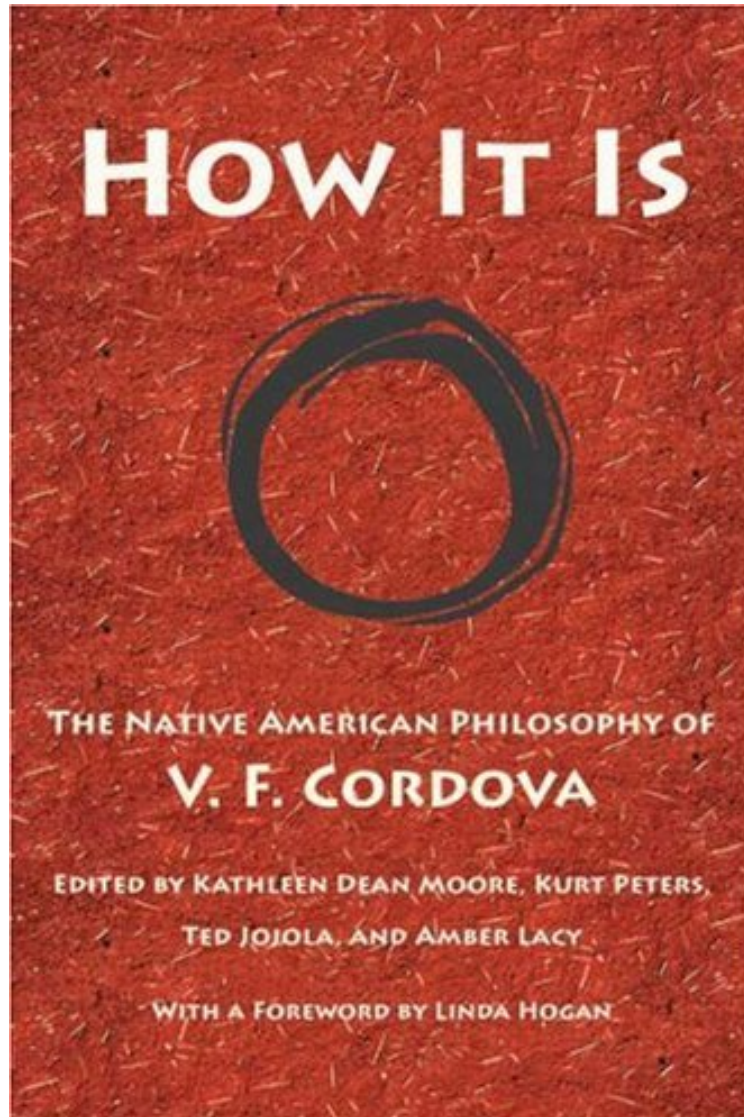


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V. F. Cordova : How It Is: The Native American Philosophy of V. F. Cordova before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How It Is: The Native American Philosophy of V. F. Cordova:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Philosophy as a Way of Life By Wayne K. Miyao Philosophy, particularly, the Western tradition, has generally been viewed as the domain of the elites, be it Socratic, Platonic, and Aristotlean. or those that we studied who brought forth the Age of Reason; and on and on through the Existentialists,

to our post-modernists. The Eastern philosophical tradition is in general, the domain of the intellectual elites, though it has found adherents and proponents within what we term the counter-culture, or New Agers. This book provides a critique from another perspective; one that has not been available to most of us because much of it is transmitted orally, and secondly, it comes from the perspective not of the dominant and prevailing cultures. It is an excellent presentation of someone with a background in the philosophical tradition of the West, while maintaining the roots of a culture which has persevered and remained intact. It is an excellent work that provides great wisdom, and insight-- which is what Western philosophers once considered their quest.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Mind expanding experience!By ClouiseBridging between two vastly differing cultural perspectives is a daunting undertaking, but Cordova's birth heritage and academic journey grants her an ideal position of duality for shedding light on this dark chasm. A balance of writing styles from story telling to poetry to academic dialogue helps the reader to begin to grasp the intangible concepts that are at the core of our perceptions of our place on this planet, as well as our relationships with each other. Truly an inspiring read, and a life's work greatly in need of being heard!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. incredibly timely giftBy maikweAt a time when we are becoming increasingly at risk of destroying the planet, understanding how our world view shapes our every decision is critical. This book not only gives you a clear sense of what Native American philosophy is, but also is the best book I've ever seen to help people really GET what a world view is and how powerful it is.

Viola Cordova was the first Native American woman to receive a PhD in philosophy. Even as she became an expert on canonical works of traditional Western philosophy, she devoted herself to defining a Native American philosophy. Although she passed away before she could complete her life's work, some of her colleagues have organized her pioneering contributions into this provocative book. In three parts, Cordova sets out a complete Native American philosophy. First she explains her own understanding of the nature of reality itself--the origins of the world, the relation of matter and spirit, the nature of time, and the roles of culture and language in understanding all of these. She then turns to our role as residents of the Earth, arguing that we become human as we deepen our relation to our people and to our places, and as we understand the responsibilities that grow from those relationships. In the final section, she calls for a new reverence in a world where there is no distinction between the sacred and the mundane. Cordova clearly contrasts Native American beliefs with the traditions of the Enlightenment and Christianized Europeans (what she calls Euroman philosophy). By doing so, she leads her readers into a deeper understanding of both traditions and encourages us to question any view that claims a singular truth. From these essays--which are lucid, insightful, frequently funny, and occasionally angry--we receive a powerful new vision of how we can live with respect, reciprocity, and joy.

"These thoughtful essays are accessible and topical in light of growing awareness of human-generated threats to the biosphere." Booklist