



# Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances

*Andrea Lee Smith*

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In *Native Americans and the Christian Right*, Andrea Smith advances social movement theory beyond simplistic understandings of social-justice activism as either right-wing or left-wing and urges a more open-minded approach to the role of religion in social movements. In examining the interplay of biblical scripture, gender, and nationalism in Christian Right and Native American activism, Smith rethinks the nature of political strategy and alliance-building for progressive purposes, highlighting the potential of unlikely alliances, termed “cowboys and Indians coalitions” by one of her Native activist interviewees. She also complicates ideas about identity, resistance, accommodation, and acquiescence in relation to social-justice activism. Smith draws on archival research, interviews, and her own participation in Native struggles and Christian Right conferences and events. She considers American Indian activism within the Promise Keepers and new Charismatic movements. She also explores specific opportunities for building unlikely alliances. For instance, while evangelicals’ understanding of the relationship between the Bible and the state may lead to reactionary positions on issues including homosexuality, civil rights, and abortion, it also supports a relatively progressive position on prison reform. In terms of evangelical and Native American feminisms, she reveals antiviolence organizing to be a galvanizing force within both communities, discusses theories of coalition politics among both evangelical and indigenous women, and considers Native women’s visions of sovereignty and nationhood. Smith concludes with a reflection on the implications of her research for the field of Native American studies.

## Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances Details

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## **From Reader Review Native Americans and the Christian Right: The Gendered Politics of Unlikely Alliances for online ebook**

### **David Leonard says**

Powerful historic intervention that not only documents "unlikely coalitions between evangelicals and Native Americans but provides important framework for discussing coalitions, and movements committed to change. Offers an important examination of movements within indigenous communities in a spectrum of locations

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### **Kristin says**

Incredibly interesting discussion. I think it's rare to put down an academic book and feel like I've truly started to question my own assumptions about groups of people. This book isn't preaching to the choir -- or at least, it's preaching to several choirs that you'd never think would be in the same church.

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### **Myla says**

Loved the book! Good read on the development and structure of "unlikely alliances." Well done of course - it's Andy

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### **LeeRay says**

Mind-blowing. A must read, especially for anyone who considers themselves an activist.

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### **John says**

A powerful and expansive look at coalition building and the politics of creating unlikely alliances. Smith is a Native American, Christian evangelical, and a feminist as well as wicked smart academic who shows how groups on opposite ends of the political spectrum can and often must work together in order to achieve real goals. Thick, and intriguing.

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### **kylajaclyn says**

Had to read this for school, but I certainly learned a lot. Andrea's theme throughout the book is building coalitions and unlikely alliances, particularly between the Christian Right and Native American feminists. There is some really intriguing stuff in here too about the prison system that I had never considered before. She's also going to be talking to our class, which I think makes the book all the more interesting knowing we

will see her this week. I do recommend this book if you are an activist or interested in other sides to Native American culture.

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