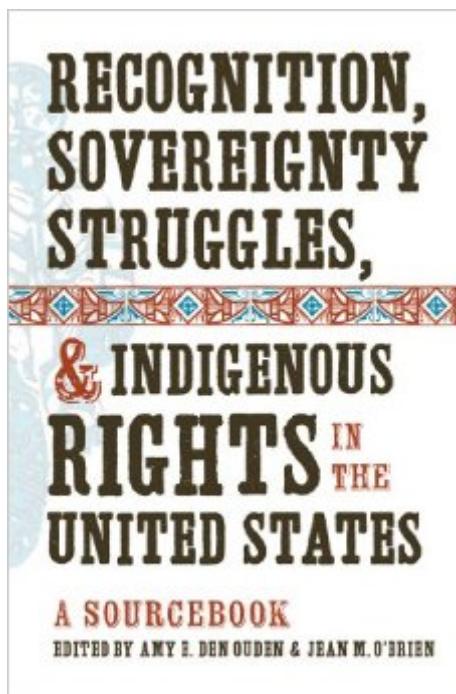


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# Recognition, Sovereignty Struggles, And Indigenous Rights In The United States: A Sourcebook



## Synopsis

This engaging collection surveys and clarifies the complex issue of federal and state recognition for Native American tribal nations in the United States. Den Ouden and O'Brien gather focused and teachable essays on key topics, debates, and case studies. Written by leading scholars in the field, including historians, anthropologists, legal scholars, and political scientists, the essays cover the history of recognition, focus on recent legal and cultural processes, and examine contemporary recognition struggles nationwide. Contributors are Joanne Barker (Lenape), Kathleen A. Brown-Perez (Brothertown), Rosemary Cambra (Muwekma Ohlone), Amy E. Den Ouden, Timothy Q. Evans (Haliwa-Saponi), Les W. Field, Angela A. Gonzales (Hopi), Rae Gould (Nipmuc), J. Kehaulani Kauanui (Kanaka Maoli), K. Alexa Koenig, Alan Leventhal, Malinda Maynor Lowery (Lumbee), Jean M. O'Brien (White Earth Ojibwe), John Robinson, Jonathan Stein, Ruth Garby Torres (Schaghticoke), and David E. Wilkins (Lumbee).

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This text offers valuable insights into a field of complexities associated with the Federal Acknowledgment Process, a tedious and lengthy formulaic procedure by which the U.S. federal government determines, recognizes and seeks to legitimate Indigenous nations as real "tribes" and real "Indians." The book successfully sets out to complicate a standardized acknowledgment process applied to all Native nations in the U.S., regardless of their distinct cultural and historical contexts, including the context of racialization. A central argument throughout the text underscores

the connection between federal recognition and Indigenous sovereignty. Native American sovereignty encompasses the right of Native nations to determine, protect, and preserve their own Indigenous identities. Conversely, the idea that the identities of hundreds of Native nations can be reduced to the same set of institutionalized rules raises questions about the underlying objectives of the recognition process, a process that emerged from a nation-state history of colonization and mass appropriation of Native lands. This book articulates an essential question: What does federal recognition ultimately seek to achieve? The book is a collection of essays written by a number of well-known and highly regarded scholars and activists. Most of these authors are themselves Indigenous and have firsthand experience with the political, economic, and social issues spawned by recognition, by the denial of recognition, and, in some cases, by the repudiation of federal recognition. (Especially interesting are the essays citing the benefits of "state" recognition.) Whether one agrees or disagrees with the assertions of these essays, the volume creates a dynamic forum for ongoing discussion and debate.

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