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American Indian Culture and Research Journal

Title

The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West. By Patricia Nelson Limerick

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/89v595qj>

Journal

American Indian Culture and Research Journal , 12(4)

ISSN

0161-6463

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Publication Date

1988-09-01

DOI

10.17953

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social, and political implications for the future of the Seminole Tribe.

Merwyn Garbarino is an anthropologist who has shown that she can produce first-rate work if given the appropriate vehicle. I still look forward to the Seminole ethnology that she is capable of writing.

Harry A. Kersey, Jr.
Florida Atlantic University

The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West. By Patricia Nelson Limerick. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1987. \$17.95 Cloth.

The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West offers new insight into the history of the American West. Arguing against Turner's "end of the frontier" analogy for understanding Western history, Limerick describes a continuing and enduring history of exploitation of resources and peoples, a Western "land grab" which saw Anglo occupation and economic dominance of resources despite other claims to the land, and the evolution of the West as a land of cultural diversity in which people remain "strangers," unable to bridge stereotypes to establish legitimate and lasting relationships as equal and legitimate "heirs" to the West.

Limerick's work is of special interest to those concerned with Native American culture and community in the West. The overall theme provides a more appropriate context than the "closing frontier" model for understanding past and contemporary Native American issues. Moreover, her specific treatment of Native Americans in Chapter 6, "The Persistence of Natives" (pages 179-221) and Section II of Chapter 10, "The Burdens of Western American History" (pages 330-338), offer keen insight into the critical issues of Native American identity, political autonomy (in tribal government) and sovereignty, and in the persistent denial and opposition of legitimate Native American claims by whites. This is not a typical chronology of the exploitation of Native Americans, but rather a well conceived identification of key issues which have shaped the history of white and Indian relations in the West.

Limerick's (page 195) insight is demonstrated by her description of the significance of federal Indian policy:

Irrelevant to many aspects of everyday life, federal Indian policy nonetheless deserves close attention. It did shape the context of individual lives, and it provides essential information about the relations between the natives and the invaders.

and her questions about the IRA and tribal government:

To this day, the results of the experiment (IRA) remain difficult to determine. Is an IRA tribal government genuinely representative of a tribe, or is it a puppet government run for the benefit of a small elite? Was Collier really an assimilationist, permitting a superficial indulgence of cultural traits, while requiring an economic and political standardization?

Limerick's analysis is not without its shortcomings. Although she devotes considerable discussion to the role of John Collier, and later makes reference to Deloria's work (Deloria & Lytle, 1984, *The Nation's Within*), she does not make any reference to the extensive examination of Collier and development of the IRA as chronicled there.

The text is well written, and includes detailed references and a very useful guide for "Further Reading" (pages 369-384), which lists suggested texts under the headings of "English Colonial Background—Initial Contacts" (pages 376-7); "Indian History" (pages 377-8); and "Indian Persistence and Resurgence" (page 383).

Limerick makes a strong case for need to establish a new analogy for understanding the history of the West, one of conquest and exploitation, rather than frontier individualism. Using the specific issues of exploitation of land, peoples including women, Native Americans, Spanish and Mexican settlers, Chinese, Japanese Blacks and Mormons, Limerick identifies the cultural diversity and legitimate participation in the history of the West by all these groups. She goes beyond the role of historian in proposing that this legacy of conquest is still going on, and only when we recognize diverse claims of all in the West can we forge a new, more just future.

This is a well conceived and well executed text. It's topic is extensive, but the book must obviously be limited to an overview of critical issues and themes. Nonetheless, Limerick consistently demonstrates great insight toward the overall development of Western history, and *The Legacy of Conquest* is an important contribution to an accurate portrayal of the context of history and change in the West.

Dick G. Winchell

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Southeastern Pomo Ceremonials: The Kuksu Cult and Its Successors. By Abraham M. Halpern. University of California Publications: Anthropological Records, Volume 29. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1988. 46 pages. \$20.00 Paper.

This slim volume is one of the more important works on California Indians to have appeared in recent decades. While its scope is almost certainly too narrow to attract a general audience, the book has great value for ethnological specialists and holds unusual interest for writers and others who follow scholarly and literary trends within the sphere of Native American Studies *per se*.

For those who focus on California Indians from an anthropological perspective, the subject of the book has intrinsic importance because variants of the Kuksu cult were widely distributed throughout northern and central California in aboriginal times and can arguably be viewed as the singlemost distinctive ceremonial complex of the region as a culture area. Wherever it was practiced, the Kuksu complex involved a cycle of rituals in which (usually male) members of special societies impersonated spiritual beings or ghosts before an audience of uninitiated on-lookers. Typically, these performances were elaborately costumed, involving elements of magic and comic entertainment along with the music and dancing. The various spirit impersonations were ranked in status, each requiring certain esoteric knowledge, and initiation of young males was a central focus of the Kuksu societies. Thus, besides their cosmological function as a recreation of sacred time or vehicle for world renewal, these