core religious beliefs of “love thy neighbor.”





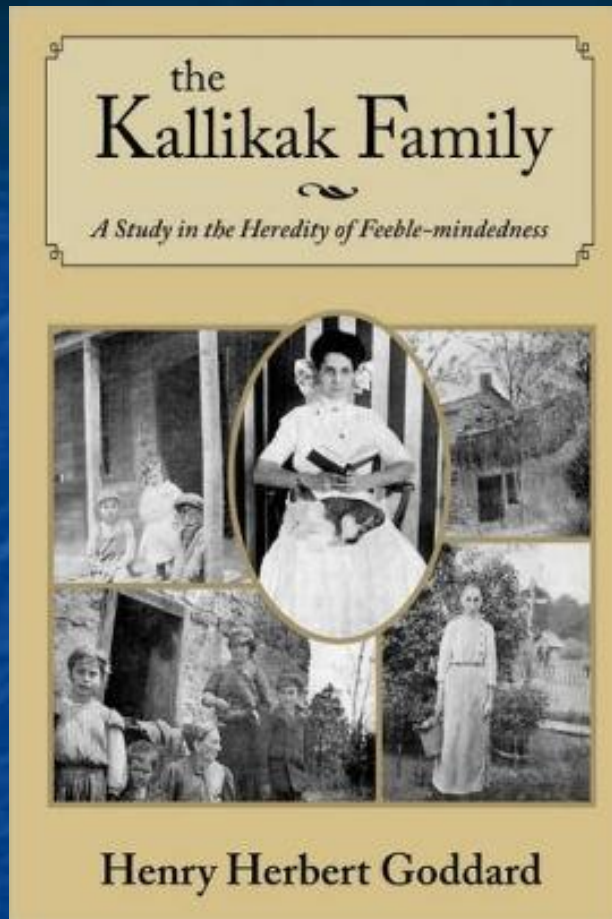
## Survival of the ~~Fittest~~ Most Compassionate

CHARLES DARWIN

When his ten-year-old daughter died of TB, Darwin concluded that compassion for those we love is the strongest instinct in most humans.

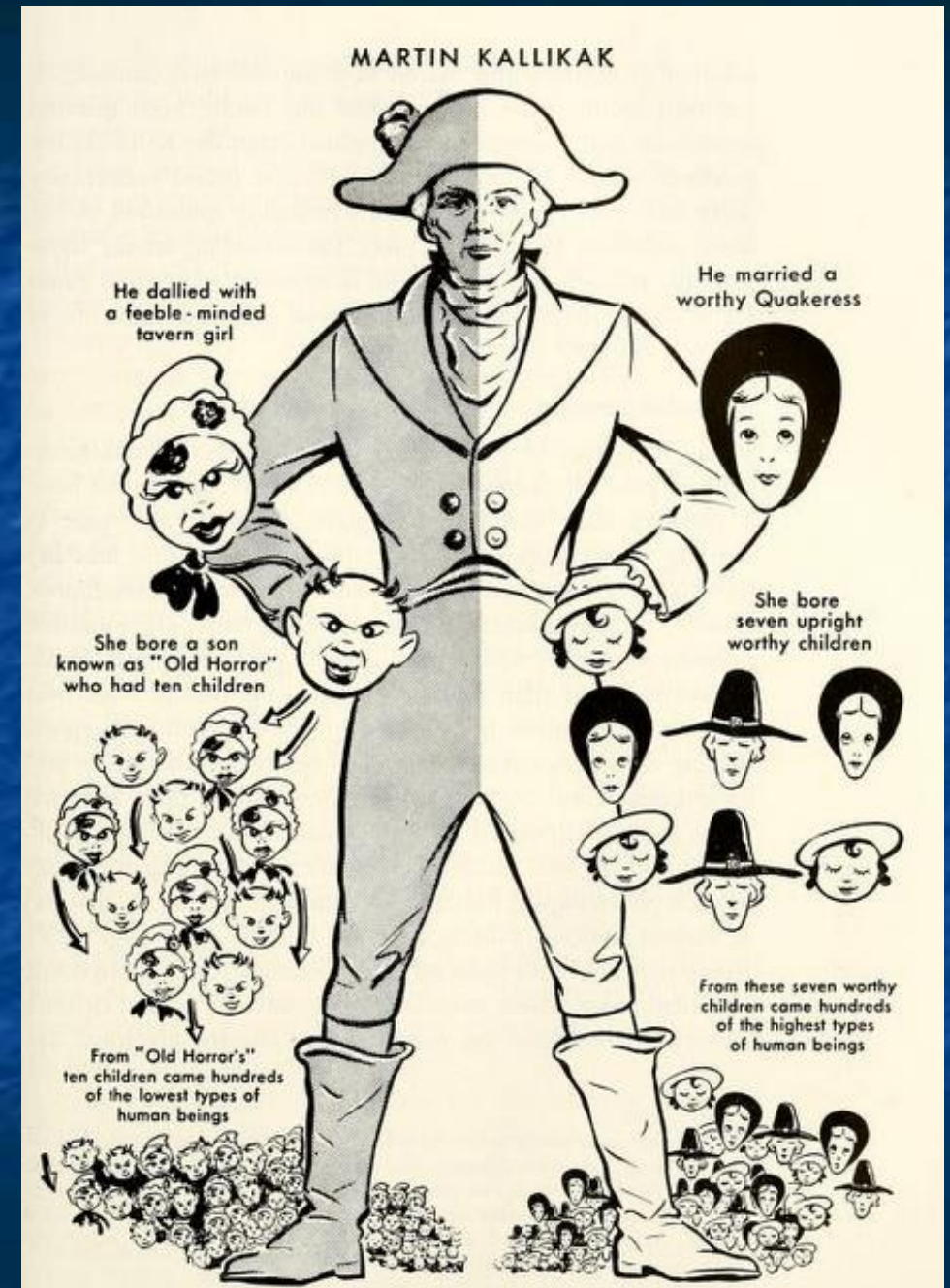
He reasoned that groups with more sympathy would strengthen this trait through natural selection.



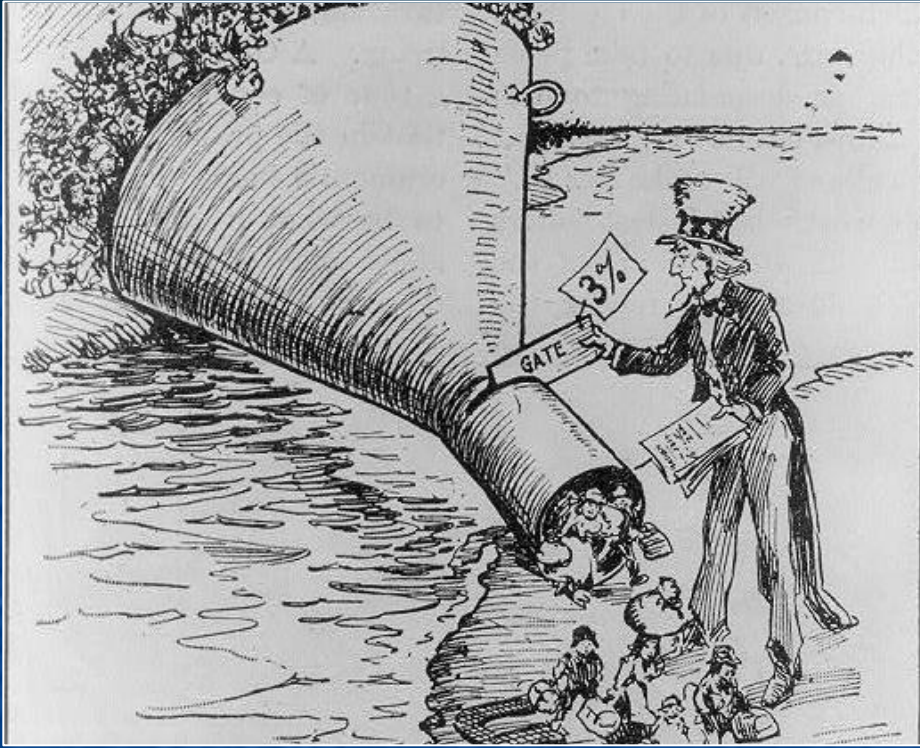


## Eugenics: Social Darwinism

This classic 1921 book by psychologist  
Henry Goddard fueled the Eugenics crusade.







