Synopsis

In this thoroughly revised and updated edition of the first book-length treatment of the subject, S. James Anaya incorporates references to all the latest treaties and recent developments in the international law of indigenous peoples. Anaya demonstrates that, while historical trends in international law largely facilitated colonization of indigenous peoples and their lands, modern international law’s human rights program has been modestly responsive to indigenous peoples’ aspirations to survive as distinct communities in control of their own destinies. This book provides a theoretically grounded and practically oriented synthesis of the historical, contemporary and emerging international law related to indigenous peoples. It will be of great interest to scholars and lawyers in international law and human rights, as well as to those interested in the dynamics of indigenous and ethnic identity.

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Customer Reviews

PRAISE FOR THE PREVIOUS EDITION:"No human rights collection would be complete without this well-documented survey of an often-neglected area of international law."--American Society of International Law"Anaya’s distillation of the complex debate surrounding the content of the right to self-determination has a clarity that is often missing in discussions of the term....Anaya’s presentation of the history, continuing struggles, and achievements of the indigenous rights movement is exemplary scholarship."--European Journal of International Law"Deserves a readership well beyond those interested only in indigenous peoples. It is a fascinating study of the dramatic changes occurring in the doctrine of international law in our times."--American Journal of International Law"...The scope, detail, and documentary rigor of [the book] make it an essential
reference for future work in the field."-American Political Science Review"

James Anaya has done for indigenous people in international law what Felix Cohen did for Native Americans in the United States. He has brought clarity, understanding, and order to a field previously understood only in isolated bits and pieces. It will now be impossible to think about this topic without consideration of Professor Anaya’s prodigious research and deeply analytical jurisprudential and pragmatic insights."--Rennard Strickland, Dean, Oklahoma City University School of Law"

"[P]rovides a thorough, insightful, and constructive analysis of the treatment of indigenous peoples in both historical and contemporary international law regimes. The book leaves the reader with a clearer understanding of the failures of international law in the past, as well as a sense of the potential of international law today."--Virginia Journal of International Law

As the fair and equitable treatment of the world's indigenous peoples comes to the forefront of our collective conscience, Dr. Anaya’s sharply honed knowledge of international law paves the way for a greater understanding. A must-read.

The obscure international relations world of international organizations and countries is generally visible and comprehensible to academics and human rights activists, but Anaya has written a seminal work in this area that provides sufficient background for readers to understand the relationship between indigenous peoples and human rights. This is extremely important reading for environmental activists interested in preserving the rainforest, defending sensitive environmental homelands of tribal peoples or understanding the question of access to international fora. Anaya provides a legal background for the domination of the Western hemisphere by whites and shows how thin it really is. But the really great thing about this book is that it shows what the state of indigenous people in international bodies is and how it is harnessed by human rights and environmental groups.

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