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A Call For Attention to Indigenous Capitalisms

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This Talk...

- Overview
- Development of the Topic
- Features of “Indigenous Capitalisms”
 1. History of Incorporation
 2. Negotiation between X-Cultural Value Systems
 3. Dual promise of Assimilation/Colonization and Self-Determination
- A call for more research in this area!

Orientation: Current Research

- Indigenous business development has grown rapidly over the past decade (though not new).
- Scholars beginning to explore Indigenous economic institutions in US, Canada, Aotearoa, Australia..
(BUT largely from within dominant systems of knowledge.)
- Scholars also paying attention to X-cultural capitalism
- A tension between assimilation and self-determination

Comparing Alaska Native and Maori Tourism

Bunten, A. 2010. More Like Ourselves: Indigenous Capitalism Through Tourism. *American Indian Quarterly*. 34(3): 285-311.



Rotorua, NZ



Sitka, Alaska

Research Questions

- Is there something about the way that Indigenous groups run corporations that reflects Indigenous versions of capitalism in organization, guiding principles, and operations?
- Do patterns emerge that point to a shared consciousness or a distinct moral economy that can be understood in terms Indigenous capitalisms?
- A tension between assimilation and self-determination

From Alaska to Aotearoa...

CORPORATE PROFILE

DOING BUSINESS WITH CHENEGA

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



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Late Capitalism

- Techno-beaurocratic Control
- Transnationalism
- Global Economies
- Capital Creation Through Technology and Informations Systems

Features of Indigenous Capitalism

- Historical and Political Relations of Incorporation (Historical Dialectics)
- Mitigating Value Systems
- Assimilation/Internal Colonization and Self-Determination

Origins of Incorporation



- Anglo Settler Colonial Liberal Democracies (US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia)
- Corporations as the preferred institution to engage in commerce

Incorporation and Land Claims

- 1971 ANCSA (US)
- 1975 Treat of Waitangi Act (NZ)
- 1976 Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act (AUS)
- 1984 Western Arctic Claims Settlement Act (CAN)
- 1993 Land Act (NZ)
- 2006 Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) ACT (AUS)

Land Claims and Natural Resource Extraction



An excavator digs bauxite, abundant in the earth's surface at Rio Tinto Aluminium's mine at Weipa in Queensland, Australia.

Early Efforts



Shareholder Accountability

- Shareholders made up of tribal members
- Stock cannot be alienated
- Shareholder Accountability as a system of checks and balances

Mitigating Value Systems



DOYON, *Limited*



CORPORATE PROFILE

BUSINESS

LANDS

SHAREHOLDERS


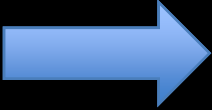
JOBS

Comparing Corporate Mandates: Makivik (CAN), Wakatu (NZ), Gumala (AUS), Doyon (US)

Corporations and Conflict



Indigenous Capitalism as Assimilation?

Land Claims inject capital  that must be invested by
Corporations  that spread Indigenous interests far from
Indigenous land-based economies.



Separation from traditional ways of making a living



threats to daily activities (like subsistence) that reinforce belief
systems that tie people to land to animals to spiritual beliefs

Indigenous Capitalism as Self-Determination

- http://www.bbnc.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=164:responsible-development-video&catid=36:news-a-events&Itemid=44

Indigenous values Are Embedded in Indigenous Corporations

- Family and intertribal relations integral to HR and other business decisions
- Business activities support traditional activities and events
- Indigenous communications
- Delayed-revenue generating branches in education, the arts, language, sustainability, etc.

New Research in Indigenous Capitalisms Can Include:

- Cross Cultural Economies
- Structures of Power
- Gender, Law, Governance, etc.
- Monitoring Policy
- Practical Applications (best practices, entrepreneurship, educational opportunities, etc.)
- Groups outside Anglo-Settler Colonial Nations
- Should problematize “dominant” worldviews