

Book Review:

Spirit & Reason: The Vine Deloria Reader

— By Vine Deloria, Jr.

(Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 1999)

<http://www.fulcrumbooks.com>



By Jennifer Rose - Anarchist Pritsker



Spirit & Reason is book on Native philosophy and spirituality which takes a critical look at some of the irrationality of Western Science theories. The main thesis is that all life — animals, humans, and our Beloved Mother Earth/Nature — is interconnected and interdependent, contrary to the Western Science view that sees everything as separate.



This Native intellectual tries to clearly correct this flawed reasoning, which has increasingly proven to be unsubstantiated and outdated theory — or bunk science from the Colonial Era and the Fallen Christendom of the Church hierarchy (aka: the Flat Earth Society).

Vine Deloria, Jr. argues convincingly that:

"If we subdue Nature, we become slaves of the technology by which the task is accomplished and surrender not simply our freedom, but also the luxury of reflection about our experiences that a natural relationship with world has given us." (page 4)



He again summarizes this in a more concise conclusion:

"Human beings are not above Nature or above the rest of the world. Human beings are incomplete without the rest of the world." (page 226)



Deloria is the author of numerous books on Native Peoples' history of ~~American~~ Genocide and Colonial conquest of Turtle Island by white settlers from Europe:

"The Trail of Broken Treaties" came along in Fall 1972. By that time the Activists

had devised the Twenty Points, which in my opinion is the best summary document of reforms put forth in this century." (page 247).



The U.S. Army and Federal Government had carried out the systematic extermination and genocide of the so-called "Indian Wars" in their march west across the Midwest plains tribal lands of the Shoshone, Lakotas, Pawnee, and Arapahos among others. The American Apartheid system of Indian Reservations and the Black Codes/Jim Crow laws of racial segregation in the South, were contemporaneously implemented to protect white Supremacy, prevent further Native War Parties or Afrikan Slave revolts — like those of Nat Turner, John Brown, Crazy Horse, and Geronimo!

^a The Cherokees had gone to the Supreme Court to defend their Treaty rights in the

1870s with no relief" (page 194)



"The Eastern Cherokees of North Carolina and the Mississippi Choctaws were also brought under the BIA when they adopted the Indian Reorganization Act." (page 267) — See 25 U.S.C. Section 461 (1934).



However, there have been some limited albeit significant legal success in the Courts, and legislative/political reforms in favor of Native tribes' land claims and property rights:

"the Pueblo Lands Act set up procedures whereby the white intruders on Indian lands would have to prove their titles to the lands they claimed." (page 194).



"(U.S. v. Washington)... affirmed once and for all the property rights of Northwest tribes for both Subsistence and

Commercial fishing." (page 241)

"In 1946 the Indian Claims Commission was established and tribes were allowed to sue the United States for past unconscionable dealings" (page 269)

The author includes reference notes at the end of some chapters, for readers who may want to conduct their own research, citing other authors and book titles, case law citations, as well as some useful resources and contact information:

- American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES)

5661 Airport Blvd.
Boulder, CO 80301-2339
(303) 939-0023

- "Learning" (newsletter)

% The Education Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 9753
Greensboro, NC 27429-0753

* "American Indian Culture & Research Journal"
% American Indian Studies Center
University of California, Los Angeles
⊕

One critical comment I have is the ending chapter, which seems to side with the Religious Right, and colonialist/conservative Christian Justice Antonin Scalia — an Italian American Catholic — of white settlers' U.S. Supreme Court (the very same corrupt court that perverted justice and legally justified the American colonialism and Genocide against Native Peoples!) and the military occupation or corporate theft of their tribal lands/territories of autonomous regions of Turtle Island! Also Deloria this chapter condemns out of hand secular humanism, which he fails to distinguish from Western Science, and considers contrary to Native Spirituality. On the contrary, it is the death cult of Christianity that is both anti-nature, and anti-life! The religion of colonialists!

Humanists are actually much closer to and agreeable with the concept of the Living Mother Earth and Nature/Native Spirituality than the white settler religion of Catholic Missionaries from Spain or the Puritans of Plymouth's Pilgrim Colony! #SmashPatriarchy

#FreeTheLand #Decolonize
#LoveandDefendMotherEarth
#NoPrisonsNoPipelines #MMIWG
#FreeLandsFreePeoples



Contact me at the following address or email/webpages:

Jennifer Rose, E23852
Salinas Valley State Prison
PO Box 1050

Seredo, CA 93960

posie.anarchy@gmail.com

www.betweenthebars.org/blogs/490/

Twitter/FB: @anarchyrose (Amelia Rose)

Instagram: @JenniferRose93960

<https://solidarity-international/>

<http://www.june11.org>