Native American Resource List
November 2024

This list has been compiled by members of the UUFE 2024 Native American Sunday Service Team. Please note that these resources are publicly available, and do not necessarily represent UUFE's point of view.

A number of these books which are older are available in paperback format or as e-books (via such devices as Kindle).

Books

Title / Author / Summary / Additional notes

Do All Indians Live in Tipis? Second Edition. Questions & Answers from the National Museum of the American Indian (2018) National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)
Young adult/teen - There are hundreds of Native tribes in the Americas, and there may be thousands of misconceptions about Native customs, culture, and history. In this illustrated guide, experts from Smithsonian's NMAI debunk common myths and answer frequently asked questions about Native Americans past and present.

1742: The True Story of the Nanticoke Indians' Plot to Unite the Tribes, Massacre the English, and Take Back the Eastern Shore (2023) Christopher Slavens
This book covers the history of the Nanticoke Indians and other Eastern Shore tribes from fighting with colonists to a plan to take back their lands.

Eastern Shore Indians of Virginia and Maryland (1997) / Helen C Rountree and Thomas E.. Davison
These anthropologists have created a chronology about the Native culture in Maryland and Virginia from 800 until the tribal members were scattered ("disbanded") in the late 1700s and early 1800s. There is information about the tribes and the plants and animals that were part of their habitats and diets.

There, There (2018)/ Tommy Orange (Cheyenne, Arapaho)
12 Native Americans travel to the Oakland, California Pow Wow, each one searching for something. The plight of Urban Native Americans, related to the 1950s "termination" idea to encourage / force people off their lands and into cities, is uncovered in stark detail in this heart-breaking story.

Wandering Stars (2024) / Tommy Orange
Some of the characters and plot lines from "There, There" return in this novel. Once again he exquisitely writes of the suffering and successes of the Urban Indian (as he writes) and breaks all of the narrow cultural stereotypes that non-Natives have about the Native American population that has endured despite efforts in the US to rid itself of this culture for centuries.

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants (2013) / Robin Wall Kimmerer (Citizen Potawatomi Nation)
We humans should be stewards of our planet, learning from plants. Sustainable living should be adopted by all, and this insightful book offers a way to do so.

Cheyenne Autumn (1992) / Mari Sandoz
This book is difficult to read because it recounts horrific incidents that took place in the fall and winter of 1878 and 1879. The cruelty of the U.S. Army toward the Cheyenne people is chronicled as the government policy to terminate as many tribes as possible in the West played out.

Crazy Brave: A Memoir (2012) / Joy Harjo (Muscogee Creek)
A poet, musician, and author, who survived a difficult childhood and early life. Joy Harjo knew she had a choice: despair or becoming "crazy brave." Her memoir recounts her struggles and journey to raise her voice and be heard. (Two-time Poet Laureate along with many other honors). ***Catching the Light*** *(2021), is her reflection on her life and the source of her poetry that she writes to express her spirit and that of the community of Native Americans.*

Yellow Bird:Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country (2020) / Sierra Crane Murdoch
This is a nonfiction account about Lissa Yellow Bird (Arikara Nation), who meticulously investigated the disappearance of a white oil worker (KC Clarke), but it is much more. Murdoch researched this story for years, and the result not only is a true crime recounting, but also an exploration of generational trauma and a Native Community and the impact of government and the oil industry on the people and their lands, Lissa Yellow Bird today continues searching for missing people, especially Missing Indigenous Women. (Podcast interview of Lissa Yellow Bird is below).

American Indian Myths and Legends (1984) / Edited by Richard Erdoes and Alfonso Ortiz (San Juan Pueblo - Ohkay Owingeh)
An older book, this collection is considered to be but an authentic and comprehensive compilation of myths and legends. Many are thousands of years old, retold and reshaped over centuries.

