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# Conquest: Sexual Violence And American Indian Genocide



## Synopsis

A recognized Native American scholar and co-founder of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence, the largest grassroots, multiracial feminist organization in the country, Andrea Smith (Cherokee) is an emerging leader in progressive political circles. In *Conquest*, Smith places Native American women at the center of her analysis of sexual violence, challenging both conventional definitions of the term and conventional responses to the problem. Beginning with the impact of the abuses inflicted on Native American children at state-sanctioned boarding schools from the 1880s to the 1980s, Smith adroitly expands our conception of violence to include environmental racism, population control and the widespread appropriation of Indian cultural practices by whites and other non-natives. Smith deftly connects these and other examples of historical and contemporary colonialism to the high rates of violence against Native American women—•the most likely women in the United States to die of poverty-related illnesses, be victims of rape and suffer partner abuse. Essential reading for scholars and activists, *Conquest* is the powerful synthesis of Andrea Smith’s intellectual and political work to date. By focusing on the impact of sexual violence on Native American women, Smith articulates an agenda that is compelling to feminists, Native Americans, other people of color and all who are committed to creating viable alternatives to state-based “solutions.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A must-read for everyone concerned about Native people and our Native world." (Haunani-Kay Trask, author of *From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai'i*) "Conquest is the book Aboriginal women have been waiting for. Andrea Smith has not only meticulously researched the place of rape and violence against Indigenous women in the colonial process, but she is the first to fully articulate the connections between violence against the earth, violence against women, and North America's terrible inclination toward war." (Lee Maracle, author of *I Am Woman: A Native Perspective on Sociology and Feminism*) "Andrea Smith has no fear. She challenges conventional activist thinking about global and local, sexism and racism, genocide and imperialism. But what's more, in every chapter she tries to answer the key question: What is to be done? Conquest is unsettling, ambitious, brilliant, disturbing: read it, debate it, use it." (Ruth Wilson Gilmore, The Graduate Center, City University of New York) "Andrea Smith brilliantly weaves together feminist explanations of violence against Native women, the historical data regarding colonialism and genocide, and a strong critique of the current responses to the gender violence against women of color . . . Conquest is one of the most significant contributions to the literature in Native Studies, feminist theory, and social movement theory in recent years." (Beth E. Richie, author of *Compelled to Crime: The Gender Entrapment of Battered Black Women*) "Whether it is our reliance on the criminal justice system to protect women from violence or the legitimacy of the U.S. as a colonial nation-state, Andrea Smith's incisive and courageous analysis cuts through many of our accepted truths and reveals a new way of knowing rooted in Native women's histories of struggle. More than a call for action, this book provides sophisticated strategies and practical examples of organizing that simultaneously take on state and interpersonal violence. Conquest is a must-read not only for those concerned with violence against women and Native sovereignty, but also for antiracist, reproductive rights, environmental justice, antiprison, immigrant rights, and antiwar activists." (Julia Sudbury editor of *Global Lockdown: Race Gender and the Prison-Industrial Complex*) "Give thanks for the very great honor of listening to Andrea Smith. This book will burn a hole right through your mind with its accurate analysis and the concise compilation of information that makes it the first of its kind. Conquest is not only instructive, it is healing. I want every Indian I know to read it." (Chrystos, artist, poet, and activist) "Conquest radically rethinks the historical scope and dimensionality of 'sexual violence,' a historical vector of bodily domination that is too often reduced to universalizing—hence racist—narratives of gendered oppression and resistance. Offering a breathtaking genealogy of white supremacist genocide and colonization in North America, this book provides a theoretical model that speaks urgently to a broad continuum of political and intellectual traditions. In this incisive and stunningly

comprehensive work, we learn how the proliferation of sexual violence as a normalized feature of modern Euro-American patriarchies is inseparable from violence against Indigenous women, and women of color. In *Conquest*, Andrea Smith has presented us with an epochal challenge, one that should productively disrupt and perhaps transform our visions of liberation and radical freedom." — (Dylan Rodríguez, University of California, Riverside) "*Conquest* is not for those who flinch from an honest examination of white supremacist history, or who shy away from today's controversies in the reproductive health and anti-violence movements. This book is a tough, thoughtful, and passionate analysis of the colonization of America and the resistance of Indigenous women. Andrea Smith is one of this country's premiere intellectuals and a good old-fashioned organizer — a rare combination that illuminates her praxis and gift to social justice movement building in the 21st century." — (Loretta Ross coauthor of *Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organize for Reproductive Justice*) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Andrea Smith is Assistant Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at UC Riverside. She is the award-winning author and/or editor of several books, including *Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances*; *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide*; *The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Nonprofit Industrial Complex*; and *Color of Violence: The INCITE! Anthology*. Her first book, *Conquest*, won the Myers Outstanding Book award. Smith currently serves as the US Coordinator for the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians, and she is co-founder of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence. She recently completed a report for the United Nations on Indigenous Peoples and Boarding Schools. In 2005 Smith was endorsed by 1000 Women for Peace for a Nobel Prize nomination, one of only 40 Americans on the list. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An eye opener, I knew the struggle of Europeans takeover but I did not know so many details of hardship. Also the many decades of Act's and legislation to address the disenfranchised of the Natives. Very necessary read to have a complete history of our country.

This text is widely used around the world and helpful to the Indigenous community. I recommend reading this to understand how Native women are the most sexually victimized group of any other group.

enlightening and fact-dense

I must say its a great book!

I am a satisfied customer

Was a required read for school, but it wasnt painful. I actually really enjoyed it.

Informative Read. Great book.

Had to read this book for school, glad I did . It was a great eye opening book for everyone to read.

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