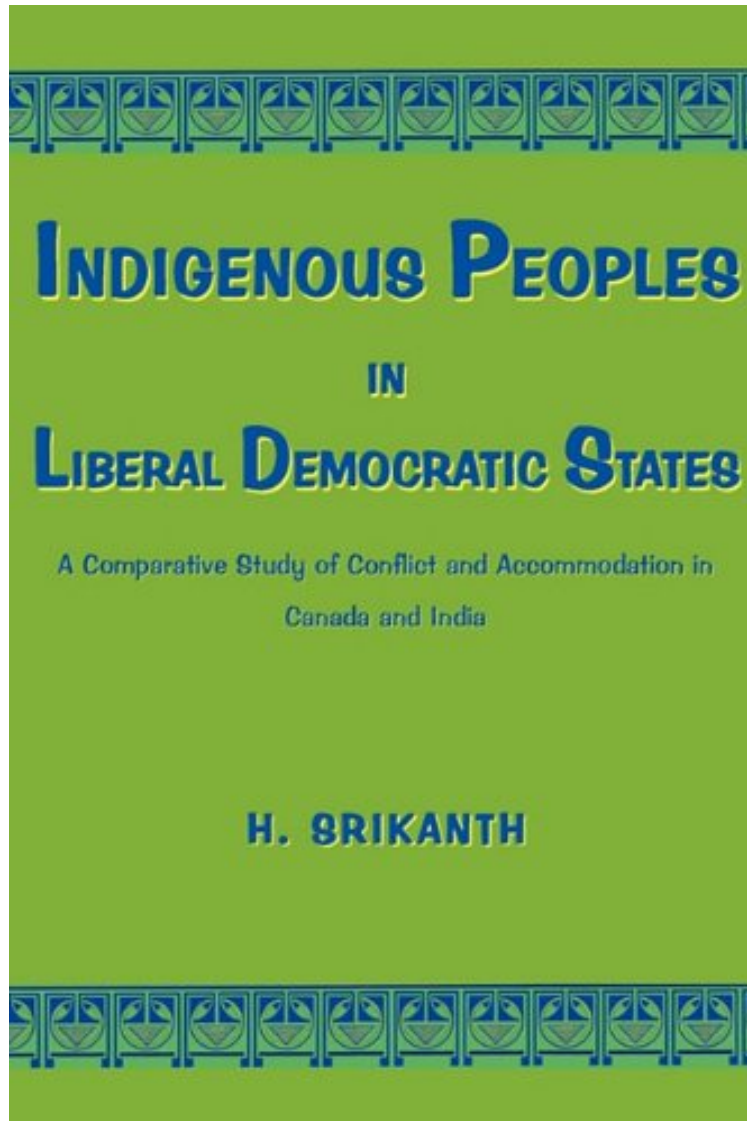


(Ebook pdf) Indigenous Peoples in Liberal Democratic States: A Comparative Study of Conflict and Accommodation in Canada and India

