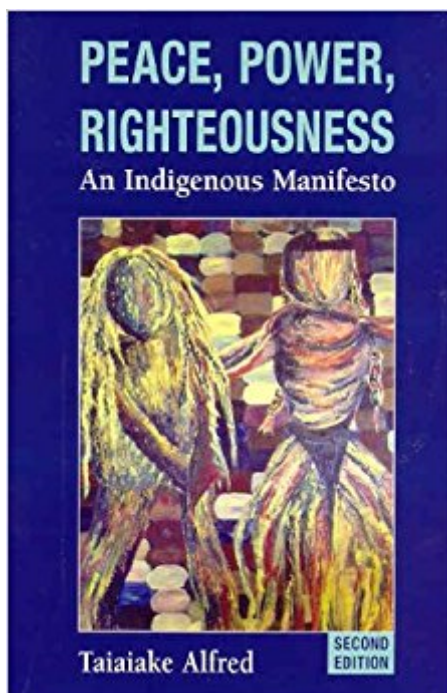


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# Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto



## Synopsis

This visionary manifesto, first published in 1999, has significantly improved our understanding of First Nations' issues. Taiaiake Alfred calls for the indigenous peoples of North America to move beyond their 500-year history of pain, loss, and colonization, and move forward to the reality of self-determination. A leading Kanien'kehaka scholar and activist with intimate knowledge of both Native and Western traditions of thought, Alfred is uniquely placed to write this inspiring book. His account of the history and future of the indigenous peoples of North America is at once a bold and forceful critique of Indigenous leaders and politics, and a sensitive reflection on the traumas of colonization that shape our existence. This new edition of Alfred's important manifesto is thoroughly updated in the context of current issues related to government policy and First Nations politics today. In addition to new examples of indigenous-state relations, it includes the latest court cases and updated evaluations of key negotiations over land and self-government. A new preface incorporates an original, previously unpublished dialogue with the influential Dakota author, historian, and activist Vine Deloria Jr, recorded shortly before his death in 2005.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Alfred writes in an eloquent, straightforward style....This is must reading for those who ask what natives want and for those who aspire to lead us."--Globe and Mail --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Taiiaki Alfred is a Kahnawake Mohawk educator, author, and activist. He has long been involved in the public life of his own and other indigenous nations. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from Cornell University and is the founding Director of the University of Victoria's School of Indigenous Governance. His awards include the Native American Journalists Association award for column writing, a Canada Research Chair, and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in the field of education. Taiiaki has written two other books, *Heeding the Voices of Our Ancestors: Kahnawake Mohawk Politics and the Rise of Native Nationalism* (1995), also from Oxford University Press, and *Wasáŋse: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom* (2005), from Broadview Press. He lives in the territory of the Saanich Nation with his wife and sons.

Taiiaki Alfred powerfully shows how precious, tenuous and yet how vital are the traditional values of indigenous peoples. He makes the case for the imperative of resistance to relentless colonizing forces that are ever strong and devious as they seek assimilation and ultimately the remaining land and resources of indigenous peoples (i.e. the destruction of indigeneity). Written from a Rotinoshonni (Iroquois Confederacy) perspective, the message is universal. The same story unfolds wherever indigenous peoples struggle for survival (everywhere). The message is equally important for indigenous and non-indigenous to understand and internalize. This book helped me conclude, as non-indigenous, that indigenous peoples will never be free to flourish again until their oppressors cease their endless holocaust of exploitation and barbarity. We can only hope that the gathering balancing forces of nature will work to overcome the lust for plunder and genocide of the colonizers; that together, indigenous and non-indigenous peoples can live in harmony and peace under mother nature's guidance, as indigeneity teaches us. I love this book.

Great book, the book was undamaged and readable.

This is a thought provoking book, however Taiiaki Alfred makes some assertions and recommendations that I find VERY problematic. Mainly that he is against 'mixed marriages' and pretty much calls this diluting of an Indigenous gene pool. In my eyes, this taints everything else he says with a racist supremacist theme. I like the idea that we need to look to our traditions and teachings for guidance in governance, but I find the language very loaded and 'anti' based. I would like to see at least a smidgen of credit given to our elected leaders that have for years fought on our behalf. Dr. Alfred vocalizes an opinion popular amongst many Indigenous people, for that reason the book is worth reading, however be mindful that some of what he says is outright wrong.

Taiiaki Alfred presents a thought provoking and straight forward critique of today's aboriginal politics. Filled with understanding, insight, and challenging thoughts, he states the facts in a clear and honest manner. This book is a must read for everybody, especially those wanting a better understanding of traditional aboriginal politics and thought.

those in "position" will be wise to read this book. movements and opportunities exist 4 everyone. only with self examination of thought and language will we untangle the knots we have in our tangled minds. the writer does a wonderful job exposing some of these entanglements.

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