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- Why did you decide to join the webinar today?

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Introduction to Sovereignty

August 17, 2022

2:00 PM ET | 1:00 PM CT |
12:00 PM MT | 11:00 AM PT

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Building Capacity to Increase Impact

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The Promise Of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

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Introductions



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Building Capacity to Increase Impact

***Purpose**: The purpose of the LCRC is to analyze Community Action outcomes and identify effective, promising, and innovative practice models that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty.*

BUILD CAA CAPACITY TO FIGHT POVERTY!

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Office of Community Services, Division of Community Assistance

CSBG
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Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Exploring Tribal Partnerships Learning Community Group
- Caretakers of the Earth: Native Peoples and the Struggle for Sovereignty & Justice
- Resources and Upcoming Events

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Presenters



Libero Della Piana
Senior Strategist
Alliance for a Just Society



Robert Chanate
Training Director
Native Organizers Alliance

Caretakers of the Earth

Native Peoples & the Struggle for Sovereignty



Who are you?
Where are you?

1) Type in the chat: What is your name and role at Sunshine?

2) Type in chat: Your location and the Indigenous territory you are joining from.



Robert Chanate

Native Organizers Alliance

NATIVE ORGANIZERS ALLIANCE



Libero Della Piana

Alliance for Just Society

Our goals:

- Gain a better understanding of Indigenous peoples and struggles through the lenses of racial justice and Native sovereignty.
- Explain racial justice and Native sovereignty and how they intersect.
- Give examples of how sovereignty is essential for Native rights but also for U.S. democracy and environmental protection.


The U.S. economy & society
is rooted in two key elements:
Slavery
of Black people
Removal
of Native people

Historical Facts:
Native peoples of North America

Population

Between 40 and 100 million people lived in North America before European arrival. (In the same period fewer than 80 million people lived in Western Europe.)

Independent Nations

Hundreds of indigenous Nations (at least 1000) — each with their own, culture, governance and economies — existed before European arrival.

Society & Economy

The Native peoples of North America had vast, diverse and sophisticated governmental and cultural systems. Trade routes ran from Mexico to New England and beyond.

Modern Facts:
Native peoples of North America

Population

Over 5 million Native American, American Indian, and Indigenous people live in the United States, less than 2% of the population

Independent Nations

Today 574 Native Nations are recognized by the U.S. government. Dozens more tribes are recognized by states or are unrecognized.

Society & Economy

There are 326 Indian Reservations in the U.S. comprising over 56 million acres of land (about the size of Idaho).

What is Native Sovereignty?

*"**Sovereignty** is a legal word for an ordinary concept—the authority to **self-govern**. Hundreds of treaties, along with the Supreme Court, the President, and Congress, have repeatedly affirmed that tribal nations retain their inherent powers of self-government.*

These treaties, executive orders, and laws have created a fundamental contract between tribes and the United States."

— National Congress of American Indians

Key principles of Native Sovereignty

- Sovereignty is inherent not granted.
- Treaties are agreements that recognize sovereignty. They do not grant it.
- Nations (peoples) have sovereignty, not individuals.
- Tribal sovereignty is territory-based.
- The form of sovereignty can change for each Nation.
- Sovereign relations are nation to nation. U.S. states have no authority over Native Nations.
- Tribal sovereignty is acknowledged in the U.S. Constitution and has been repeatedly upheld by the US Supreme Court.
- Sovereignty is enshrined in International law

Native Sovereignty In Governance

- Choose our own style of government.
- Create our own citizenship criteria.
- Establish judicial systems.
- Create and enforce our own laws.
- Regulate property codes and distribution.
- Develop economic enterprises.
- Establish education systems such as Tribal Colleges.
- Develop environmental agencies for water, land and other related concerns.

“

Article 19

States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their ***free, prior and informed consent*** *before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.*

— ***UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples***

What is Racial Justice?

What is Racial Justice?

Racial Justice aims at full liberation for all. Racial justice acknowledges that racial equality and racial equity are necessary but not sufficient. Racial justice in action is the proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes, and actions that produce equitable power, access, opportunities, treatment, impacts and outcomes for all.

> **"Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice."**
>
> **- Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.**

Racial Equality

aims at equal treatment regardless of race. Racial equality is race-blind which in a society built on systemic racism can serve to reinforce racist outcomes.

Racial Equity

aims at equality of outcomes. Achieving racial equity requires race-conscious measures that address historical and current disparities.

