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Naomi Schaefer Riley

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THE NEW TRAIL OF TEARS

How Washington Is Destroying American Indians

NAOMI SCHAEFER RILEY

"A much-needed revelation of heartbreaking conditions on American Indian reservations"
— THOMAS SOWELL



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Naomi Schaefer Riley : The New Trail of Tears: How Washington Is Destroying American Indians before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Trail of Tears: How Washington Is Destroying American Indians:

33 of 38 people found the following review helpful. A much-needed book, though incomplete By Steve Harrison It used to be that most people's knowledge of Indians consisted of the Little Big Horn and nothing since; nowadays it consists of the Little Big Horn, the Trail of Tears, and nothing since. People really ought to read this book. I have lived most of

my life near several Indian reservations and have worked as a lawyer in Indian courts. This book's description of reservations and reservation life is accurate. (In fact, it seems to understate or skirt certain issues, perhaps because they might be seen as criticisms of Indians themselves.) I wish, though, that Riley had given more attention to the problems of Indian courts. The principal barriers to Indian economic development include not only the regulatory policies she analyzes but also the fact that on many reservations non-Indians cannot expect impartial resolution of legal disputes. (One Indian judge I encountered was a very old lady, appointed judge because she was related to the winners of the most recent tribal election, who had no training in law or in anything else and who could barely speak English. The tribe saw nothing wrong with this, though it did try to keep secret the fact that she could not read.) Typical of books by journalists, stylistically the book is more like an extended newspaper or magazine article. But it is a nicely-written article. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Real solutions and insight addressing true problems not media sensationalism. By Customer Very informative on the plight of the American Indians. Gives thoughtful insight into the myriad problems within the reservations and the interference and misguided help from the federal government. The author provides suggestions on what can be done to help the people, but in realistic terms with the continued complex issues that divide us all. I would recommend this book to anyone who knows changing the names of sport teams is not the issue holding back the American Indians and is instead interested in the real problems and possible solutions. While words may matter it is true change and compassion that will ultimately help solve the suffering. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Victor Mark Kogan Excellent!

If you want to know why American Indians have the highest rates of poverty of any racial group, why suicide is the leading cause of death among Indian men, why native women are two and a half times more likely to be raped than the national average and why gang violence affects American Indian youth more than any other group, do not look to history. There is no doubt that white settlers devastated Indian communities in the 19th, and early 20th centuries. But it is our policies today—denying Indians ownership of their land, refusing them access to the free market and failing to provide the police and legal protections due to them as American citizens—that have turned reservations into small third-world countries in the middle of the richest and freest nation on earth. The tragedy of our Indian policies demands reexamination—not only because they make the lives of millions of American citizens harder and more dangerous—but also because they represent a microcosm of everything that has gone wrong with modern liberalism. They are the result of decades of politicians and bureaucrats showering a victimized people with money and cultural sensitivity instead of what they truly need—the education, the legal protections and the autonomy to improve their own situation. If we are really ready to have a conversation about American Indians, it is time to stop bickering about the names of football teams and institute real reforms that will bring to an end this ongoing national shame.

“The New Trail of Tears is a much-needed revelation of heart-breaking conditions on American Indian reservations—and of the attitudes, incentives, and politics that make the people living on those reservations even worse off than other low-income minorities, including American Indians living elsewhere in American society. The laws and policies behind these human tragedies have wider implications for welfare state assumptions and politically correct decisions, including the grossly misnamed ‘Indian Child Welfare Act.’ This book is an insightful and much-needed introduction to a subject that deserves much more public attention than it gets, both for its own sake and for what it reveals about the political and ideological climate of our time.”—Thomas Sowell “I’ve grubbed in the data regarding American Indian poverty for years, but none of my numbers will have the effect of Naomi Riley’s investigation and prose. Through clear thinking and personal accounts, she articulates why this ignored minority remains in poverty and how they can escape it. The New Trail of Tears is a must read if you care about the plight of poor people, in general, and American Indians, in particular.”—Terry L. Anderson, author of *Unlocking the Wealth of Indian Nations* and senior fellow of The Hoover Institution at Stanford University “Clear evidence of the tragedy that results when individual property rights are equated with group rights.”—Amity Shlaes, presidential scholar at the Kings College and author of *Coolidge* and *The Forgotten Man* “The New Trail of Tears is a powerful antidote to the romantic nonsense about the history of American Indian groups that pervades our school curriculum today, and a stinging indictment of the paternalistic public policies that continue to keep most Indians mired in poverty even now. Written in lively and lucid prose, it is my candidate for the book-of-the-year on racial issues in the United States.”—Stephan Thernstrom, Winthrop Professor of History Emeritus at Harvard University