Prison Writings: My Life is my Sun Dance (1999) / Leonard Peltier (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians-Ojibwe)
Peltier, incarcerated since 1976 despite evidence of prosecutorial misconduct, muses on his life, his imprisonment, and injustices against all Native Americans. The power of the Sun Dance is part of this chronicle.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse (1982) / Peter Mattheissen
While the focus of this book is on Leonard Peltier's unjust conviction and the American Indian Movement, he also writes about injustices inflicted against Red Cloud, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse and all Native Americans.

The Round House (2012)/ Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians-Ojibwe)
One of many of her books, this is a tale of justice, generational trauma, and indigenous culture. A son (age 13) explores his mother's withdrawal from life after she is raped, wanting justice for her. **The Night Watchman (2020)** *Set in the 1950s and inspired by Erdrich's grandfather, this story centers on the US Government's 1950s policy to "terminate" the Ojibwe people by assimilating them into the white population. Her grandfather and others resisted these efforts.*

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI (2016) / David Grann
*This book also became a film (**2023 release**) about the unknown story (except among the Osage people) about the vicious exploitation of the Indigenous people by white people, all based on greed and racism. The book gives a much more expansive look at the tragedies.*

Indian Tribes of North America (1996) / Joseph Sherman
This book is somewhat dated but for its time it is a thorough look of the indigenous people who lived in North America before the European settlers arrived. It is recommended by several Native American websites.

1491: New Revelations of America Before Columbus (2005) / Charles C. Mann
The author puts together research by anthropologists and others that shows indigenous people were sophisticated in creating political systems, effective agricultural practices, and building cities. There were also significant advances in science, math, and engineering.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West (1970) / Dee Brown
This is a heart-breaking chronicle of all that the U.S. Government did to displace and destroy indigenous cultures in the 19th century.

Red Deal:Indigenous Action to Save our Earth (2021) / The Red Nation
A focus on climate change and Native pride by a coalition of activists, Native and non-Native. They advocate for liberation and the end of the destruction of Native life and the environment providing strategy and a toolkit.

Like A Hurricane (1996) / Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche) and Robert Allen Warrior (Osage)
The American Indian Movement (AIM) began in the 1960s, and was an integral component in the takeover of Alcatraz along with the Wounded Knee/Pine Ridge actions in the 70s. This in-depth book provides context for those who have only a brief familiarity with Indian history of the 20th Century

The Relocation of the North American Indian (2006)/ John Dunn
This book was written with the teen reader in mind. It covers the invasions against indigenous people and their lands from the fifteenth century through the latter half of the 20th century. For those of us alive today, were we aware of the Relocation Act of the 1950s, the goal being to

move indigenous people off their lands to urban areas to "assimilate" them?" Did we know that Indian children were forced into boarding schools until the 1960s?

Strangers Devour the Land (**1991) /** Boyce Richardson
An intimate look into the people and communities of James Bay (Canada), particularly the Cree, the book chronicles the resistance of people to the dams and how Hydro-Quebec came to begin the largest single hydroelectric project in North America.

Movies and TV Shows

Title / Where to find if Streaming / Summary / Additional notes

Reservation Dogs (Hulu-series)**(2021-2023)** - Directed by Sterlin Harjo (Seminole and Muscogee (Creek) heritage)
A ground-breaking streaming TV series, this is the heartwarming tale of teens and elders on the lands of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. There is angst, there is joy, there are many fun moments. A majority indigenous cast and crew. This recent series is valued as an authentic representation of current reservation life.

Rez Balls (Netflix -film)**(2024)** - Directed by Sydney Freeland (Navajo) and Sterlin Harjo was a producer.
This is an inspiring basketball film set primarily on Navajo lands. An eye-opening look at Navajo teens today as they navigate paths to adulthood and identity.

Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked The World (2019)
This documentary is the story of how Native American influences are woven into American rock and roll.
https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/documentaries/rumble/

Pow Wow Highway (film)(**1989)** - Directed by Johnathan Wacks
Gary Farmer and other extraordinary Native American actors appear in this story, a heart-warming story with aspects of a fable. (This airs on the Criterion channel but it is streaming here: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=846089869230308)

Longmire (Netflix-series)**(2012-2017)** - Various directors.
This modern Western stars Robert Taylor and Lou Diamond Phillips and many episodes shed light on contemporary issues facing Native Americans, including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW).

Incident at Oglala (1992) Directed by Michael Apted.
Documentary about the 1973 protests and tragedies on the Pine Ridge lands. Available on Amazon Prime (free to Prime members) Watch Incident at Oglala | Prime Video

Thunderheart (1992) (film) Directed by Michael Apted. (Available on Sling TV but also purchasable on Amazon and other sites).
This is loosely based on the 1973 events on the Pine Ridge lands. Val Kilmer (grandfather Cherokee) is the lead, and it also stars Graham Greene (Oneida heritage) and major Native Americans play prominent roles in this film. Below is an analysis of Thunderheart and the Incident at Oglala. https://www.cowboysindians.com/2022/09/thunderheart-and-incident-at-oglala/

Smoke Signals (1998) Written by Sherman Alexie (Spokane Tribe, Coeur d'Alene ancestry) and Chris Eyre (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes) and directed by Chris Eyre
Two Native American men are on a journey to collect the remains of the father of one of them. Cultural identity, family, and Native American life is shown in this low budget masterful film.
https://pluto.tv/us/on-demand/movies/6231120aa46b5d0013f79180?utm_medium=textsearch&utm_source=google

Rhymes for Young Ghouls (2013) Written and Directed by Jeff Barnaby (Mi'kmaq Nation from Canada)
This is a depiction of the tragedy of boarding schools, into which Native Americans were forced and which existed as recently as the early 1960s.
https://tubitv.com/movies/627904/rhymes-for-young-ghouls?start=true&tracking=google-feed&utm_source=google-feed

Online Articles, Videos, Websites

Title / Where to find / Summary / Additional notes

https://www.nativeamericacalling.com/
Podcasts, call-ins from Native Americans all over the US, themed shows, and so much more. Contemporary concerns and thoughts on everything. A cool recent airing was of musician Geneviève Gros-Louis (Huron-Wendat)(violinist) and includes Native News (in a style similar to NPR) Her music starts around 14 minutes. Before that, a news break and her introduction. After that, music and her interview are interspersed.

https://www.thisamericanlife.org/706/a-mess-to-be-reckoned-with
Lissa Yellow Bird (Arikara Nation) investigates missing people, and focuses on Indigenous women. Her first investigation, though, was of a missing oil worker, a white man named KC Clarke (and this nonfiction tale is recounted in Sierra Crane Murdoch's book, noted above).

https://roommagazine.com/the-indigenous-brilliance-reading-series/
This website is set up to celebrate storytelling of LGBTQ+ indigenous people and building coalitions with Black, Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous creators.

#LANDBACK Is the Solution | Cultural Survival
About the “Land Back movement.” Currently this campaign has grown to defend the Native lands, support Native Communities, and bring awareness to all of the lands stolen from them, including the sacred Black Hills where Mount Rushmore was created. As an aside, the Department of Interior had a “Land Back” project to restore lands to the Native tribes. As a result of litigation, a settlement allowed this government agency to purchase lands from private owners and return the land to the various tribes for apx. 10 years (ending in 2022).

Thursday, August 15, 2024 – Native Playlist: Geneviève Gros-Louis
Podcast page featuring musician Geneviève Gros-Louis.

National Museum of the American Indian - National Museum of the American Indian website- contains many resources for events, music, artists, music, poetry, educational materials, and information about repatriation

The 50+ Best Native American Musicians - List of some popular Native American musicians

https://www.uua.org/lifespan/curricula/read/indigenous-peoples-history - UUA’s Common Read Recommendation for 2019 - 2020