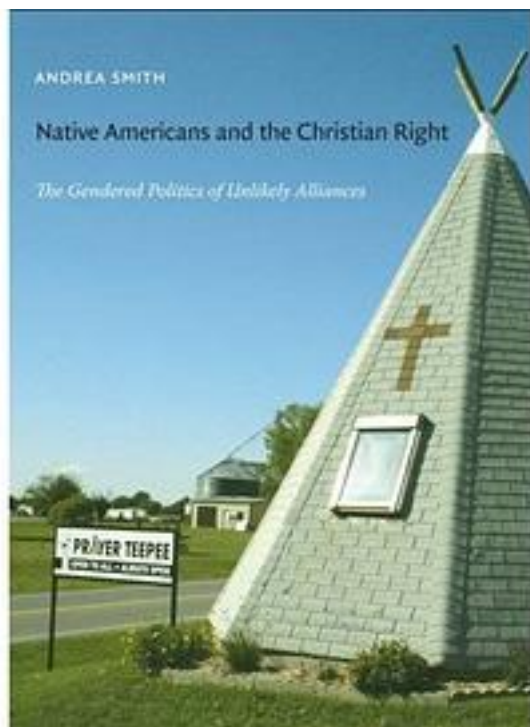


# Native Americans and the Christian Right



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In "Native Americans and the Christian Right", Andrea Smith moves social movement theory beyond simplistic understandings of social-justice activism as either right-wing or left-wing, and she urges a more open-minded approach to the role of religion in social movements. Smith examines the interplay of Biblical scripture, gender, and nationalism in Christian Right and Native American activism. In so doing, she rethinks the nature of political strategy and alliance-building for progressive purposes, highlighting the potential of unlikely alliances, partnerships that one of her Native activist interviewees calls "cowboys and Indians coalitions." She also complicates ideas about identity, resistance, accommodation, and acquiescence in relation to

social-justice activism. Smith draws on archival research, interviews, and participation in Native struggles and Christian Right conferences and events. She considers American Indian activism within the Promise Keepers and new Charismatic movements. She explains that while evangelicals' understanding of the relationship between the Bible and the state may lead to reactionary positions on issues including homosexuality, civil rights, and abortion, it also supports a relatively progressive position on prison reform. Turning to evangelical and Native American feminisms, she reveals anti-violence organizing to be a galvanizing force within both communities, discusses theories of coalition politics among both evangelical and indigenous women, and considers Native women's visions of sovereignty and nationhood. She concludes with a reflection on the implications of her research for the field of Native American studies.

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