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tion of the Hopi ("Moquis") is fairly vivid and accurate, albeit brief. In other cases, however, he reiterates older accounts—some of them pejorative—of indigenous peoples beyond the frontier.

This book also offers a useful glimpse of other issues that concerned the young officer. His misgivings about the potential threat of the United States to Spanish holdings were well-founded, although it would be another half-century, after Spain had lost its possession of Mexico, that the United States would seize the northern half of Mexican territory.

For anyone interested in the Apache frontier of New Spain at the end of the eighteenth century, reading this book is a pleasant necessity. Elizabeth John has done an excellent job of qualifying, clarifying, and correcting the text in her extensive endnotes. As supplementary reading in conjunction with other sources, this book will be useful and enjoyable to scholars and upper-level students.

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**Voice of Indigenous Peoples: Native People Address the United Nations.** Edited by Alexander Ewen. Preface by Rigoberta Menchu. Foreword by Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Epilogue by Oren Lyons. Santa Fe, New Mexico: Clear Light Publishers, 1994. 176 pages. \$12.95 paper.

This is an unusual book. It is unusual first for its scope, which extends from the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois), Hopi, Lakota, Inuit, and Canadian First Nations of North America to the aborigines of Australia, the Ainu of Japan, the Yanomami of the Amazon valley, the Saami of Europe's Arctic regions, and other peoples in Asia and Africa. It is also unusual because it comes off the press at a vital time in world diplomacy, when representatives of the world's 300 million indigenous peoples are finally getting a serious hearing in a worldwide legislative forum. One may recall Deskaheh's mission to the League of Nations nearly three-quarters of a century ago, when his message of self-determination for the Iroquois was not heard because of the diplomatic intrigue of Britain and Canada, whose governments stood to be embarrassed by his presence in Geneva. As recently as a generation ago, native activists were refused access to the United Nations to explain the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee.

For many decades, world legislative forums did not seem ready to acknowledge indigenous or native nations. With the inception of the International Indian Treaty Council in the 1970s, this has begun to change, slowly. *Voice of Indigenous Peoples* is evidence of the degree to which access has improved, especially during the early 1990s. Most of the statements were made during the Year of Indigenous Peoples, declared by the United Nations in 1993.

Ewen's book is dedicated to "indigenous people who, with vision and determination, have dedicated their lives to the quest for the freedom and sovereignty of their peoples and nations." The dedication includes many such people by name. Most of them have been killed, such as Efrain Cabrera Quintanilla of El Salvador, "murdered by the army, 1990." The book also is dedicated to the Maya people of Chiapas, Anna Mae Aquash, and many others.

The text sometimes seems like a community colloquium of like-minded people from all around the world. Their concerns are amazingly similar—ecological degradation, repression of native rights movements, and the loss of diversity in culture and language as the tendrils of resource-exploiting industry reach the most remote corners of the world. The nineteen statements from indigenous representatives sometimes seem too short. No sooner have I learned who is speaking (with a few well-chosen words on an issue or two) than I am whisked off to another speaker from another part of the world.

Even in their brevity, many of the statements are powerful. Poka Laenui, president of the Pacific Asia Council of Indigenous Peoples, makes an evocative appeal for emphasizing human values over those of "property and economic values . . . to measure the health of a society" (p. 54). William Means, president of the International Indian Treaty Council, writes, "Today, we begin the process of seeing indigenous peoples of the world not as primitive and backward, but as human beings with our own dreams and aspirations, our own value systems, and our own yearning for international recognition of our human rights, including the right to self-determination" (p. 59).

In his foreword, Boutros-Ghali cites the French historian Georges Dumazil, who "noted with bitterness [shortly before his death] that, on the eve of the year 2000, the number of languages and dialects spoken throughout the five continents was only half what it had been in 1900" (p. 13). Even so, as we approach the year 2000, we can sense that a corner has been turned in this regard and that, as Boutros-Ghali also writes, "[t]here have also been important

changes in many countries which have benefitted indigenous people. More and more governments have recognized the multicultural character of their societies. They have restored land to indigenous communities and supported institution building and socioeconomic programs for indigenous people" (p. 10).

These attempts are tangible but often scattered and fragmentary. While indigenous self-determination is realized in some quarters, Hydro-Quebec still proposes to remake the Cree homeland in its industrial image with the James Bay projects. Mexico forges ahead with plans to turn fertile Mayan valleys in Chiapas into lakes behind dams that will generate power for Mexico City—the city where Mayans who have been forced off their small *milpas* will, in all likelihood, end up living in poverty, eating tortillas processed by ConAgra that have been imported under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). All around the world [as the Native American Council of New York City writes in *Voice of Indigenous Peoples*], "Each time an elder dies . . . it is like a rare book that is lost forever" (p. 20). This book is a reminder of what has been accomplished, but also of how far we have yet to go until most of the world's indigenous peoples share the life, liberty, and happiness that some other peoples take for granted.

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