# Indigenous Peoples in Liberal Democratic States: A Comparative Study of Conflict and Accommodation in Canada and India

*H. Srikanth*

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**H. Srikanth : Indigenous Peoples in Liberal Democratic States: A Comparative Study of Conflict and Accommodation in Canada and India** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Indigenous Peoples in Liberal Democratic States: A Comparative Study of Conflict and Accommodation in Canada and India:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An In-Depth Study By Peter In his recent book *Indigenous Peoples in Liberal Democratic States: A Comparative Study of Conflict and Accommodation in Canada and India*, H. Srikanth engages in an in-depth study of the contemporary socio-economic and socio-political issues pertaining to the indigenous communities of Canada and India. To keep the focus intact, Srikanth limits the scope of the book to the study of the on-reserve First Nations in the British Columbia in Canada and the indigenous tribes of composite Assam in India. The book is neatly divided into four contrastive chapters that alternatively deal with the indigenous communities in Canada and India, thus making it easy for the reader to compare and contrast the similarities and dissimilarities in the sociohistorical experiences of these communities in the two countries. The compilation and presentation of a large amount of data ranging from the nineteenth century to the present date pertaining to the experiences of the indigenous communities in Canada and India makes the book very up-to-date and an interesting read. Srikanth establishes at the very outset that owing to the differences in the structures and forms of colonial rule, the colonial experiences of indigenous people varied in Canada and India and hence their experiences in the postcolonial atmosphere differs as well (28). Srikanth's handling of the information and the resources available rightly establish his claim about such differences. The particular strength of the book lies in the description of the social, geographical, political and economic practices of the indigenous communities of composite Assam in India and the First Nations people of British Columbia in Canada. On the Indian side, Srikanth throws light on the changes brought into the practices of indigenous communities as a consequence of their interaction with the British colonial rule. Srikanth also describes in great detail the clash between traditional institutions of the indigenous communities in composite Assam and the state and central government of the Indian Nation state in the postcolonial era. On the Canadian side, the author gives in-depth information about the nature and functioning of treaties between the federal government and the First Nations people in the colonial and postcolonial period of contact. The author also underlines some striking similarities found between the indigenous communities in both Canada and India i.e. the headhunting practices of the Garos, Nagas and Lushais of composite Assam with that of the Nootka of BC. Srikanth discusses the concepts of private property, cultural subjugation, self-government, livelihood, militancy, education, identity politics and more such topics that concern the indigenous communities of composite Assam as well as the First Nations people of Canada from the perspective of an empathic scholar. It is interesting to note that the author succeeds in establishing the point that whereas the British as colonial masters in both India and Canada, advocated the so-called "civilizing" and "humanizing" missions in order to serve the colonial interest, even the federal and provincial governments in postcolonial Canada and India respectively have not been very successful in handling tribal affairs with the right kind of attitude and flair. The author, however, sees hope and optimism for the future of the indigenous communities in both Canada and India in the liberal democratic set-up. Written in a crisp, compact, and lucid style, and taking up the format of an interdisciplinary study, the book is an easy-read for students and established scholars in disciplines ranging from sociology, anthropology, economics, political science to literature, policymakers, and general audience interested in the study of Canada and India alike. The plethora of bibliographic information available in the book further enriches the reading experience. Needless to say, it has enough scope to be adapted across disciplines for an introductory academic course on indigenous communities. Though the lack of a clear theoretical framework weakens the analysis undertaken in the book to a certain extent, the chapters are self-sufficient in content and spirit and the conclusion to the chapters adequately summarizes the author's goals and objectives as stated in the book. Reviewed by Punyashree Panda; Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, India - Originally published in *Indigenous Peoples Issues Resources* ([...])

*Indigenous Peoples in Liberal Democratic States* is a comparative study of the interactions between indigenous peoples and political regimes of the Province of British Columbia, Canada and the hill areas of composite Assam, India. Utilizing historical, comparative and analytical methods, the book throws light on the major concerns, achievements and failures of the indigenous peoples' movements in Canada and India. By shedding light on the impact of colonial and post-colonial regimes on indigenous communities, the book critically evaluates different policies and strategies pursued in these countries to accommodate indigenous peoples fighting for protection of aboriginal rights. By analyzing Native resistance movements and State responses to these movements, the book explores the potentialities and limits of liberal democracies in addressing issues raised by indigenous movements for self-determination. The central themes are examined in light of contemporary discourses on the rights of indigenous people. *Indigenous Peoples in Liberal Democratic States* is an essential book for specialists and non-specialists alike, and it will interest all readers who are concerned about relationships between indigenous peoples and States. H. Srikanth earned his doctoral degree in Political Science from the University of Hyderabad, India. He is presently teaching at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India. His areas of research interests include political economy, ethnicity, identity politics and social movements. The present book is the result of a research project undertaken by the

author as Canadian Studies Faculty Research Fellow.