Eugenics: Keep America White  
The 1924 Immigration Act locked out  
“undesirable” Europeans and all Asians  
with severe quotas based on the 1890  
census. It was not repealed until 1965.



Adolf Hitler: “He alone who owns  
the youth gains the future.”  
Hitler was inspired by eugenics to breed  
an Aryan Master Race. Research links  
authoritarian personality with racism.





Our world is mismatched to how we are biologically designed to live.

The result is a breakdown in health and emotional well-being.

We can't alter our genes but we can change our environments.

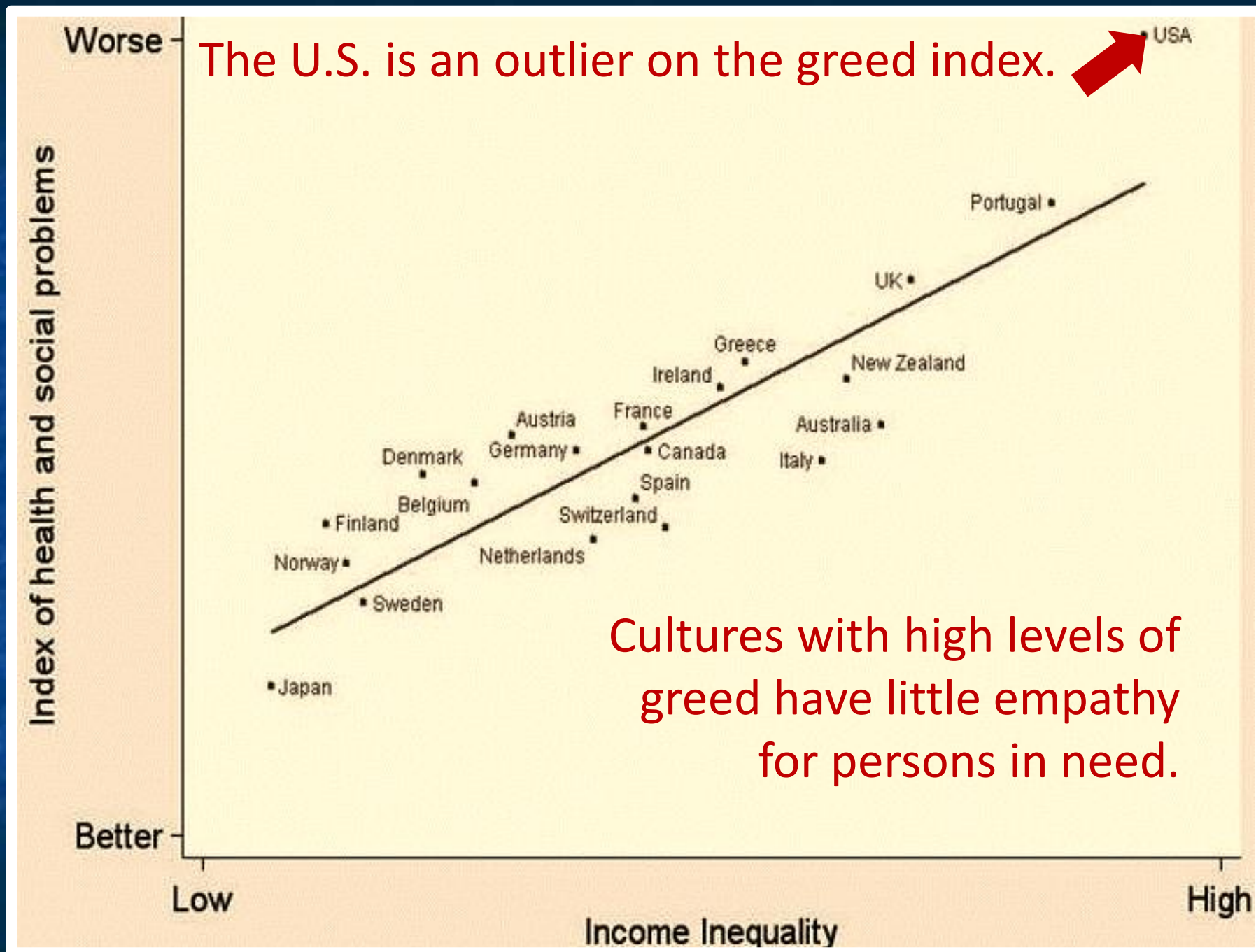
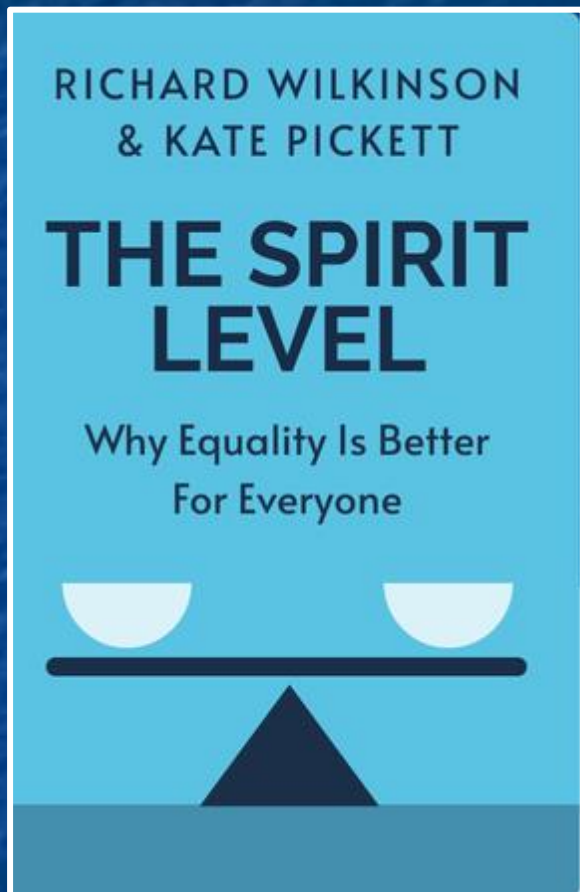
PETER GLUCKMAN  
University of Auckland



Health and well-being are disrupted by cultures of greed.





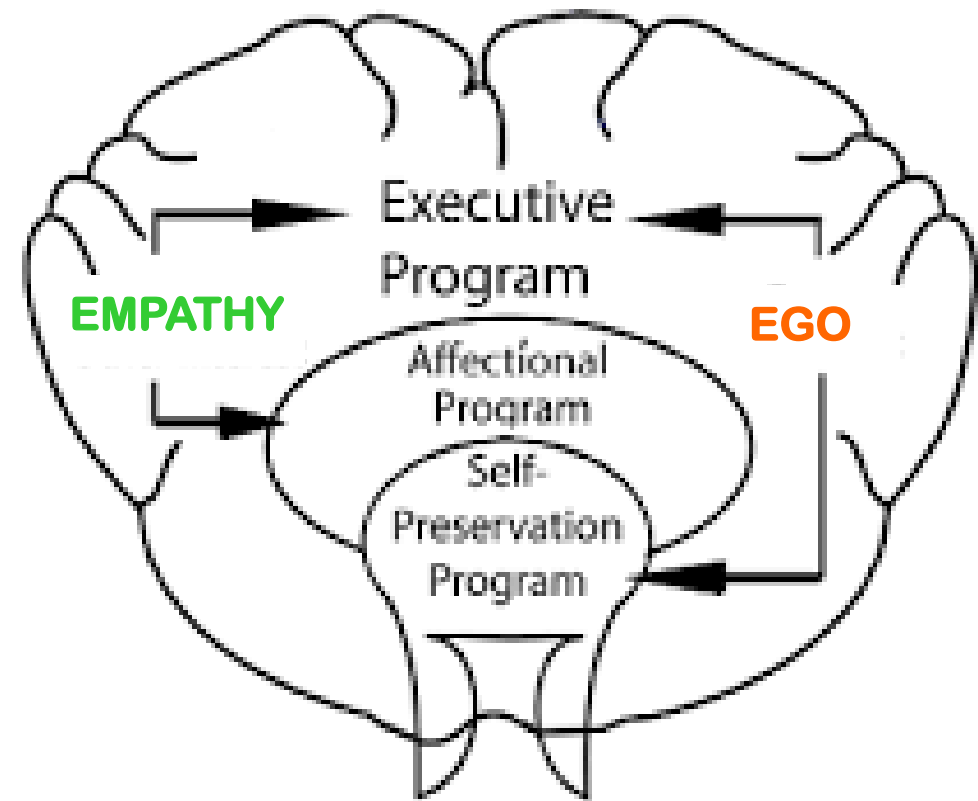






Human thrive when brain programs for empathy and ego are in balance.

