
Giago, an Oglala Sioux from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, writes a weekly newspaper column, "Notes from Indian Country," for *The Lakota Times*, the Indian weekly newspaper of which he is editor and publisher. This book is a compilation of most of his editorials and columns from 1979 to 1983 in his and other western and southwestern newspapers. Giago illustrates the book with Tom Casey's photographs, mostly of Pine Ridge events and people.

Organized by broad topics—communications, culture, education and athletics, government, health, humor, litigation, politics, rights, religion, and people—the book offers a potpourri of subjects of interest to Native Americans and non-Indians alike. Giago discusses such diverse ideas as the effects of legal battles between tribes and local and state governments and the federal government's role in assisting or hampering litigation, and how radio deregulation affects tribal stations.

Giago is neither a conservative nor radical. His concern for the myriad issues that affect Native Americans shows through in his columns. While an advocate for Indian rights and knowledgeable about events, Giago does not set himself up as a "spokesman," but an imparter of information, a journalist.

*Notes From Indian Country* fails to hold the reader's attention for an extended length of time; the maximum dosage of these repetitious columns is half an hour. The book would have benefitted more by a tightening up—cull the poorly written and least interesting columns and leave a more cogent body of work. Giago apparently did not think it important to include the date written for each column. This leaves the reader guessing at the time frame and often having no reference point from which to work.

Even worse is Giago's penchant for cliches. Because of the repetitive columns the word choice becomes even more apparent. He uses such worn out phrases as "no muss, no fuss," "having your cake and eating it too," "Big Brother is alive and well," "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," ad nauseum. However, amid all the garbage are a few gems like "The national path they have chosen is strewn with the bodies of editorial dreamers" (p. 86).

The most disappointing aspect of this book is the poor, or lack of, proofreading. The book is rife with typographical errors. It appears to be a self-publishing or small press venture, possibly all-Native American. It is a shame that an otherwise well-made book should be marred by a lack of editorial control.

Giago's ideas deserve better treatment. If a Volume II is forthcoming, it could only benefit from tighter editing and proofing. It is unfortunate that the valuable information and insights Giago has are impeded by technical flaws.

Few “laymen” will deem the 1983 Supplement to Federal Indian Law a necessary addition to their libraries. Teachers, students and practitioners of Indian law, however, will most likely find it a valuable reference handbook. It is, by definition, a limited resource having no internal structure of its own but simply a short supplement of cases, case summaries, legislation, notes, study questions and select law review articles directly indexed to Getches’ et al. 1979 comprehensive casebook, Federal Indian Law.

Characteristic of other West (the premier publisher of the American Casebook Series) releases, the 1983 Supplement to federal Indian is designed to be a classroom text. The complexity of legal materials are best understood by law students, but are also applicable to an undergraduate course curriculum. Within this structural framework, the book is organized in seven chapters which correspond to the topics addressed in the casebook: The History of Federal Policy Toward American Indians, The Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Federal-Tribal Relationship, Tribal Sovereignty, Federal Supremacy and States’ Rights, Tribal Self-Government, Jurisdiction in Indian Country, Rights of Individual Indians, Indian Lands, Water Rights and Fishing and Hunting Rights.

Not surprising, the 1983 Supplement authors are the same scholars who penned the casebook version. David H. Getches brings to the book his expertise as an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Colorado; Charles E. Wilkinson; his professorial acumen from the University of Oregon, and Daniel M. Rosenfelt: Department of Interior experience as an attorney-advisor. As with the casebook, the authors’ contributions are well-written, concise and thought-provoking.

At first reading, it appears that the authors are simply editors whose main responsibility is reporting developments in Indian law since 1979, much like that loose-leaf information legal reporters publish in the infamous “pocket parts” supplements to court reports. However, further investigation reveals a pro-sovereignty tone and pattern in the book, evidenced in both the authors’ case selection and commentary and in their reporting of select law review articles that support Indian rights. Note the climate of advocacy established in the foreword:

The last four years have produced some of the most exciting developments in Indian law. If there is any cause for surprise, perhaps it is that Congress and the courts have not veered from recognizing the essential attributes of Indian sovereignty in the waves of a strong backlash. Pending litigation and legislation suggest that future developments in Indian law promise to be as fascinating as those of the last few years (p. iv);

and that of Manuel P. Guerrero’s republished law review article on the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978:

Even before this country was a nation, to destroy Indian culture and tribal rights from their families and tribal settings.

This form of advocacy, however, is unfair. Moreover, alternative sources to compare with one concerned about, for example, could easily consult the Gram’s Indian Law Reporter, a month’s impact on Indian Country. There exists which, although sometimes dated, offer intelligent alternatives. Include its voluminous but pioneering treatise, published in 1942, and U.C.L.A. Notes the American Indian, published in 1974. A final concern surrounds the legislation and policy in Indian Affairs. Between 1979 and 1982, thereby render a pro-sovereignty tone and pattern in the book, evidenced in both the authors’ case selection and commentary and in their reporting of select law review articles that support Indian rights.