



# Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto

*Taiaiake Alfred*

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## **Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto** Taiaiake Alfred

This book challenges the contemporary wisdom on Aboriginal governance. It argues that indigenous peoples must return to their political traditions and use these traditions to educate a new generation of leaders committed to values and the preservation of indigenous nationhood.

## **Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto Details**

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Author : Taiaiake Alfred

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# **From Reader Review Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto for online ebook**

**Scott Neigh says**

Reviewed here.

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**Elias says**

Read selections of this for a Sociology course. Recommended for fans of post-colonial theory.

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**Ishita says**

An articulate vision on the philosophy behind why indigenous communities require their own form of traditional governance, separated from the colonial infrastructure that is imposed currently. Passionate, and clear this books is a must read for anyone interested in indigenous affairs and Canadian politics.

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**joshua says**

I read the 2nd edition - with a really great preface. Besides bringing together a ton of indigenous authors, scholars, and interviews - Alfred brings his own brilliance. I found his interview with Vine Deloria especially golden.

His work needs to be understood as prophetic in the sense that he's speaking a brighter reality into the abyss. Perhaps some readers will think his objectives for moving towards healing for indigenous peoples (away from assimilation) to be unrealistic. He is flying in the face of the history and systems of abusive power relationships that damaged community over centuries. It might be a strong drink, but it's cogent.

I think he had enough little steps to move towards harmony again, both personal and public. Whenever such a contrasting work to the current norm comes out - the first defensive response from the masses will be tactical in nature - "but how can we....?" It's a manifesto, not IKEA instructions. We need to trust God to give us the courage to make bold changes.

In some of his suggestions, I think he could have went a little stronger on the connection to the land as critical for indigenous health and respect of others.

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**Mike Hayden says**

Alfred's arguments against the word sovereignty and criticism of much of the language of First Nation Leaders for selling out to colonial demands are very rooted in his understanding of tradition and history, as

well as western social-political theory. Well written and accessible, this book needs to be read by all Canadians so that it can move past and reconcile with its colonial past.

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### **Oscar says**

Proving instrumental to how I engage with Indigenous politics, and continue to develop my decolonising praxis.

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### **Patricia says**

I've had this book for years and tried to read it multiple times. Unfortunately I am too simple minded to read Taiaiake Alfred, apparently: it was just too difficult for my dyslexic head.

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### **Koa says**

Written by Taiaiake Alfred of the Mohawk nation, this book clearly defines Political Relationships between the state. Taiaiake calls for Indigenous independence, but urges us (Indigenous people) not to recreate a structure that is based on western thought and ideas (from a western framework). What he is calling for is OUR form of Government, recalling traditional Indigenous forms of Governance. We will never be independent unless we not only have the traditional culture but the traditional forms, structures, decision making, and politics. He also places a great deal on Indigenous leadership, and molding and empowering young adults to lead their people. great book!!!

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### **Shelly says**

When reviewing this book, I have to keep in mind that I am not the intended target audience. This book is aimed at Indigenous peoples and proposes a way for people to throw off the shackles of colonialism once and for all. That being said, I generally do not like reading manifestos. They generally suggest radical overhauls of systems, and while I agree with the critiques of the system (in this case colonial) manifestos are ideological and rarely transform well into practice.

Taiaiake is very tough on Indigenous people who have chosen to work within the system, and my biggest critique of the book is how he assumes or implies the motivations of greed and the search for power by so many Indigenous politicians. His attempt to get into the heads of people is frustrating and does not allow for honest motivations of those trying to work within Canada's flawed and corrupt system.

What I like about this book is it vividly shows that something needs to be done about the plight of Indigenous people in Canada. Anger is simmering constantly, and rightly so. While I don't think the author suggests many realistic solutions, he embodies the anger felt by so many Indigenous people, an anger non-Indigenous people should feel on their behalf.

This book is worth a read if you have any interest in Indigenous issues, or really want to know what

colonialism feels like from the point of view of the colonized.

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### **Kennedy Dee says**

Stirred me deeply and thus renewed my passion for Indigenous studies...

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### **Peter Vicaire says**

Fascinating book. Alfred Taiaiake provides a thoughtful (and much needed) look at indigenous rights outside the scope of newcomer state perspectives. It was refreshing to read a truly indigenous perspective on rights, power, sovereignty and self-determination - a perspective which is not premised on the automatic acceptance of state-enforced formulations. As the title plainly shows - it's a manifesto, so the language found within is expected to be bold and unwavering, and as such, inspiring. The only issue I had with the book is Taiaiake's tendency to view the past (pre-contact) with rose colored glasses - as some sort of idyllic world free from war, violence and unrighteousness. Regardless, all-in-all, a wonderful book to read if you're interested in a fresh perspective of indigenous rights.

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