

Title of Session: AIS - History From a Native American Perspective

Moderator: Christine Rose

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Room: American Indian Studies Group

DavidWe joined the room.

DavidWe: Hi, Christine

ChristinR2: Hi David! Welcome.

ChristinR2: So David, are you just dropping by or do you have an interest in the subject...Am. Indian History?

DavidWe: both?

DavidWe: I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers, Christine

DavidWe: I lead a math and technology discussion here as well

DavidWe: But, I teach teachers for the most part how to use technology

DavidWe: I'm just across the Hudson from New York City in New Jersey

ChristinR2: I am sure there is a ton of interest in that.

ChristinR2: Oh, I can practically wave to you! I am over the river and through the woods...in CT.

DavidWe: yes

DavidWe: What was the topic you were going to discuss tonight, Christine?

LindsayAS joined the room.

ChristinR2: I had wonderful things planned, but we need at least four or five people who have a real interest, otherwise, well, oh well. Maybe next time.

DavidWe: Hi, Lindsay

ChristinR2: Hello Lindsay!

LindsayAS: okay I am here??

ChristinR2: AIS?

LindsayAS: yep Ais

ChristinR2: You are indeed!

LindsayAS: wohoo!

ChristinR2: We were waiting for you!

BJB2 smiles. Good job, Lindsay

LindsayAS: Thanks

LindsayAS: I just got home

ChristinR2: Well, take a deep breath first. We may actually have enough to start.

ChristinR2: Okay, David, will you stay?

ChristinR2: I need a volunteer.

DavidWe: Yes, certainly, Christine

ChristinR2 -D Thank you!

DavidWe: I'm a HelpDesk volunteer - it's my job!

ChristinR2: Okay. I think you volunteered. LOL

DavidWe smiles

ChristinR2: So David, this is not a trick question. And maybe you know a lot, it's always fun to find out about people who come to these things.

DavidWe grins

ChristinR2: David, do you know a lot about Am Indian history?

DavidWe: Define "a lot", Christine?

DavidWe: please

DavidWe knows a little about a lot, usually

ChristinR2: Well, what do you know in a nutshell. Tell me five things you know.

ChristinR2: About Am Ind History.

DavidWe: I've seen a map of the major Indian groups in North America - many of the territories are surprisingly similar to the shape of the 48 states

ChristinR2: If you don't know much, that's okay (and usually the case,) but maybe you know a real lot

DavidWe: I know the Lenni Lenape Indians were in New Jersey - one group in the east (south) and one group in the west (north) - spoke different dialects

ChristinR2: Cool! Interesting! never thought of it that.

DavidWe: The Lenni Lenape word for goose is "Wawa" - the name of a town, dairy and chain of convenience stores in PA, NJ and DE

DavidWe . o O (more?)

ChristinR2: Very cool!

DavidWe smiles

ChristinR2: I always wondered about that wawa.

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe: If you listen to Canadian geese....

ChristinR2: Okay, Lindsay, you ready?

ChristinR2: LOL!

LindsayAS: I am

ChristinR2: Okay...where are you located?

LindsayAS: I am in Alaska. from New Mexico

DavidWe: What part of NM?

ChristinR2: Are you Native?

LindsayAS: I was born and raised in Los Alamos. worked at Isleta.. and no I am glow in the dark white. my husband is Duwamish though.

LindsayAS: So I am native by association

ChristinR2: We do have some Native members. I hope they show up.

ChristinR2: Okay, Lindsay, tell me what you found out through your experiences...including before you got married.

LindsayAS: about native history??

ChristinR2: yes...did you know a lot growing up in NM?

ChristinR2: I am curious about what schools teach in different areas.

LindsayAS: okay.. Well I know about the missions and pueblos, the trail of tears

ChristinR2: New Mexico is one of the best states in the country for education re: Native Americans.

ChristinR2: Okay. What do know about the missions?

ChristinR2: How much detail?

LindsayAS: I would like to think I know a lot. My neatest experience was working at an elderly center at the Pueblo os isleta.

ChristinR2: This is NOT a test.

LindsayAS: Of Isleta.

DavidWe has been to Taos - seen the entrance to Taos Pueblo

ChristinR2: That must have been wonderful.

ChristinR2: Elders are the most wonderful people to speak to...they carry so much of the older ways.

LindsayAS: Missions - they were formed by missionaries. Often by the slave labor of the natives. The natives local religion was banned

ChristinR2: Do you know when it was allowed to be practiced again?

