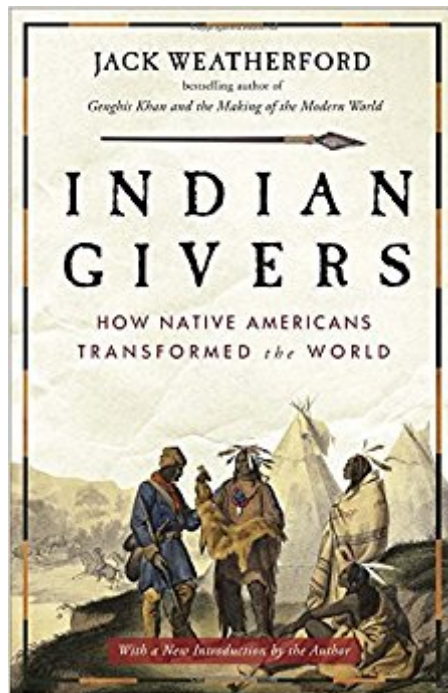




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Indian Givers: How Native Americans Transformed The World



Synopsis

"As entertaining as it is thoughtful....Few contemporary writers have Weatherford's talent for making the deep sweep of history seem vital and immediate."THE WASHINGTON POSTAfter 500 years, the world's huge debt to the wisdom of the Indians of the Americas has finally been explored in all its vivid drama by anthropologist Jack Weatherford. He traces the crucial contributions made by the Indians to our federal system of government, our democratic institutions, modern medicine, agriculture, architecture, and ecology, and in this astonishing, ground-breaking book takes a giant step toward recovering a true American history.

Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Broadway Books; 1 edition (August 3, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307717151

ISBN-13: 978-0307717153

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 57 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,502 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in [Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Weather](#) #42 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies](#) #198 in [Books > Science & Math > Environment](#)

Customer Reviews

"As entertaining as it is thoughtful....Few contemporary writers have Weatherford's talent for making the deep sweep of history seem vital and immediate."THE WASHINGTON POSTAfter 500 years, the world's huge debt to the wisdom of the Indians of the Americas has finally been explored in all its vivid drama by anthropologist Jack Weatherford. He traces the crucial contributions made by the Indians to our federal system of government, our democratic institutions, modern medicine, agriculture, architecture, and ecology, and in this astonishing, ground-breaking book takes a giant step toward recovering a true American history.

JACK WEATHERFORD is the New York Times bestselling author of *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*; *Indian Givers: How the Indians of the*

Americas' 'Transformed the World'; 'The Secret History of the Mongol Queens'; and 'The History of Money,' among other acclaimed books. A specialist in tribal peoples, he was for many years a professor of anthropology at Macalaster College in Minnesota and divides his time between the USA and Mongolia.

The American Indians and the Americas have provided immeasurable bounty to modern civilization, whether it be the democratic federal government system of the United States or the gold which laid the foundation for tradable currencies and thus capitalism. The author scope is wide, as he moves from food (in addition to the natural biodiversity of the American continents, the Native Americans had an excellent understanding of plant genetics and hence created a huge diversity of crops) to raw materials to the Indian-rooted ideas of the Enlightenment, communism, and anarchism. My one complaint is that the book is only lightly cited--I would prefer to follow up on interesting topics or at least see something to back up the author's claims (for example, he states that before the potato, northern European countries could not develop into powerful empires due to food insecurity with no references).

What a wonderful treasure of the many, many contributions of Native Americans to every aspect of our lives. This is certain to provide an excellent 'it's about time' insight for non-Natives and Natives alike - not to mention non-North Americans (who generally do not have much understanding of our diverse tribal cultures and institutions). An excellent read from a fine author who keeps it upbeat, practical, interesting and entertaining. - Prof Mike Haller

I was expecting the same sort of compelling read that Weatherford provided in Genghis Kahn but was disappointed. From a substantive basis, I learned a lot, but from a writing basis, seemed like a lot of research expanded to fill some pages. A shorter book would have been more appreciated.

This book gives a great insight into the scale of and importance of the assets from the "New World" that were given to the rest of the world after contact was made by European explorers. From food stuffs to economics it shows the direct results of the introduction of new and different natural resources in agriculture and minerals and its influence on every culture. Have sent it to many friends.

I just finished this book and I loved it! I am not an anthropologist but I love reading about history.

There are so many interesting things I learned that I will probably remember for the rest of my life. We plan on homeschooling our children and can't wait to teach them a more accurate history than what we learned in the public school system.

excellent

Well researched and well written; this book, like his others, is a fascinating look into other times and how people lived and what they contributed to modern society. Highly recommended.

This book is captivating. It gave me a whole new perspective about AmericaI'll never look at Europe the same way. This book should be mandatory reading for everyone, especially students of history. I particularly appreciated how vivid the descriptions were....I felt I was there with the characters. I want to read "the last days of the Incas". Thank you Jack Weatherford.

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