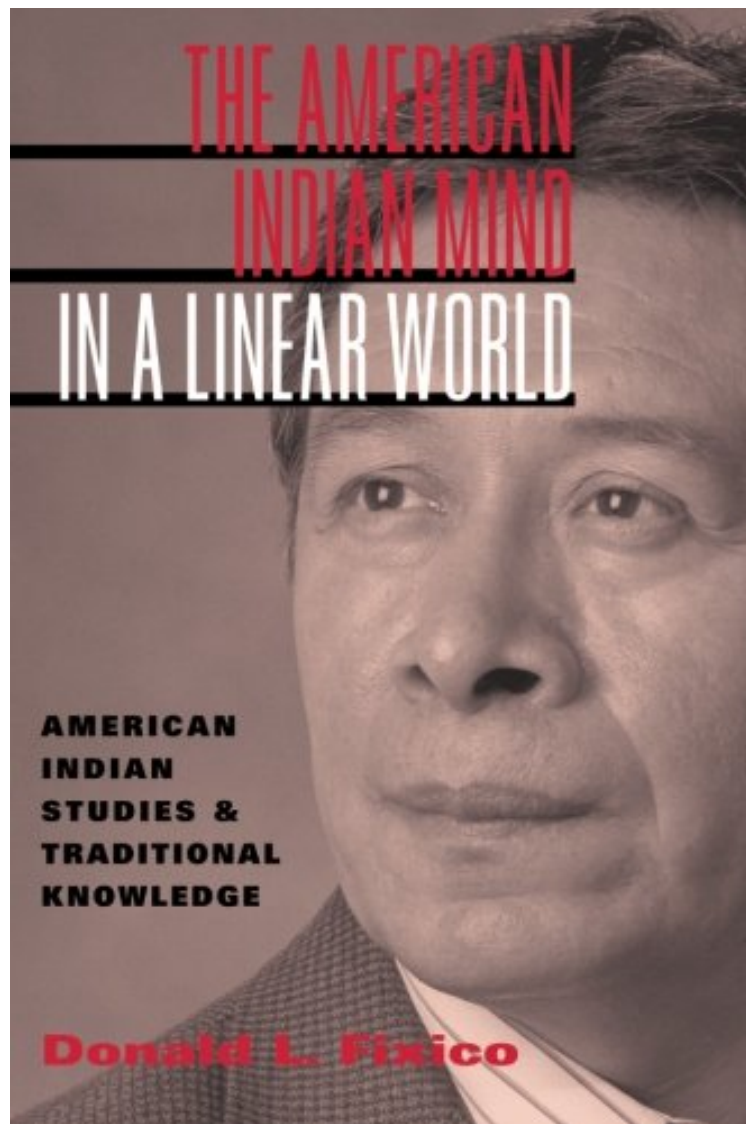


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## The American Indian Mind in a Linear World: American Indian Studies and Traditional Knowledge

*Donald Fixico*

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#888838 in Books Donald L Fixico 2003-06-20 2003-03-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .53 x 6.00l, .84 #File Name: 0415944570232 pagesThe American Indian Mind in a Linear World American Indian Studies and Traditional Knowledge | File size: 26.Mb