GERALD CORY, JR.







# DECOLONIZING DISCIPLINE

CHILDREN, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT,  
CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIES, AND RECONCILIATION

*Edited by  
Valerie E. Michaelson and Joan E. Durrant*



Indigenous people have always had the knowledge and skills necessary to survive in good times and bad. All societies need this ancient knowledge now more than ever.

MARTIN BROKENLEG



# INDIGENOUS WISDOM: RE-RIGHTING HISTORY

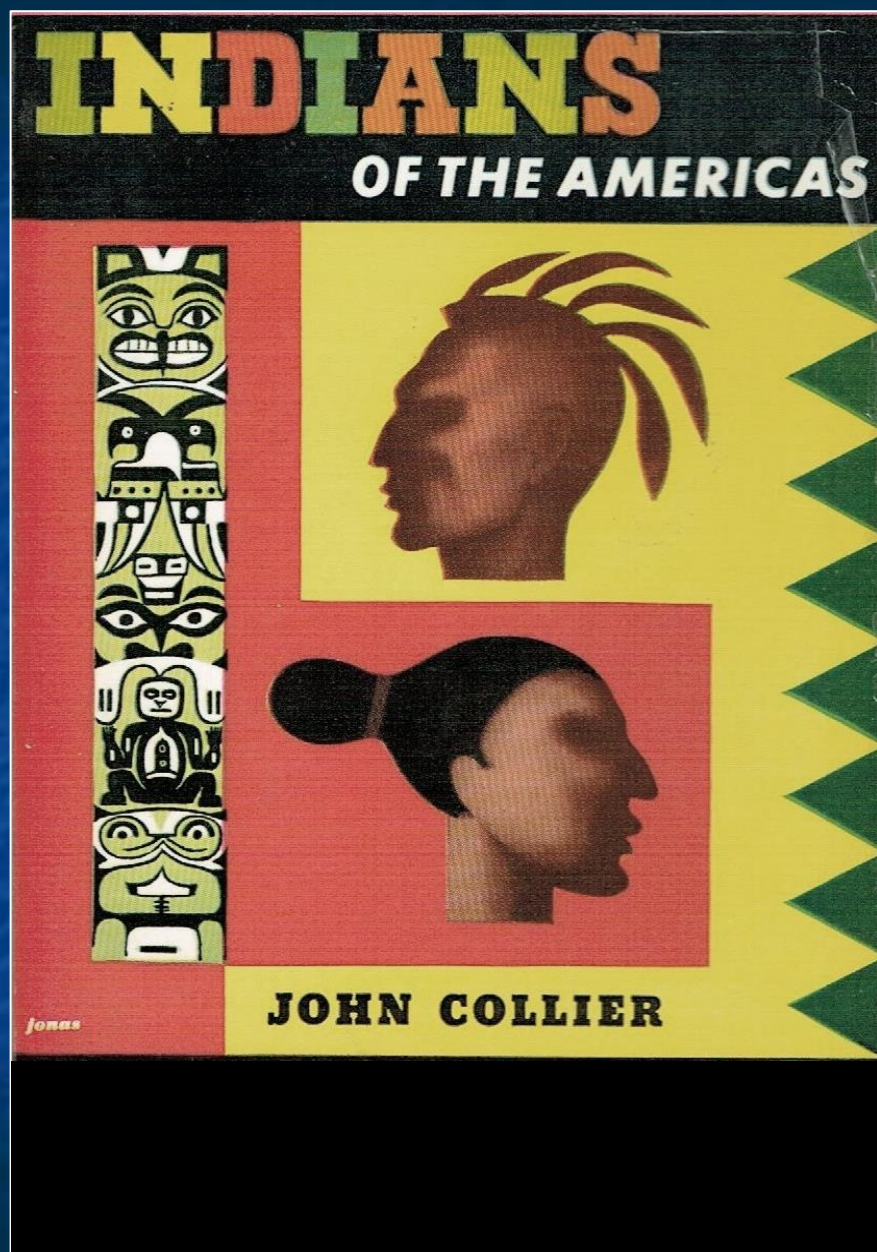
Cultures of Respect

Colonial Conquest

Re-RIGHTING History







## Reclaiming Native Wisdom

They had what the world has lost.  
They have it now. What the world  
has lost, it must have again . . . .

Be it now or a hundred years from  
now, or a thousand — so long as the  
race of humanity shall survive — the  
Indian keeps his gift for us all.

JOHN COLLIER  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs  
1933-1945





An early anthropologist records oral history with Blackfoot leader Mountain Lake.

## 1. The Oneness of Humankind

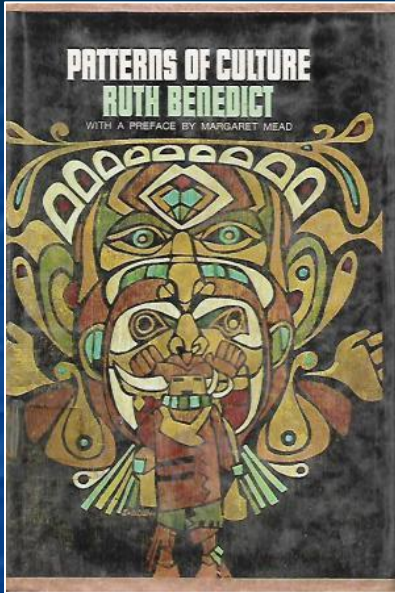
Franz Boas studied Native peoples and founded modern Anthropology. He challenged beliefs about race, intelligence, and white superiority.

“If we were to select the most intelligent, imaginative, energetic, and emotionally stable humans, all races would be present.”

FRANZ BOAS, 1911



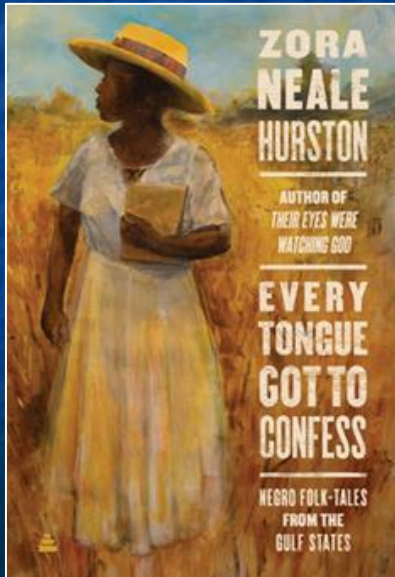
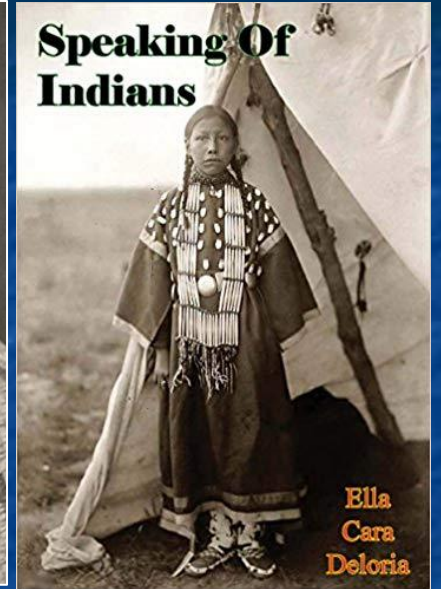
# Boas colleagues transformed knowledge of race, gender, and culture.



