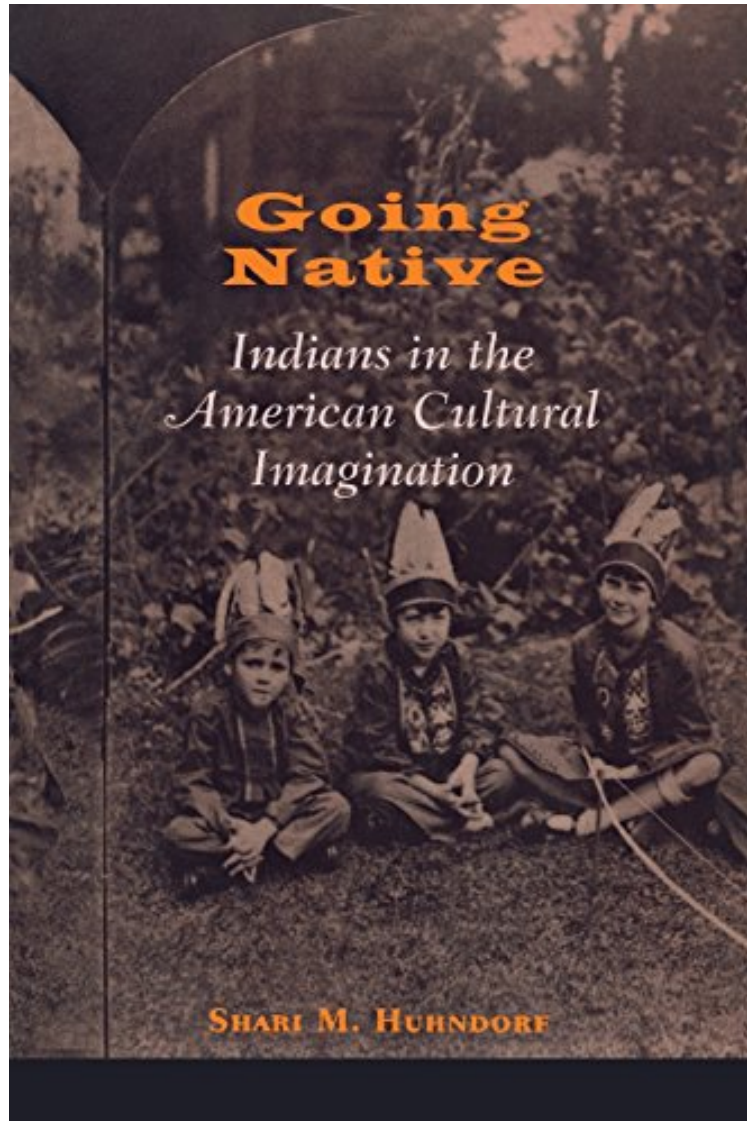


(Mobile book) Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination

## Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination

*Shari M. Huhndorf*

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**Shari M. Huhndorf : Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Going Native: Indians in the American Cultural Imagination:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. understandBy PacaIf you have ever wished to Educated your self on (Native) cultural appropriation you should start with this boook!very good place to start, get this book to your KIDS!1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent readingBy arymanOne of the main sources in the field of Native American studies, especially media. Fundamental reading for people interested in Native American

representations in films and documentaries (particularly interesting is the section about "Nanook of the North") and the central thesis of "going native" (non-Natives adopting Native ways of life and becoming even more Native than the Native Americans themselves), popularised by such films as "Dances with wolves", till the recent hit "Avatar". Important for any inquiry about Native American identity, race, history and politics.<sup>7</sup> of 13 people found the following review helpful. Excellent chapter on Carter's EDUCATION OF LITTLE TREEBy Debbie ReeseThe journal reviewer (above) didn't note the excellent chapter on Forrest Carter's THE EDUCATION OF LITTLE TREE. Teachers who use EDUCATION as authentic should know the backstory of Carter and this book. Huhndorf's work is informative and can help teachers interested in teaching children to look critically at literature.