LindsayAS: But they found ways to mix the religions so that they would "appear" catholic but still not offend their gods

LindsayAS: No not exactly.. At Isleta they still did a mixture of both

ChristinR2: And yes, you are absolutely correct about the missions.

LindsayAS: I have been to many of the ruins.

ChristinR2: The interesting thing is that so many tribes all over the country were forced to take on Christianity or suffer severe punishment.

ChristinR2: Today, many people do practice a combination of both.

DavidWe . o O (Onward Christian soldiers)

LindsayAS: I am in a native village here where the same thing was done by the Russians

ChristinR2: The more interesting thing is that I didn't read the Bible until a Lakota man told me the difference between Christianity and Native cultures was that the Bible promotes Native culture.

ChristinR2: Christians don't believe the ways in the Bible are really possible, but they truly did reflect the Native way of life...no materialism, caring for all of the tribe as family...

ChristinR2: it's very interesting to consider.

LindsayAS: I have seen that... I am LDS and apparently a lot of the scared things that we do in the temples are very similar to native ceremonies

ChristinR2: Indigenous cultures are similar all over the world.

ChristinR2: That is also very interesting to note, isn't it?

LindsayAS: It is.. I do know one more thing

ChristinR2: okay!

LindsayAS: that the Athabascian and the Navajo lang. are very similar.

LindsayAS: so similar that they believe that the Navajos are related

LindsayAS: to the athabascans

ChristinR2: I have noted that with Lakota language...seen words that are similar to Asian words...however, when the railway was built through the Dakotas, a lot of the Chinese labor escaped to the reservations, so its hard to know when those words entered the language...still and all, the melting of Indigenous cultures seems like it would be an incredible melting pot!

ChristinR2: What other similarities do you notice?

LindsayAS: physical similarities

LindsayAS: and of course the way they interact with their families.. and with outsiders

ChristinR2: Huh! How about that.

ChristinR2: Okay, so assuming that we were to talk about the History of American Indians....

LindsayAS: That was my impression

ChristinR2: tell me what your assumptions are of the USA 150 years ago.

LindsayAS smiles

ChristinR2: It is interesting to consider how many different things were going on here at that time.

LindsayAS: Well the pueblo revolt was in 1680.. It was still talked about a couple of years ago. 150 years ago in New Mexico (it was a territory)

DavidWe: Civil War battles took place in NM territory

LindsayAS: The natives were on reservations or being forced there

MaryThu joined the room.

DavidWe . o O (Albuquerque)

DavidWe waves to Mary

ChristinR2: Hi Mary! Welcome!

LindsayAS: Yes David it did. There were several battles and military outposts

ChristinR2: Let's ask Mary!

ChristinR2: Mary, can we ask where you are from?

MaryThu: Hi David and Christine

ChristinR2: waving

MaryThu: Milwaukee

MaryThu: Where is everyone else from?

ChristinR2: And are you related to any tribes there?

ChristinR2: I am from Connecticut,

LindsayAS: Hi Mary. I am from New Mexico but live in Alaska

MaryThu: I am an enrolled member of the HoChunk Nation.

ChristinR2: We are gathering each others local history information, comparing notes.

BJB2: o O (Mary's full name is Mary E. Thundercloud-Eary hint, hint)

ChristinR2: I have a lot of friends in Wisconsin...Oneida and menominee....no Ho Chunk though. It's nice to meet you!

MaryThu: Are you Native?

ChristinR2: No I am not.

ChristinR2: But I have been involved with American Indian issues in education for the last six years.

MaryThu: Um, there is not 2 Cs in HoChunk. I will overlook your error

ChristinR2: One of the reasons I have been asking everyone to tell the stories of their locations is that I am sure you could all teach me plenty!

ChristinR2: I appreciate that. You will have many opportunities to do so!

ChristinR2: So Mary, want to tell us some of the local history from Milwaukee? A brief overview? I had just posed the question, what was happening in all of the different areas of the country 150 years ago.

DavidWe: terrorism visited on Native Americans?

ChristinR2: Yes, for sure.

LindsayAS: pretty much

ChristinR2: But also, treaties being written in many places.

ChristinR2: Languages being written for the first time (Cherokee)

LindsayAS: but also many treaties being broken

ChristinR2: That is a constant, for sure.

LindsayAS: I think Chief Seattle (sealth) was alive and active then

LindsayAS: give or take a couple years

ChristinR2: I think, and I am interested in everybody's perspective on this, that it is also important to know how people were dealing with the changes in the country...the way some people fought back, the way culture was being held onto...a LOT of heroism

LindsayAS: That is a good way to look at it. Usually you hear just the bad.