Ruth Benedict  
Native Wisdom



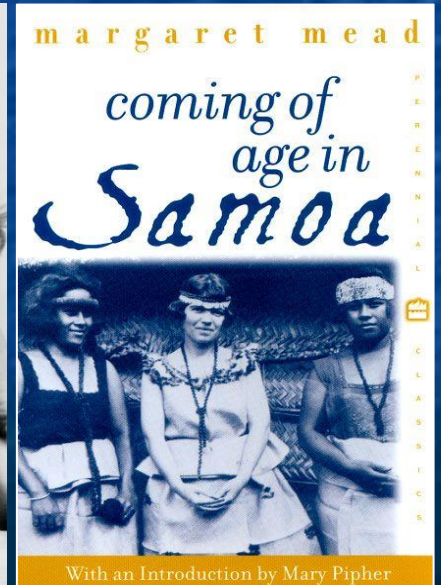
Ella Deloria  
Dakota Culture



Zora Hurston  
African Folk Tales



Margaret Meade  
Beyond Patriarchy







## Ruth Benedict Transforms Abraham Maslow's Theories

Ruth Benedict arranged for Maslow to spend the summer of 1938 living with Blackfoot First Nations people in Canada. This totally reshaped his Eurocentric view of human behavior.

Maslow had assumed power was the main human motivation. But in this culture built on generosity, the people lived in harmony.



# Two Kinds of Cultures

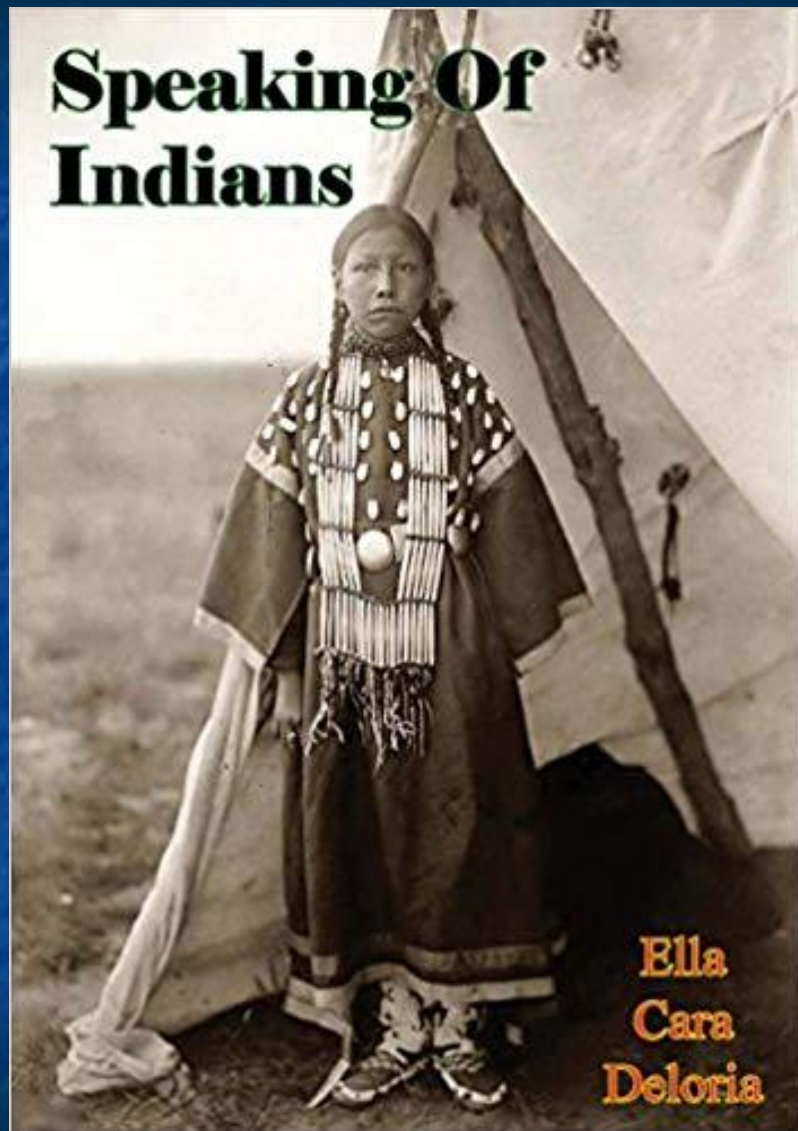
People in some cultures are *insecure* and *surly*. But members of other cultures are *secure* and *peaceful*. What makes the difference?

Those in **Insecure Cultures** strive to dominate one another. Those in **Secure Cultures** seek to meet needs of both individuals and the group.

RUTH BENEDICT







*Be related somehow  
to everyone you know.*  
Treating others as relatives  
builds bonds of respect.

ELLA DELORIA  
1943





## 2. Cultivating the Power of Democracy

KURT LEWIN

1938



### Democratic Leaders

used feedback to build group responsibility. Youth were helpful, cooperative, and friendly.



### Autocratic Leaders

used criticism and praise for control. Conflict and bullying was thirty times greater.



## Voices of Women on Democracy



JANE ADDAMS founds the world's first juvenile court in Chicago, 1899



All decisions must be in the best interests of the child.



Swedish Sociologist Ellen Key authors  
*The Century of the Child*, 1900



Scientific knowledge and democratic values will end the soul murder of children.



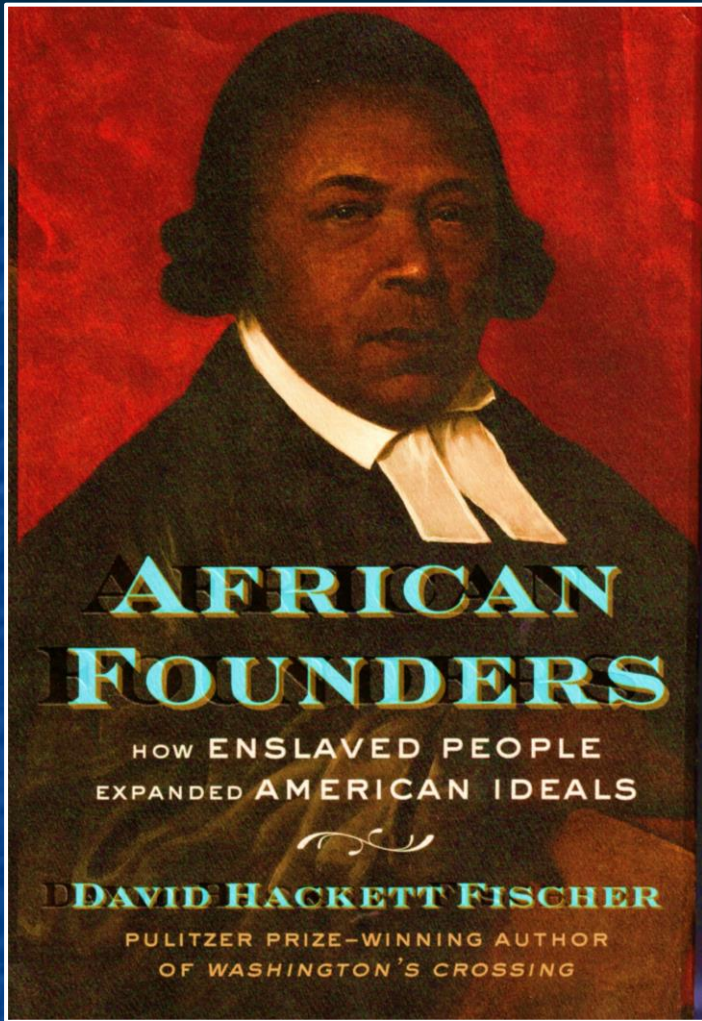


## Democratic Education

Someday a museum of school slavery will feature prizes and punishments to enforce obedience, and desks to prevent children from moving.

