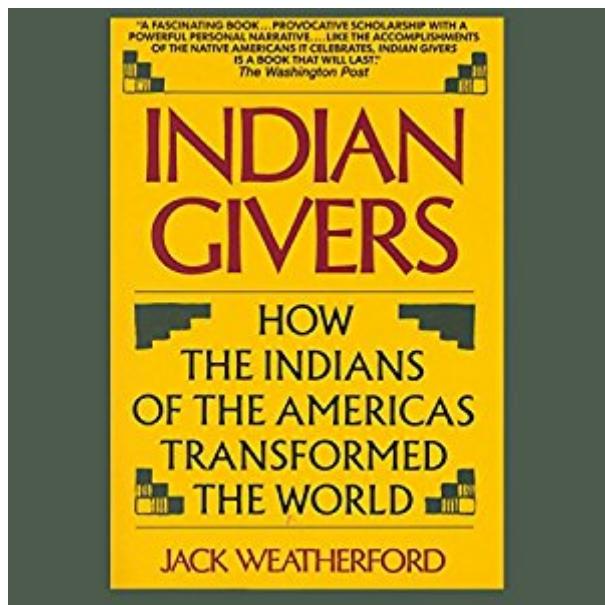


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Indian Givers: How The Indians Of The Americas Transformed The World



Synopsis

"As entertaining as it is thoughtful....Few contemporary writers have Weatherford's talent for making the deep sweep of history seem vital and immediate."THE WASHINGTON POSTAfter 500 years, the world's huge debt to the wisdom of the Indians of the Americas has finally been explored in all its vivid drama by anthropologist Jack Weatherford. He traces the crucial contributions made by the Indians to our federal system of government, our democratic institutions, modern medicine, agriculture, architecture, and ecology, and in this astonishing, ground-breaking book takes a giant step toward recovering a true American history. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am happy to report that I was completely misled by the strange title of this book. I was also put off at first to start the book reading about modern day people in Bolivia. I wanted to know how the American Indians _of long ago_ had transformed the world. Boy, am I glad I kept reading! Not only do the introductions to each chapter force you to realize how completely transformative those influences were and still are, but they make you realize how little the world has credited the indigenous peoples of America for any of them. Perhaps we can see this book as a form of a collective "Thank you" to these millions of people who were despised, oppressed, murdered, tortured, and obliterated after sharing their discoveries and advances with the modern world. Now if

we can only figure out how to use these advances in sustainable ways like the "Indians" did, THAT would be a true way of saying Thanks. In the meantime, thank you to Jack Weatherford for writing this book!

Anthropologist Jack Weatherford traces an informative and entertaining case for his main thesis - that the contributions of the Native American population to the Old World have not been truly or fully appreciated more than 500 years after Columbus landed. Written in a highly readable style, he describes how the New World revolutionized the Old World while the latter gobbled up the former. It is a fascinating story -- rich veins of gold and silver create a monetary economy that resulted in the rise of Europe's middle and merchant classes, the companies that formed to mine and provide miners and new settlers with goods and services lead to corporate power, and a rich variety of foods the natives raised in the Americas were shipped around the globe by those corporations and adopted into national diets so thoroughly that we now think of zucchini, tomatoes, and green beans as Italian food instead of imports. Weatherford also weaves in explanations of how mineral riches in the Americas ended mining on Africa's Gold Coast and indirectly led to slavery, how the Iroquois Confederacy contributed to the federal government system the United States adopted, and how science could have benefited sooner and faster by paying more attention to native medical practices. There are a few places where Weatherford probably pushes the idea a bit too far; but overall, I thoroughly enjoyed reading "Indian Givers" and would suggest reading it with "1491," an equally intriguing look at how old, wise, and diverse the New World was before the Old World arrived to plunder.

One of the great books about Indians. He waxes eloquent.

I still have the hard cover copy I read years ago. I wanted this to be the first book I read on my new Kindle. Jack connects the dots in ways that are sometimes obvious and other times profoundly amazing. The American Indians supplied the wealth to create world economies separate from Royalty, food to change the habit of death by starvation in Europe, and a new political system based on merit and not blood lines. Once he explains it, it becomes so obvious that even a couch potato can understand this flow of history.

Indian Givers has so much information about the American Indians and as usual what we could have learned from them. It's a great history read. It compares to Lewis and Clark in Undaunted

Courage. If you like learning about history in a non painful way this is a good book to read. Also read it for a book group and a great discussion afterwards. If there was one thing I did not like about the book was the persecution of the Indians (not a whole lot the writer or I could do about that!)

I read this book years ago and bought this one for a gift. It arrived in very good condition and on time.

Fascinating book. I bought a copy years ago, and a friend borrowed it. I wondered if I'd ever get it back! One of my favorite reference books.

A great insight to the unheralded contributions of our native Americans. We need to say thank you.

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