Since the 1800's, many European Americans have relied on Native Americans as models for their own national, racial, and gender identities. Displays of this impulse include world's fairs, fraternal organizations, and films such as *Dances with Wolves*. Shari M. Huhndorf uses cultural artifacts such as these to examine the phenomenon of "going native," showing its complex relations to social crises in the broader American societyincluding those posed by the rise of industrial capitalism, the completion of the military conquest of Native America, and feminist and civil rights activism.Huhndorf looks at several modern cultural manifestations of the desire of European Americans to emulate Native Americans. Some are quite pervasive, as is clear from the continuing, if controversial, existence of fraternal organizations for young and old which rely upon "Indian" costumes and rituals. Another fascinating example is the process by which Arctic travelers "went Eskimo," as Huhndorf describes in her readings of Robert Flaherty's travel narrative, *My Eskimo Friends*, and his documentary film, *Nanook of the North*. Huhndorf asserts that European Americans' appropriation of Native identities is not a thing of the past, and she takes a skeptical look at the "tribes" beloved of New Age devotees.Going Native shows how even seemingly harmless images of Native Americans can articulate and reinforce a range of power relations including slavery, patriarchy, and the continued oppression of Native Americans. Huhndorf reconsiders the cultural importance and political implications of the history of the impersonation of Indian identity in light of continuing debates over race, gender, and colonialism in American culture.

From Library JournalHuhndorf (English and ethnic studies, Univ. of Oregon) here provides a scholarly yet accessible examination of pervasive European American attempts to project their cultural imagination onto their perceptions of Native American identity and to develop both personal and collective identification with these fantasies. Each chapter focuses on a particular historical time period, moving forward from the post-Civil War years to the present. The author draws many examples from literature and film (from *Nanook of the North* to *Dances with Wolves*) to explore European American expressions of "nativeness." She skillfully addresses issues of race and ethnicity and analyzes the European American romanticization and distortion of Native American culture and customs. This provocative study is recommended for anthropology and ethnic studies collections in academic libraries. Elizabeth Salt, Otterbein Coll. Lib., Westerville, OH Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "The book's central focus is the eradication of an old, and the birth of a new, nation. It is about the origins and significance of manifest destinyperhaps the most original analysis of that process I have seen. . . . This is a fascinating book and the opening quotation by Vine Deloria on how Indians haunt the collective unconscious of the white man sets the tone for a lively read. . . . It is an important contribution to the literature on a topic that deserves much more public debate."Cultural Survival Quarterly "Going Native will be graciously welcomed into American Indian Studies and the study of colonialism/imperialism. Huhndorf's detailed research and methodology are important contributions to American Indian Studies because they allow for the examination of cultural texts and social positions of power without having to resort to arguments of what is authentic and non-authentic Indian culture."H-Net s "Huhndorf's shrewd analysis goes beyond simply identifying and then castigating those European Americans who have disregarded the repercussions of their cultural appropriation. The result is that *Going Native* persuasively demonstrates how such acts can be much more revealing of their historical moment than they at first might seem."American Literature "Teaching American Indian history, more than other courses, demands attention to the politics of representation. Non-native students are likely to be completely unfamiliar with the historical material presented to them and, at the same time, to feel an ownership and strong attachment to particular images of Indians. As Shari M. Huhndorf argues in *Going Native*, the racial dynamics of conquest, encoded into popular culture, are still very much central to non-native American identity. For this compelling reason, this book is a useful and imaginative addition to the literature on Indian-white relations."Journal of American History "For teachers, *Going Native* provides a wealth of examples we might bring into the classroom, as well as a critique of identity politics that students will find interesting. . . . As a Native person working in academia, I am heartened by an inquiry that uses white representations of nonwhite peoples to examine European American identity and insists on applying identity theory to the dominant culture."Katy Gray Brown, Hypatia "Ask Native America if European America is a nation of liars, thieves, and killers. With profound articulation, Shari Huhndorf's *Going Native* confronts the belief that white America owns America. Her brave and honest insight urges one to wonder if America will ever be brave and honest enough to face its past. Again ask Native America."Simon J. Ortiz, author of *Men on the Moon* and *From Sand Creek* "Shari Huhndorf's book articulates, in no uncertain terms, the deep-

rooted colonial superiority inherent to all Americans. *Going Native* exposes the real naked savages: 'wannabes' raised on baseball, apple pie, and movies."Chris Eyre, Filmmaker "*Going Native* is a major contribution to the debates surrounding authenticity, identity, and cultural exchange. Shari Huhndorf's approaches to these now familiar topics are distinctly original, courageous, and solidly grounded in her work in film, literature, and culture more generally. This important and stirring book will be widely read."Timothy J. Reiss, New York University