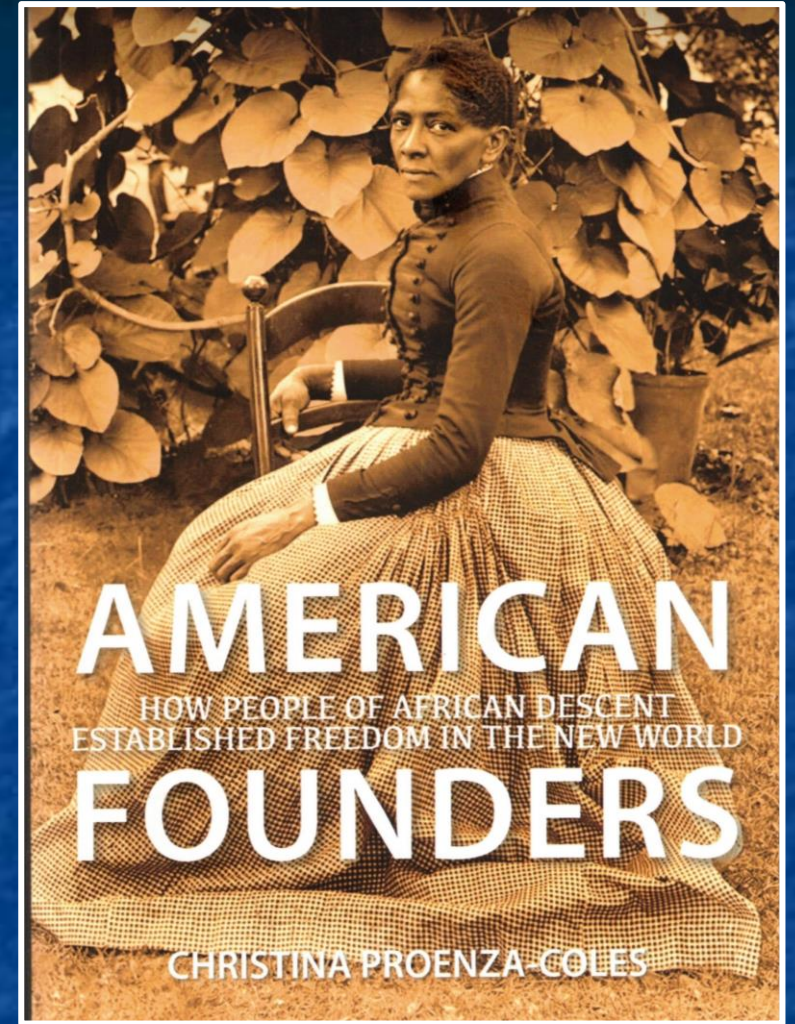
MARIA MONTESSORI, 1914





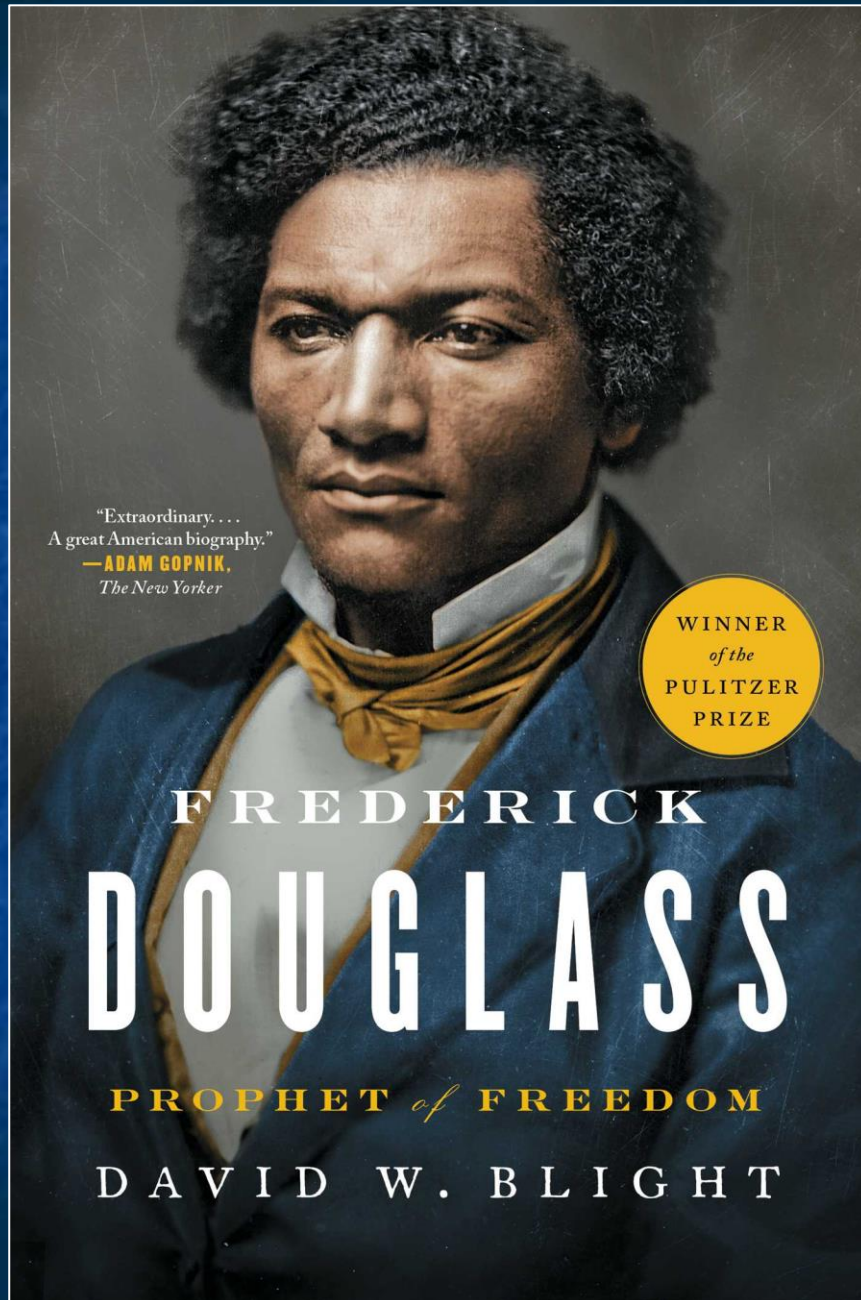
## Reclaiming Our American History of Democracy

An epic history of African contributions to democracy. Photo of Rev. Absalom Jones, who helped end importing slaves in 1808.



Freeing slaves was not Lincoln's gift to blacks, but their own fight for freedom. Photo of civil war nurse Susie King Taylor.

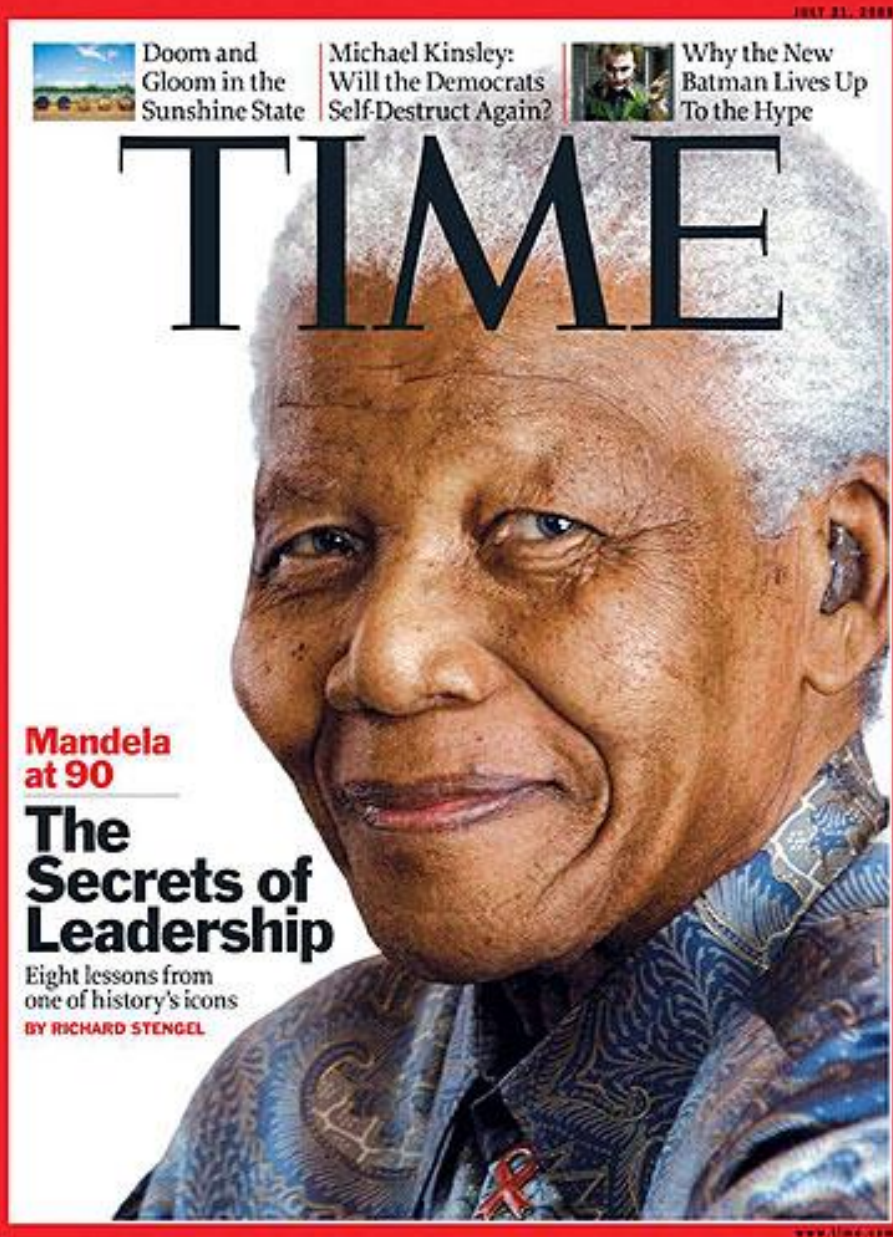




Our greatness and grandeur will be found in the faithful application of the principle of perfect civil equality to the people of all races and creeds.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS, 1869