Racial Justice

aims at full liberation for all. Racial justice acknowledges that racial equality and racial equity are necessary but not sufficient. We don't want equal access to an unjust system.



Key principles of Racial Justice

- Racism is a system of oppression.
- Racism is real. Race is not.
- Racism is not monolithic. It operates in different ways in different regions and also changes over time.
- Racism is integral to the economic and social structure of U.S. society.
- Racism primarily benefits a small elite.
- Racism operates along with other systems of oppression.
- You can't have racial justice without Native Sovereignty.
- Racism is not natural. It was created by humans. It had a beginning and it will have an end.

Different Levels of Racism

MICRO

Internalized

Interpersonal

MACRO

Institutional

Systemic


1812
Mississippi
D.H.Strother Del
J.W. & N.ORR.Sc.

Andrew Jackson

I am Andrew Jackson, future President of the U.S. I will also be a founder of the modern Democratic Party. I made my riches selling land that didn't belong to me. I sold plots of land reserved by treaty for the Indigenous Nations in what would become Tennessee. I will own over 300 Negro slaves in my life. And I am one of the main architects of the removal of Indigenous people from across the U.S. South.

Today in 1813 I am leading U.S. troops and Indian allies in battle against the British and their allied Indian nations. I will be militarily responsible for capturing vast acres of Muscogee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Cherokee land. Then I will build an army and invade Florida, killing Seminole Indians and freed Negroes there. Florida will soon be under my military control and then be bought by the U.S....

Andrew Jackson

In 1830, as President, I will sign into law the Indian Removal Act — which will pass by just four votes! — which will authorize me to "negotiate" the removal of the Southern Indian nations, pushing them West past the Mississippi River, even though our current treaties pledge our protection of their current ancestral lands.

I once said, "Build a fire under them, and when it gets hot enough, they'll move."

John Ross

I am John Ross, and in a few years, I will become the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. I will over the next fifty years lead my people through the Trail of Tears and the U.S. Civil War and eventually unite our factions into a united Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma.

Now I am serving in the army of Andrew Jackson. We are fighting against factions of the Muscogee Nation that once occupied a huge area in the Gulf Coast region...

John Ross

This conflict will become known as the War of 1812. I and many Cherokee have sided with the U.S. in a conflict between the U.S. and the European powers of Britain, Spain, and France. Many Muscogee chose the other side. But the real losers of this war will be all Native peoples. Over the next decades, the U.S. will violate our treaties and take more and more land West of the Appalachian mountains by theft, threat, war, or trickery. Our loyalty will be betrayed again and again.

Lessons from 1812

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U.S. law and government often backed or ignored white settler theft of land and violence against Natives.

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Even so, land theft and Westward expansion was contested and controversial even among whites.

Native peoples were often forced to take sides among colonial powers but got little from the bargain.


1859
Indian
Territory

Samuel Worcester

I am Samuel Worcester, a New England missionary who has lived among the Cherokee as a guest for many years. Back in Georgia, I helped found the Cherokee Phoenix, the first newspaper in their language. The discovery of gold on Cherokee land in 1828 sped up the push for removal by local whites. Then in 1830, I was arrested for violating a Georgia law that forbid whites from living in Cherokee territory. I believe that that law violated Cherokee sovereignty — or self-rule. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court and we won! The Court said that no state could undermine the sovereignty of Native nations. Worcester v. Georgia will become the basis of all future rulings relating to Native sovereignty...

Samuel Worcester

But President Jackson wouldn't enforce the ruling. I went to jail. Then Georgia's militias and mobs began attacking Indian families. Under pressure and backed by the Indian Removal Act, Jackson forced the Native nations to sign treaties giving up their land. The Cherokee Council never approved the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 which traded Cherokee ancestral lands for this unknown land far to the West. But some Cherokee leaders signed the treaty which was all the excuse the whites needed.

Sally Carpenter

I am Sallie Carpenter. I was born in the old country and was forced to move with my family to Indian Territory in 1837. One day wagons stopped at our home and men commanded us to gather what few belongings could be crowded into the wagons. We were taken away and left our home never to return. Soldiers marched us to a nearby fort where we were imprisoned for months. Hundreds died in these prison camps from disease, starvation, and cold. Women were raped. Men were beaten. But times became even more horrible after the real journey began...

Sally Carpenter

My grandfather died during the Trail of Tears as we call it. Most of the old and sick died. Many children too. Some walked and pulled carts and wagons. I was lucky to have shoes. Many didn't. A few were able to ride mules or horses. Between 1830 and 1850, more than 60,000 people (including thousands of Negro slaves) were forced to walk up to 1000 miles through rough terrain with little food. As many as 4,000 died before the march West. As many as 17,000 are believed to have died along the way.

Lessons from 1859

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Sovereignty and other rights for Natives are enshrined in U.S. law and the Constitution. Though rarely enforced.

Treaties between the U.S. and Native nations are the law of the land but have been systematically broken.


2016
Standing Rock
Sioux Reservation

Jack Dalrymple

I am Jack Dalrymple, Republican Governor of North Dakota. The Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is a $3.8 billion pipeline project. It will stretch from the northwest of our state all the way to southern Illinois carrying oil from the Bakken Oil fields. Now, after years of planning and building, thousands of protestors have gathered on the border of the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation to try to stop the project. That's why I called out the National Guard and ordered an "emergency evacuation" of the encampment.

Some have said that I am trying to "usurp and circumvent federal authority" with this move. But this is North Dakota, and The Standing Rock Tribe and these protestors have no right to block this job-creating project.

Jack Dalrymple

I am ordering the protestors removed for their own safety. Winter is coming and it's dangerous to be camping outside. Sure police used fire hoses on the protestors the week before in freezing temperatures, but I blame outside agitators. I have also asked neighboring governors to send sheriffs to help keep order.

It's true that this same pipeline was rejected when it was planned to cross the Missouri River upriver from State Capitol Bismarck because it would endanger the water supply. That's just common sense.

The Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over the permits for the pipeline, but I can't be expected to wait forever. Eventually, the Obama Administration will put a stop to DAPL, but the incoming Trump Administration will let the oil flow again in just a few months. Of course this pipeline will be caught up in the courts for years from now.

Dave Archambault II

I am David Archambault II, Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. An amazing movement has grown here at Standing Rock this year. We have opposed DAPL from the beginning. The proposed pipeline is very close to our territory. It also crosses our ancestral lands and will disrupt known and unknown burial grounds and sacred places. It is also a threat to the drinking water of the 8000 citizens of our Nation (in North and South Dakota) and the millions of people of all races living downstream.

We were never properly consulted about DAPL going back to 2014. We opposed it through official channels. We sued. But the Black Snake — as we call the dangerous pipeline — continued to make its way toward us.

Dave Archambault II

Then young people in our tribe began a movement which led to a prayer camp near the planned site of the pipeline crossing. These youth inspired women elders like LaDonna Brave Bull Allard to join in. Then the camp grew and grew. Soon Native leaders and organizers from across North American joined our elders of the Seven Council Fires — Oceti Sakowin, or the Great Sioux Nation — as they sat in deliberation and prayer. We are water protectors not protestors. We are prayerfully opposing this attack on Mother Earth and our sovereignty.

Now, Nearly 10,000 people have joined the camp. Over 400 Native Nations have come to join our circle. It is the largest show of inter-tribal solidarity ever. And global support has forced the divestment of $5 billion from DAPL! The pipeline will eventually be built. Be we have still won an important victory here at Standing Rock.

Lessons from 2016

Lessons from 2016

Sovereignty is an important pathway toward environmental justice and protecting Mother Earth for all.

Lessons from 2016

Sovereignty is an important pathway toward environmental justice and protecting Mother Earth.

The prayer camp and resistance showed that Native values can interrupt the dominant racist narrative.

Lessons from 2016

Sovereignty is an important pathway toward environmental justice and protecting Mother Earth.

The prayer camp and resistance showed that Native values have impact on dominant racist narrative.

Solidarity (Native and Non-Native) is essential to upholding Sovereignty which is critical to protecting the environment.

Questions for small groups:

1) What are the lessons of sovereignty in the Standing Rock DAPL struggle?
2) In what ways can sovereignty be protected by Native people and allies?

Use Menti.com to report back! Code: XXX XXX

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NativeOrganizing.org

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Resources and Upcoming Events



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  - Implementing ROMA
  - ROMA for Boards
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Calendar of Webinar Events

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Racial Healing Circles in Our Network

Join our upcoming Racial Healing Circles on Tuesday, August 23rd.

The Racial Healing Circle experience is one that evolves every time that you engage in a Circle. If you have previously participated in a Circle, you may attend to deepen your learning and experience.



Registration Link : https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RHCSignIn2022

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Questions



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Thank you!

We want to hear about your experience in today's training!

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