ChristinR2: This is an important thing to teach...NOT that Native Americans were always victims, but who their heroes were, what tribes were doing to survive.

LindsayAS: I am teaching this right now

ChristinR2: Wonderful! Tell us more!

LindaU joined the room.

LindsayAS: to native kids.. and I asked them who they thought had more of an effect on the other... the Natives or the Europeans.

ChristinR2: Hi Linda!

BJB2: welcome, Linda!

LindsayAS: They said the natives.

LindsayAS: Hi Linda

LindaU: Hi.. sorry for being so late..

ChristinR2: No prob!

MaryThu: Hi Linda

ChristinR2: Lindsay, can you elaborate? I am not sure I got that.

LindsayAS: We are learning about the European explorers (Cortes, pilgrims) and I asked the students which culture was more affected... the natives or the settlers..

ChristinR2: Okay, I am sure that the Native kids are influenced by their own history...are there non-native kids in the school?

ChristinR2: Ah! I see!

LindsayAS: They said that the Natives had more of an effect on the Europeans.

ChristinR2: Well, they were certainly right.

ChristinR2: Oh, that is interesting, isn't it?

LindsayAS: helps if I could type as fast as I can think

ChristinR2: LOL!

ChristinR2: Because in different parts of the country, you would probably get a different answer.

MaryThu: Do any of you work with American Indian children? Are you all teachers?

LindsayAS: I had to stop and really look at it. they were totally right

DavidWe teaches other teachers about technology

LindsayAS: I am a teacher in a remote native village in Alaska

MaryThu: How COOL is that?

LindsayAS: what about you Mary

LindaU: I'm starting to work with two schools in NC with Native American students... One in Cherokee and one in Pembroke.

ChristinR2: I teach non-native teachers how to evaluate curriculum and to try to see from a different perspective.

LindsayAS: More then one way of cool! Awesome and 30 out right now!

MaryThu: I am a 6th grade teacher.

ChristinR2: Where, Mary?

ChristinR2: oops. Milwaukee?

MaryThu: Milwaukee Public Schools

ChristinR2: What is the ratio of Native/non-native?

MaryThu: Lindsay, I was a reader for Alaskan Native grants last year

ChristinR2: The work we do at our organization has been to mediate between non-native administration and Native parents whose kids suffer discrimination.

LindsayAS: That must have been interesting.. It is so completely diverse up here from just one town to another.

LindaU: I'm not sure exactly in my two schools. I've visited the school in Pembroke and it seems to be largely Native American, but also has a large African American population as well. I suspect Cherokee is largely Native American.

MaryThu: It was an incredible experience just reading about the diversity!

LindsayAS: Mary.. I would never understand it if I wasn't in the middle of it.

LindsayAS: and some days you forget all about it... until you look outside and see where you actually are.

DavidWe smiles

ChristinR2: Gee, it seems like it took an hour to introduce ourselves!

MaryThu: I grew up in a Native community. I could relate to many of the issues

LindsayAS: The kids and I were trying to figure out what life would be like if the Conquistadors and other explorers had never come to the Americas

LindsayAS: I would imagine. Did it talk about poverty?

BJB2: next month should be easier! The next AIS discussion is February 8

DavidWe: Thanks, Christine

LindsayAS: I am putting it on my calendar right now.. what time?

DavidWe: Same time, I would guess

BJB2: 9pm EST

ChristinR2: Yes.

ChristinR2: 9 pm.

BJB2 . o O (what is that in Alaska time?)

MaryThu: Totally

ChristinR2: LOL!

BJB2: Lindsay, your Tapped In calendar is in your time zone

BJB2: same for you, Mary

LindaU: I hope to become a more regular participant now that I only have one job.

ChristinR2: Gee! You have the whole night ahead of you!

BJB2: glad you all could make it to this discussion! This was a wonderful experience

MaryThu: or at least the effects

DavidWe waves goodnight to everyone

LindsayAS: yeah.. I have to go to the school for tutoring.. and feed my kids.

ChristinR2: Thanks for coming. I have to sign off now! Good night everyone. Glad you all came!

MaryThu: Good night David

LindsayAS: Thanks

DavidWe: Good night, Mary

LindsayAS: Thank you Christine.. this is going to be great

MaryThu: Good night

LindsayAS: Night Mary

ChristinR2: Night everybody!