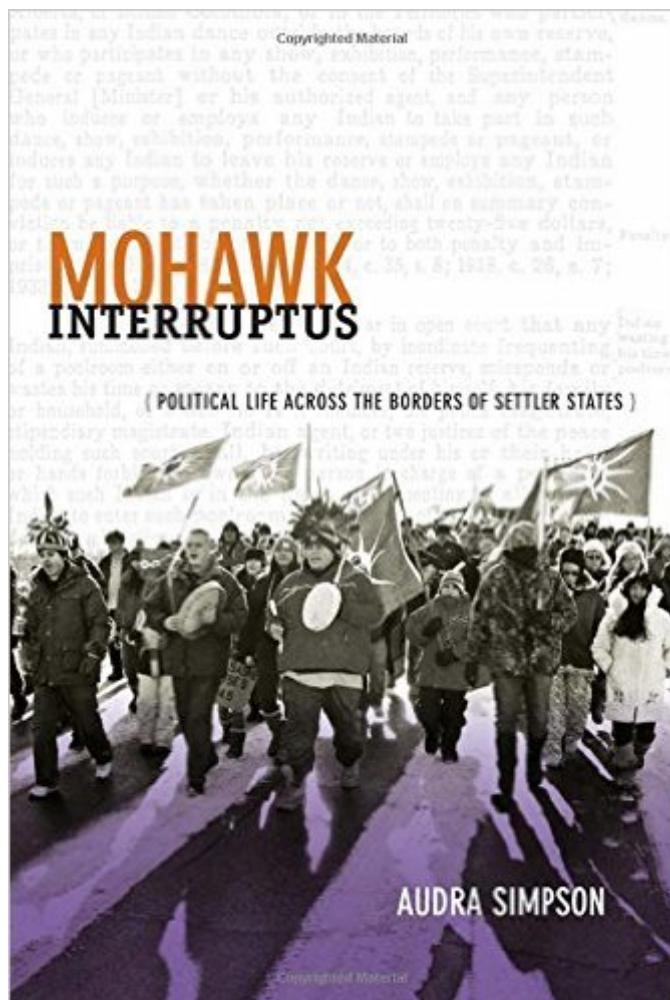


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Mohawk Interruptus: Political Life Across The Borders Of Settler States



Synopsis

Mohawk Interruptus is a bold challenge to dominant thinking in the fields of Native studies and anthropology. Combining political theory with ethnographic research among the Mohawks of Kahnawâ:ke, a reserve community in what is now southwestern Quebec, Audra Simpson examines their struggles to articulate and maintain political sovereignty through centuries of settler colonialism. The Kahnawâ:ke Mohawks are part of the Haudenosaunee or Iroquois Confederacy. Like many Iroquois peoples, they insist on the integrity of Haudenosaunee governance and refuse American or Canadian citizenship. Audra Simpson thinks through this politics of refusal, which stands in stark contrast to the politics of cultural recognition. Tracing the implications of refusal, Simpson argues that one sovereign political order can exist nested within a sovereign state, albeit with enormous tension around issues of jurisdiction and legitimacy. Finally, Simpson critiques anthropologists and political scientists, whom, she argues, have too readily accepted the assumption that the colonial project is complete. Belying that notion, Mohawk Interruptus calls for and demonstrates more robust and evenhanded forms of inquiry into indigenous politics in the teeth of settler governance.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Simpson eloquently and with much force lays out the issues of settler colonialism and the effects of on-going colonialism in her community. It is an exemplary book for its methodology and intervention in the field of anthropology, Haudenosaunee Studies, and in Indigenous Studies broadly conceived.

Gate keepers should keep an open mind and perhaps learn something from her brilliant approach for thinking through ethnography and working with Indigenous peoples in asymmetrical relations of power. Native and Non-Native academics and Indigenous communities alike will find the style engaging.

Book balances high theory with first-hand experience and personal insight. Helps readers understand questions of sovereignty, borders, and the ongoing politics of colonization from a native perspective.

Amazing work. Perhaps the most important text to read for any aspiring Anthropologist, or any who wish to study the First Nations, or any indigenous people.

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