

Instincts Stolen and Buried

All humans originate from an indigenous culture somewhere in the world. During our KICC Roundtable classes¹ we explored through archaeology and spirituality, the origins of the human species through evolution to the present. Face it folks, all of our ancient ancestors were cave people at one time. Our planet looked and functioned very differently than it does today.

All indigenous cultures share a number of things in common, no matter where they originated or are located on planet earth. All indigenous cultures are environmentally and spiritually based, predating all man made and currently recognized religions.

With the creation and growth of capitalism around the world, motives for living began to change. Life was no longer about enjoying the bounties of our planet as we cared for her in return, that life of stewardship. People stopped nurturing the many parts of creation that sustained our species and began to take more than they needed, to achieve a new kind of personal gain of power and man created/deemed wealth.

As capitalism continued to grow it was realized that those who continued in the old ways of indigenous cultures became a threat to the stability and continued growth of capitalistic practices. As civilized governments formed and power was claimed over fellow human beings, life became one of surviving a new forced way of living that brought the sacrifice of our natural world and the personal identities of our indigenous peoples across the globe.

Generations of capitalism forced the breaking of the stewardship bond between entire cultures of people all around the world. Why? Because planetary stewardship is the exact opposite of capitalism. Planetary stewardship teaches and allows us to survive

¹ <https://www.thekicc.org/talkshow>

by relying on our planet's natural resources without excess, without depletion, and in helping one another instead of competing with each other, against each other.

Capitalism deflates and defeats the equality we all strive for every day.

Capitalism introduced another disconnect between our human species and our planet - the lack of interaction with the natural world allowed those who were forcing capitalism and exploiting both people and the planet forward, to introduce our planetary resources to society in new ways. Today we call this "marketing".

I would be a wealthy woman today if I had a penny for every time I've heard phrases such as "It's just a tree" or "It's just an animal", etc. This learned disconnect, the removal of spirit and living qualities for all of our organic relatives, has been instilled in many generations of people so a select few can prosper.

Indigenous Cultures - A Threat to Capitalism and Patriarchy

When we understand our origins we understand how we got to this place we are today. Our current time of struggle, from climate crisis to mental health crisis, from substance abuse crisis to the crisis of violence and war around the world is suddenly vivid and defined. When we understand the true Native American history, as told by the Native American tribes & peoples throughout North America, we can trace clearly why and how our indigenous peoples posed a threat to the colonists who came from other lands, cultures, and ways of life in capitalistic societies.

All Native American cultures are self-sustaining and self-sufficient, relying only on the natural world and each other for survival and happiness, without depletion and with minimal conflict and environmental impact.

When the first colonists arrived they did so with intent. Unbeknownst to them as they journeyed across the oceans from European origins, there were hundreds of millions of thriving people, thriving civilizations already here. They came with the intent to "find riches", items of known value in their existing capitalistic societies, or new resources to which could be exploited in the same ways. Their intent was to harvest and remove these valuable resources, sending them back across the ocean to enrich themselves with materialistic goods and privileges of power.

The first conflicts between the colonists and indigenous peoples arose from the lack of communication, differences in cultures, understanding, and connections to the natural world. While one newly formed society came with purpose, to destroy and deplete the land, the existing societies fought hard to stop them. It quickly became an "us or them" situation, and the genocide of our Native American peoples officially began.

What those early colonists didn't do that thousands of years of previous visitors to Turtle Island did do - they didn't take the time to communicate, learn, and understand the cultures that were already present before they set out to extinct all traces of indigenous existence. There was no thought given to respect, for the people or the land.

Through a very well thought out and planned assimilation until extinction program, enacted by the governments and Christian churches, the bond between Mother Earth and our Native American peoples was also gradually withered away, forcefully replaced with the newcomer's capitalistic society and the many personal agendas, prejudices, and motives that come by association.

Native American cultures offer an independence that cannot exist within a capitalistic society. How do you steal the land from people who refuse to move away from it? You find a way to control them. How do you control a large demographic of people who need and want for nothing you can offer? You force them to be needy. In forcing them to be needy you force their dependence for basic survival, and it begins with their basic shelter and food supply.

As colonization took hold in North America, the Industrial Revolution was in full swing. These 2 very different and separate societies were essentially unaware of each other, relying only on what they were told by the government and churches to know there was another society out there around them, existing at all. Separation was forced between Native American peoples and the new people, and "indians" were said to be "heathen, evil, and savage - dangerous". They were to be feared. Everything about Native Americans and their cultures was to be feared and destroyed quickly, thoroughly. The new European society obliged.

Why this intentional and forced separation? Why the demonization & punishment of any European who met, befriended, and/or lived among the Native American peoples at that time? Well, if our indigenous peoples taught the newcomers our sustainable ways of stewardship, our connection to the natural world, then they too could live sustainable lives - unable to be controlled or forced to contribute to capitalism or a capitalistic society. If the indigenous people befriended and held too many newcomer allies in this way, capitalism and all of the riches of this new land would never be allowed to thrive, nor would those who stood to benefit from it. So the government termed our Native American tribes "the indian problem" as it remains in the government records today.

Exercise #4

Let's make a sandwich. You choose the ingredients. Each ingredient will represent a person who "owns or produces" that ingredient and has only that single ingredient in their possession; A full container/package of whatever that ingredient is.

When the lunch bell rings each person with their single ingredient comes to the table and puts it in front of themselves. That is their lunch.

Or - each person portions it for the number of people at the table and hands it out. Now instead of 1 ingredient in front of each person, every person has a portion of each, and a full sandwich to eat. Nobody is hungry. Nobody had to source every food.

This is our Native American way of life.

The lettuce was not more or less worthy than the tomato, mayo, meat, or bread that anyone else brought. Everyone contributed what they were able, what they had to give, and everyone was equal in reaping the full meal. In today's world we call this "potluck dinner". For **Exercise #4b** - call friends and/or family together and arrange, share a pot luck meal. Each person is allowed to bring **1 ingredient** of their choice. Have fun assembling it to form a creative meal for all to share together. During the meal, discuss the benefits of this way of life and whether you can find a way to do this on a regular schedule. Once/wk, once/month, or once/yr - the important part is the effort and the lessons taken from this important time together - a time of sharing and learning about each person's contribution to the meal.

Field Notes: