

BOOK REVIEWS

An Overview of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Compensation for their Breach, by Robert Mainville. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Purich Publishing Ltd., 2001. ISBN 1-895830-17-6, Paper CDN\$27.00, US\$20.50.

One of the most difficult areas in the whole Aboriginal claims process is the problem of how to compensate people for past (and future?) infringement of their rights. The author, a practising lawyer himself, examines American cases and law, and then Canadian cases and the *Constitution Act, 1982*. He proposes principles of compensation. One can only hope that the politicians and senior bureaucrats are given this book on their birthdays.

Black Elk Lives: Conversations with the Black Elk Family, by Esther Black Elk DeSersa, Olivia Black Elk Pourier, Aaron DeSersa Jr., and Clifton DeSersa, edited by Hilda Neihardt and Lori Utecht. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2000. ISBN 0-8032-3340-X, Cloth US\$25.00.

This is a very pleasant collection of memories of Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950) by members of his family. Although Black Elk is now almost a publishing industry in himself, these conversations, statements and lectures should be read with other work (such as *Black Elk Speaks*), and indeed should be in every collection of Black Elk material.

Black Elk Speaks, Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux, as told through John G. Neihardt (*Flaming Rainbow*) by Nicholas Black Elk. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2000. ISBN 0-8032-1309-3, Cloth US\$45.00, ISBN 0-8032-6170-5, Paper US\$12.95.

This "Twenty-First-Century Edition" is a reprint of the original 1932 book. It includes a forward by Vine Deloria Jr., photographs, a map, and

wonderful illustrations by Standing Bear showing, among other things, the battle at the Little Big Horn.

Choctaws at the Crossroads: The Political Economy of Class and Culture in the Oklahoma Timber Region, by Sandra Fairman-Silva. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1997. ISBN 08032-6902-1 Paper US\$24.00.

This is a brief history of the Choctaw and their lands in Oklahoma, followed by a detailed look at contemporary Choctaw economic life. There is a careful examination at present day community life, and some discussion of the role of giant US companies, such as Weyerhaeuser, in the Choctaw economy.

Cis Dideen Kat The Way of the Lake Babine Nation: When the Plumes Rise, by Jo-Anne Fiske and Betty Patrick. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2000. ISBN 0-7748-0811-X, Cloth CDN\$85.00.

The Lake Babine Nation is centered some 50 miles east of Hazelton and 50 miles north of Smithers, British Columbia. Central to their way of life is the potlatch, the *balhats*. The book includes outlines of the people and Nation, the *balhats* and its role in Lake Babine life, especially its social control functions, colonial history, and the Lake Babine Nation in relation to the Canadian government. There is also a very useful examination of contemporary justice issues.

Ideas in Action: Essays on Politics and Law in Honour of Peter Russell, edited by Joseph F. Fletcher. Toronto, Buffalo, London: University of Toronto Press, 1999. ISBN 0-8020-4497-2, Cloth CDN\$60.00, ISBN 0-8020-8271-8, Paper CDN\$24.95.

This collection of essays covers many of the areas in which the honouree worked as a political scientist at the University of Toronto over a long career. The essays cover, among other things, Aboriginal rights, with essays by Paul Chartrand, George Erasmus and Christine Fletcher.

Islands of Truth: The Imperial Fashioning of Vancouver Island, by Daniel W. Clayton. Vancouver, Toronto: UBC Press, 2000. ISBN 0-7748-0741-5, Cloth CDN\$85.00, ISBN 0-7748-0742-3, Paper CDN\$29.95.

This impressive book describes the European adventure with Vancouver Island, and hence its *imperial fashioning*. The book presents the tenor of the times from the first encounter with First Nations people to circumnavigation and, eventually, colonization. The changing intellectual background of the European visitors and their peers forms a nice backdrop to the story.

Prospering Together: The Economic Impact of the Aboriginal Title Settlements in B.C., edited by Roslyn Kunin, Second Edition, updated. Vancouver, British Columbia: The Laurier Institution, 2001. ISBN 0-9682343-1-3, Paper CDN\$29.95, US\$19.95.

Ten chapters by a series of specialists examine issues relating to Aboriginal claims and settlements. The authors are all experienced in this area, and their essays are well worth reading. Contributors include Ken Coates (history), David Fish (community health), and Harry Slade.

Strangers to Relatives: The Adoption and Naming of Anthropologists in Native North America, by Sergei Kan. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8032-2746-9, Cloth US\$50.00, UKL34.00, ISBN 0-8032-7797-0, Paper US\$24.95, UKL16.95.

Scientists of all kinds, but especially anthropologists, study other peoples regularly and, it seems, constantly. Some are obnoxious, but many are accepted and appreciated to the point of adoption within the cultures they study. Some of these adoptions appear to be *pro forma*, but others are clearly made with the very serious intent of incorporating the outsider into the family on a permanent basis.

The Price of a Gift: A Lakota Herler's Story, by Gerald Mohatt and Joseph Eagle Elk. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2000. ISBN 0-8032-3204-7, Cloth US\$29.95.

Dr. Mohutt is a cross-cultural psychologist, and the founding President of Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. He now teaches in Alaska. Joseph Eagle Elk (1931-1991) was a noted healer at Rosebud. The book points out the ability of good traditional healers to deal with physical and—perhaps more importantly in the late 20th century—mental illness in their communities. Eagle Elk, and others like him, are often the primary medical health personnel available. They are also very often the only adequate health care providers in large regions with significant populations.

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