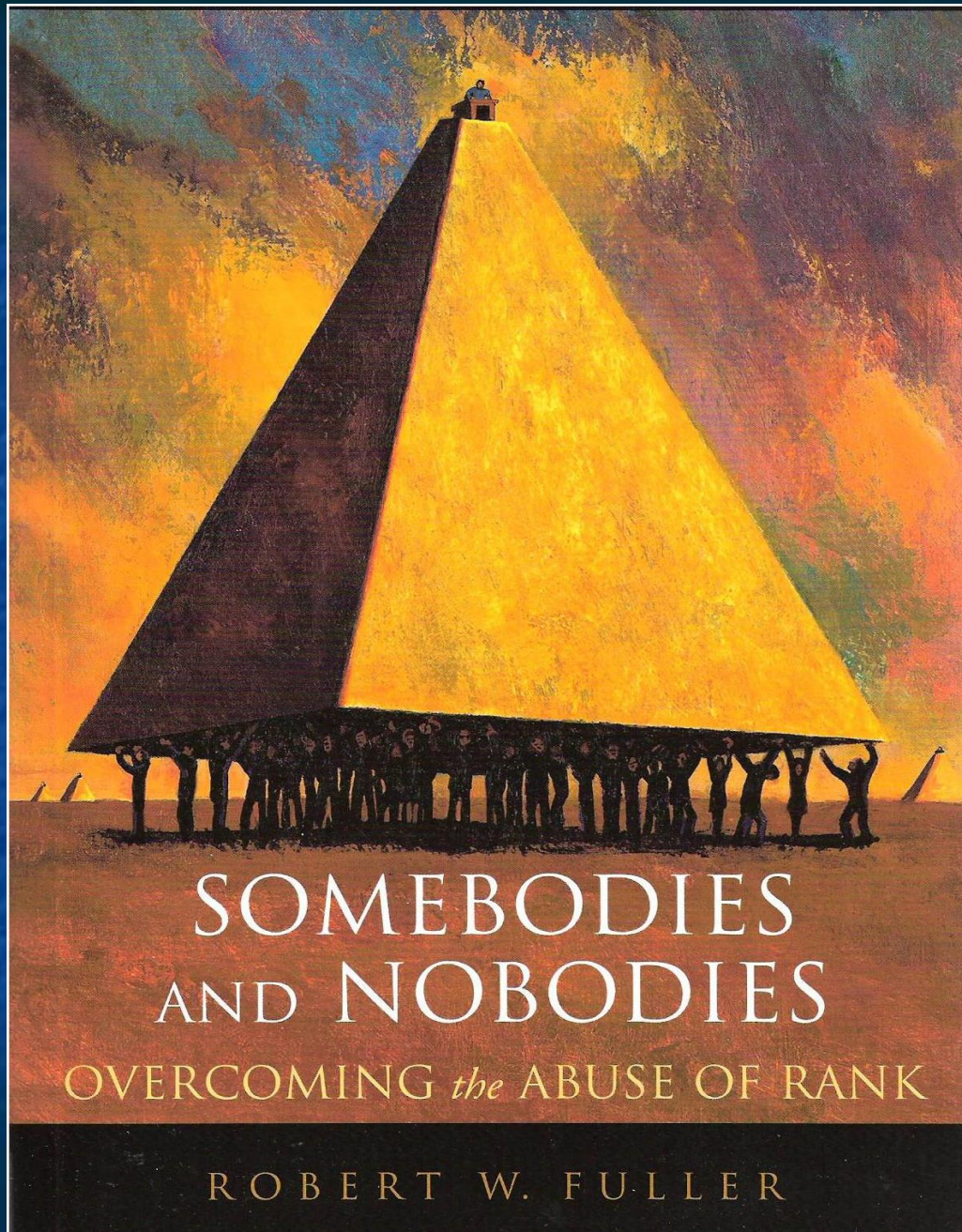


## Demanding Great Leaders

The great leader is seen as a servant first, and that simple fact is the key to greatness.

ROBERT GREENLEAF





## From Rankism to Respect

Rank is not itself bad – we want talented leaders in every field. But *rankism* is the misuse of power by treating others like they are nobodies.

Rankism is the underlying disease of dominator cultures. Symptoms include authoritarianism, racism, sexism, and any other abuse of power. The cure is to turn rankism into respect.

ROBERT FULLER





The Aggressive Brain  
of a leader can change  
brains of members and  
build a violent culture.

ROBERT SAPOLSKY



Peaceful Leaders and the Peaceful Brain  
Primates are not inherently violent as shown by further  
observations. When disease selectively wiped the alpha  
males, the band became peaceful. By changing the type  
of leadership, the culture changes, one group at a time.





## Cultures of Respect

Let us build a country in which our children and youth can learn to care for and respect others.

NELSON MANDELA



### 3. Building Cultures of Respect

Female moral development is based on the *ethic of care*.

Male moral development is based on an *ethic of justice*.

Cultures of respect balance both perspectives.