**Donald Fixico : The American Indian Mind in a Linear World: American Indian Studies and Traditional Knowledge** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Indian Mind in a Linear World: American Indian Studies and Traditional Knowledge:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. We DO think differentlyBy Kangi WitkoBeing raised in an all-white environment, I often wondered why I saw things so differently in school, politics, and teaching. When I learned of and began to embrace a heritage my grandfather was trying to run away from, I found so many answers to those questions. Contrary to the deficiency-based view of native culture that dominates much of educational practice and some research, Fixico's book provides an excellent entry point to literature that recognizes and celebrates our differences from the mainstream culture. This book is a must read for anyone involved in education. Especially so for anyone wishing to serve the Native American community, but certainly no less important for EVERY educator. The bibliography alone would be worth the price of the book. I would love to hear from other readers both positive and negative.4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Still waiting for this book to make a point.By K.C. KohanI tried very hard to like this book. I wanted, so much, to be challenged by it, to be moved by it. I saw this book as an opportunity to better understand how colonial ideology plays out in academia and in daily life, so as to more effectively work against it. I am sympathetic to the author's central claims: that traditional Native culture embraces a holistic understanding of existence; that this understanding is the foundation from which grows the distinct knowledges of different tribes and the individual; that this traditional knowledge is passed on to ensuing generations through a developed and sophisticated oral tradition; that all of these contribute to a worldview in which past, present, and future are not separate, but interconnected and continuous; and that this holistic perspective is antithetical to the secular, historical materialism that underlies and informs Euro-American thought.The problem is that all of these claims have been made elsewhere, and they have been made more cogently, concisely, poetically, and beautifully. I am aware that, just as Native knowledge grows from a different worldview than Euro-American thought, it may be (and possibly should be) presented in ways difficult for non-Natives to comprehend. I am thus not arguing that Fixico should read like Plato or Heidegger. In fact, as part of my dedication to liking this book, I made myself reread passages aloud, wondering if the repetition of "thus" and "therefore" to the point of meaninglessness, the meandering paragraphs strung together apparently unconnected by logic (broadly defined) or subject matter, the use of vague terminology and introduction of Important Capitalized Phrases that are never defined, the unsupported and wildly generalized claims ranging from the puzzling (Native people process the world through their right brain lobe?) to the offensive (blood quantum is an accurate barometer of how traditional an individual is), might all make more sense presented in an oral format. I would read several chapters in one sitting, hoping that immersion in the author's language would make the fuzzy, hazy reasoning resolve into clarity. When none of these strategies worked, I considered that all of this might be deliberate, that the author's style attempted to viscerally convey intuitive, holistic comprehension through obfuscation of particulars. If it is, it may work for others. It did not for me.Three other texts I read for the same course as this were much more effective presentations of similar arguments, sometimes immediately comprehensible, oftener only after long reflection: Gregory Cajete's "Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence" argues that traditional knowledge constitutes a valid and arguably superior alternative to Western science, which is not to say it is the same thing; "American Indian Thought," edited by Anne Waters, collects several excellent essays and articles addressing and critiquing Western philosophical fields (ethics, cosmology, epistemology, etc.) via Native perspectives; and "Spirit Reason" is a handy introduction to the work of Vine Deloria, Jr., whose work remains absolutely fundamental.If you are a teacher or student looking for introductory texts in Native American Studies or Native philosophy, I would strongly encourage you to consider other options. If you are simply interested in the subject, read this book only if you are already familiar with general concepts in Native thought and don't mind wading through vague filler.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Robin H.nonNative educatorss ought to read this

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"Donald Fixico, a leading historian of the indigenous experience, writes with a powerful voice from Indian Country. His provocative message about Indian ways of thought should be considered by anyone interested in Native American Studies."-Peter Mancall, University of Southern California "This provocative and courageous work by a leading American Indian scholar makes an important contribution to American intellectual and cultural history. It provides a valuable synthesis of key ideas and insightful introductions to major individuals, programs, and institutions. Donald Fixico has written an honest, searching, and significant book."-Peter Iverson, Arizona State University "Drawing on both personal experience and the abundant literature on Native Americans, Donald Fixico argues for the uniqueness of the American Indian mind, which he characterizes as representing a visual and circular philosophy based on relationship to the natural world. The book is a call for American Indian intellectual sovereignty and for the importance of perpetuating tradition to maintain identity in the modern world."-Raymond J. DeMallie, Indiana University "Written from an American Indian point of view, "The American Indian Mind in a Linear World is a searing critical multidisciplinary review and analysis of the differences existing between the Indian and Anglo-American mind."-Leonard Bruguier, University of South Dakota About the AuthorDonald L. Fixico is the Thomas Bowlus Distinguished Professor of American Indian History, CLAS Scholar, director of the Indigenous Nations

Studies Program and Center, and editor of Indigenous Nations Studies Journal at the University of Kansas. He is an American Indian (Shawnee, Sac and Fox, Muscogee Creek, Seminole).