CAROL GILLIGAN

Female Ethic of Care



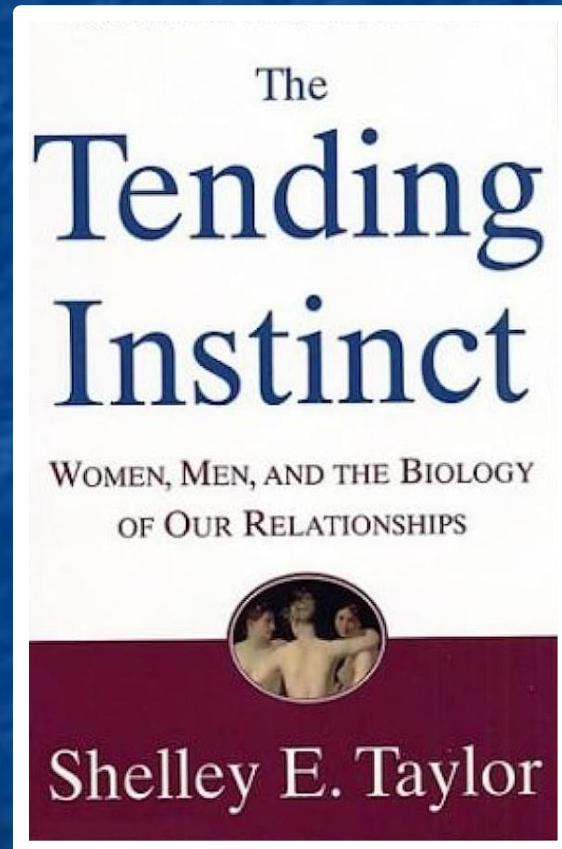
Male Ethic of Justice



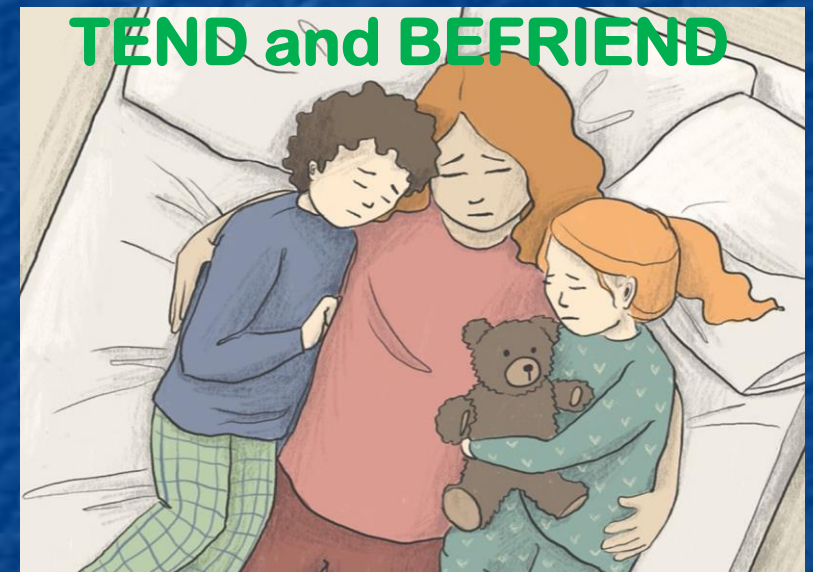


# Females are Essential for Relational Harmony

Male Stress Response:  
*A Surge of Adrenaline*



Female Stress Response:  
*A Surge of Oxytocin*





# Building a Culture of Caring with Our Children



I have been advocating the introduction in our schools, from the earliest grades onward, of what I have called a *curriculum of caring*—not to learn *about* caring but to engage in it.

URIE BRONFENBRENNER





Helping creates proof of one's self worth – being of value to others.





Teaching Respect  
in a Toxic World



## 4. Healing Historic Cultural Trauma







## Native Youth Summit

Teens from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe are hosted by President Barack Obama at an Indigenous Youth Summit in Washington.

They also visited the Carlisle Indian School graves where children from Rosebud are buried.





Youth call on tribal council to bring children who died at Carlisle home to Rosebud.

Josh Iron Shell, Sydney Horse Looking and Lanie Crazy Bull work on a resolution to present to the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council.





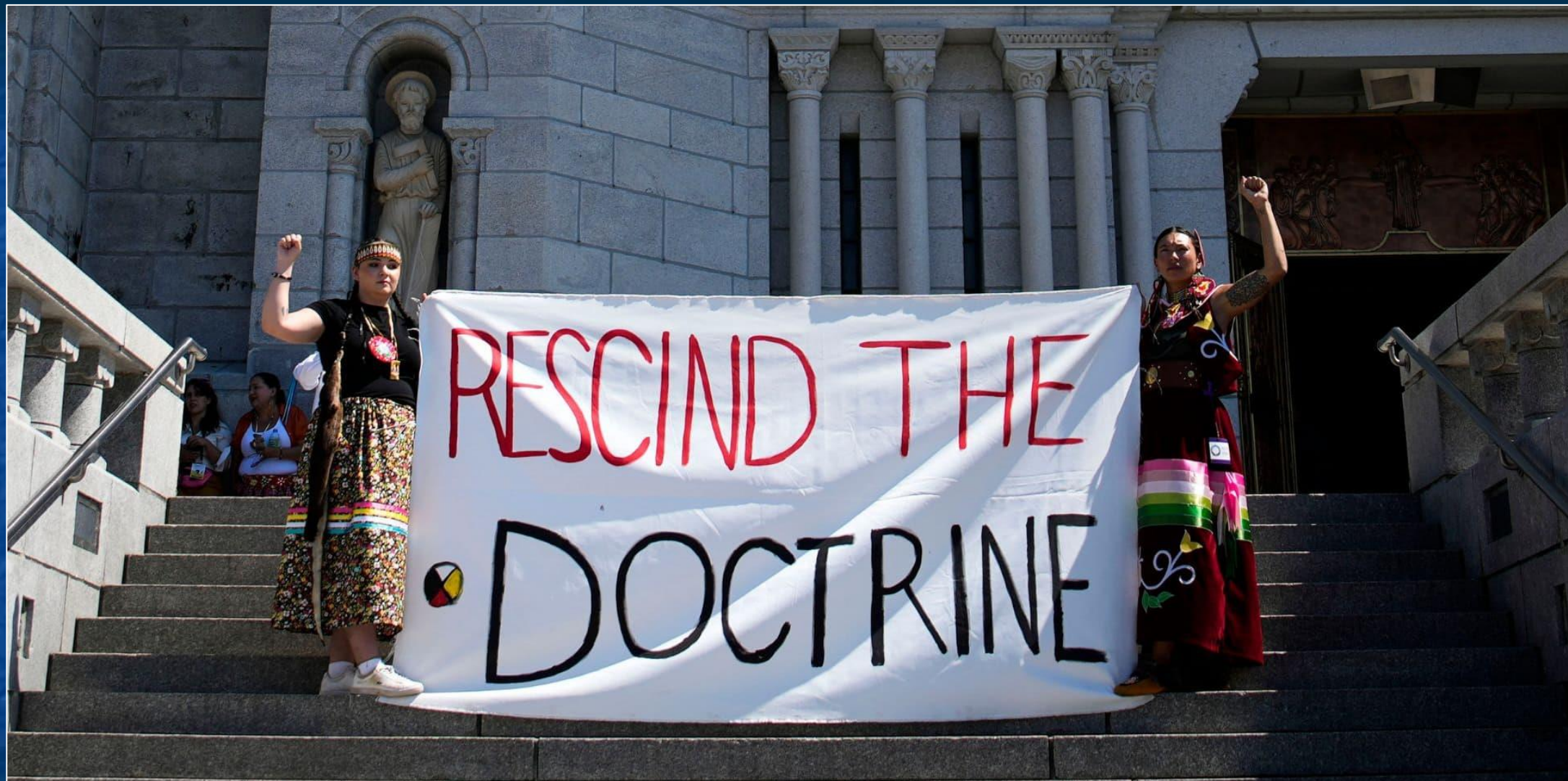
Six years later as young adults, they bring nine children back to Rosebud.





Youth stand in graves to receive the children who are finally home.





First Nations Youth Bring this Message for Pope Francis at Mass





Pope Francis with Indigenous Leaders in Canada



The New York Times

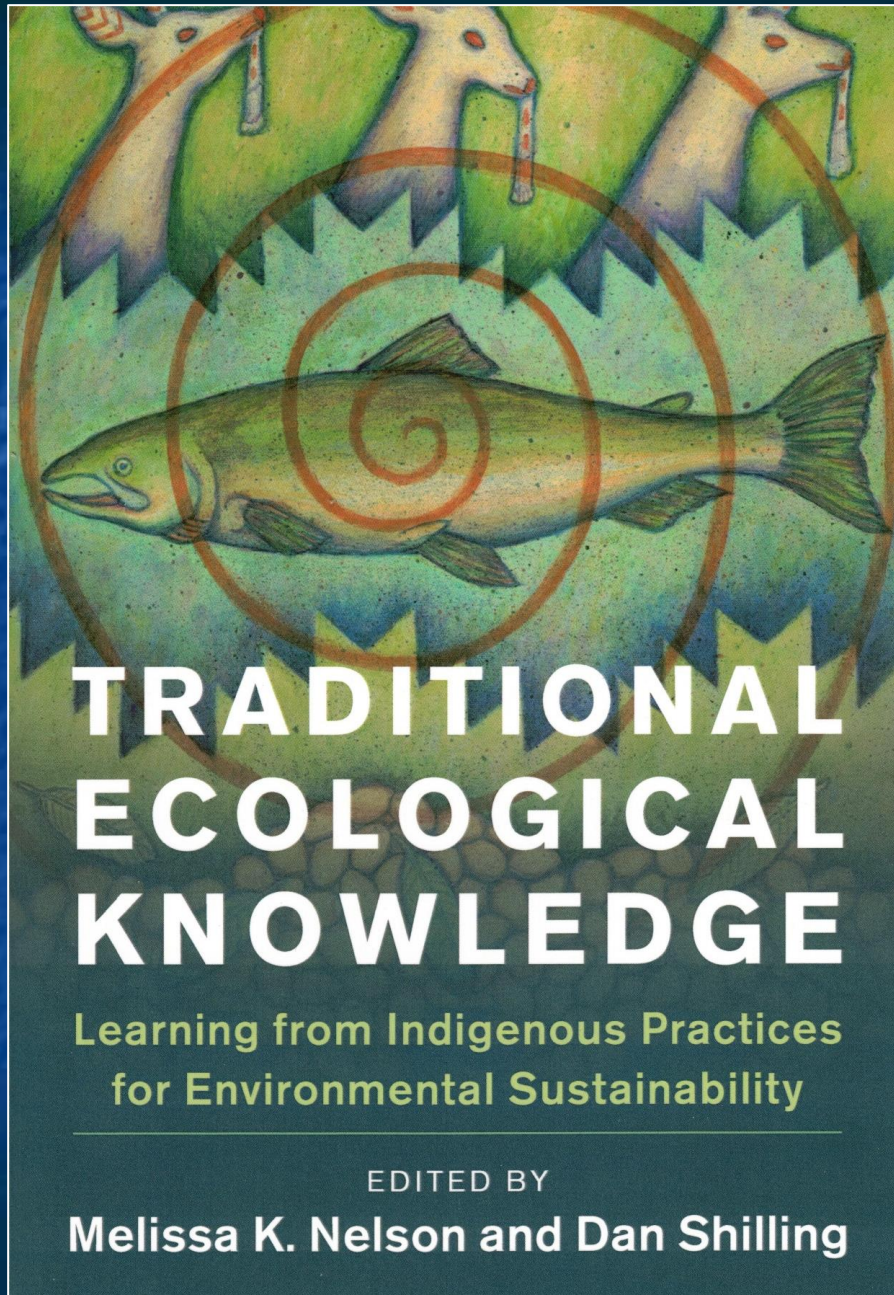
March 30, 2023

The Vatican Repudiates the  
'Doctrine of Discovery'  
used to Justify Colonialism.



Nearly 500 years after papal decrees were used to rationalize Europe's colonial conquests, the Vatican repudiated those decrees saying the "Doctrine of Discovery" that was used to justify snuffing out Indigenous people's culture and livelihoods is not part of the Catholic faith.





## 4. Respecting Mother Earth

The living world is not a collection of exploitable resources, but as a set of relationships and responsibilities. We inhabit a landscape of gifts of nonhuman relatives, the sovereign beings who sustain us.

ROBIN WALL KIMMERER  
Member of Citizen Potawatomi Nation



# BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

INDIGENOUS WISDOM, SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE,  
AND THE TEACHINGS OF PLANTS



ROBIN WALL KIMMERER  
Professor of Environmental Biology  
State University of New York

Native Knowledge  
for Saving Our World

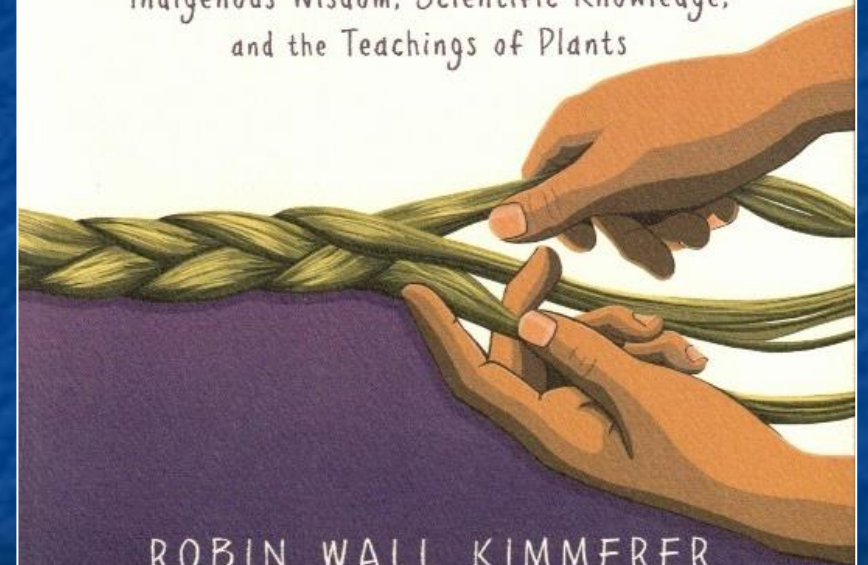


ADAPTED FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

# BRAIDING SWEETGRASS

FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,  
and the Teachings of Plants



ROBIN WALL KIMMERER  
ADAPTED BY MONIQUE GRAY SMITH  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICOLE NEIDHARDT

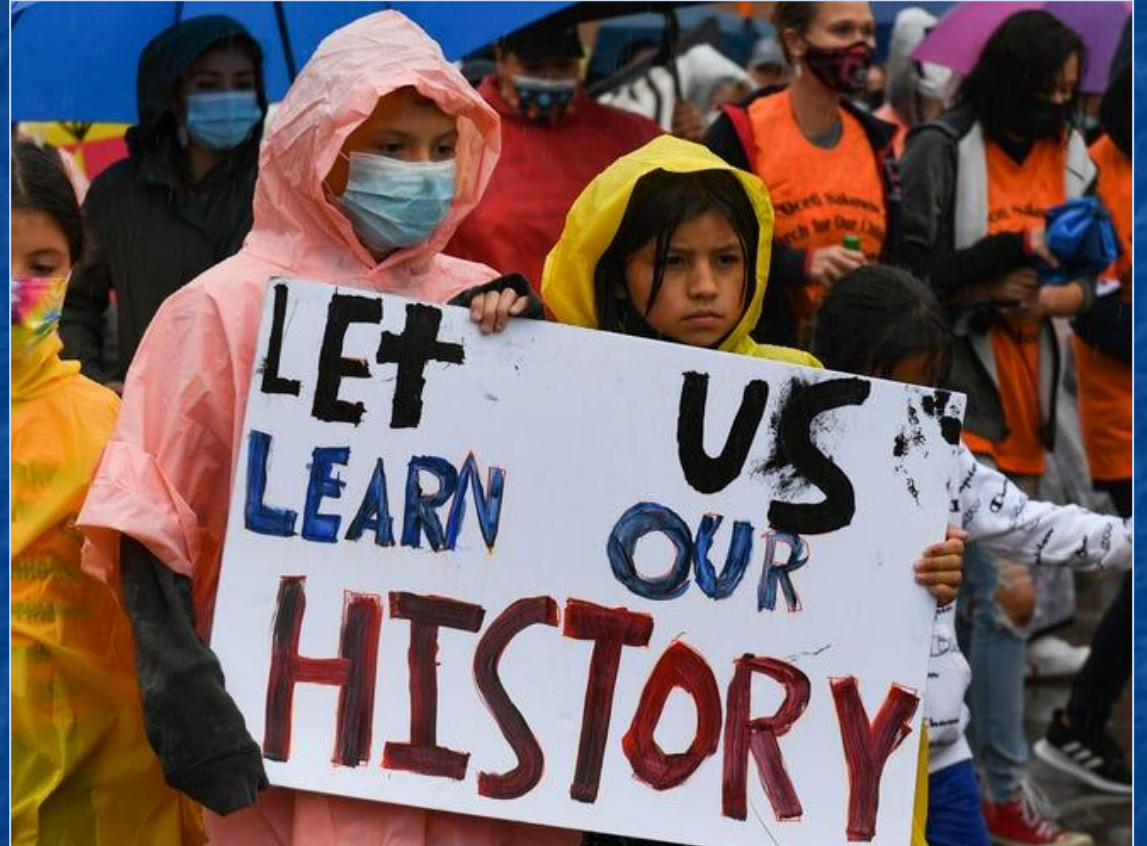




Mni Wiconi ~ Water is Life



## 5. Listening to the Voices of Youth



Students challenge the removal of Native history from the state social studies curriculum.





The Spirit of Youth





Making decisions that will sustain seven generations.





## 6. Reclaiming Spiritual Truths

If I am not for me, who will be?  
But if I am only for me, what good am I?  
That which is hateful to you, do not do  
to your fellow. That is the whole Torah;  
the rest is explanation.

HILLEL THE ELDER, Born 110 BC



Peacemaking is a core value in Judaism,  
Christianity, and Islam. But cultures have  
often warped religion toward violence.

OMAR IRFAN, Muslim Scholar  
Marquette Center for Peacemaking





## The Purpose of Life

I asked my grandfather, “What is the purpose of life?” He thought for a while and then said:

*Grandson, Children are the purpose of life. We were once young and someone cared for us and now it is our time to care.*

EDDIE BELLEROSE  
Cree Elder



# INDIGENOUS WISDOM: RE-RIGHTING HISTORY

