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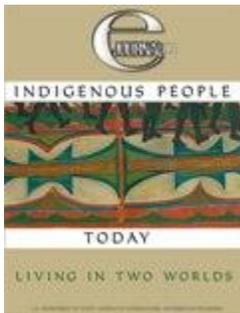
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## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

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**EJOURNALUSA, JUNE 2009**



The June 2009 edition of eJournal USA provides insight into Native Americans and other indigenous peoples. Articles provide historical background and look at issues surrounding their languages and culture, their legal status, and how they are networking around the world.

Full text is available on  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0609.html>  
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### INSIDE THIS PUBLICATION Volume 14, Number 6

#### From the Editors

[About This Issue](#)

#### Overview

[Indigenous People in the 21st Century](#)

Wilma Mankiller

Being an indigenous person in modern times means balancing revered traditions, culture, and languages with the demands of a world dominated by technology. Mankiller is former chief of the Cherokee Nation.

[Living Traditions of Native America](#)

Gabrielle Tayac

Coming to terms with a rich and ancient tradition, years of struggle and discrimination, and life in modern times, Native peoples must juggle the valuable old with the new. Historian Tayac is of Piscataway descent.

### **Relationship with the Land**

#### [My Place, My Identity](#)

Angayuqaq Oscar Kawagley

The traditional worldview of the Yupiat, who live in Alaska and the Arctic Circle, may work with modern science to benefit the planet through adaptation to global warming. Kawagley is a Yupiaq elder.

## **INDIGENOUS DEMOCRATIC VALUES**

#### [Native American Ideas of Governance and the United States Constitution](#)

Bruce E. Johansen

Indigenous ideas of democracy inspired the founders of the United States.

#### [The Pendulum Swings of Indian Policy](#)

Jace Weaver

The unique relationship between tribes and the U.S. government has developed over centuries, through treaties and sometimes contradictory policies of assimilation and tribal autonomy. Lawyer and historian Weaver is a Cherokee.

#### [Two Languages in Mind, but Just One in the Heart](#)

Louise Erdrich

Novelist Erdrich, of Turtle Mountain Ojibwe heritage, writes of the depths she finds in her tribal language, Ojibwmowin, which she calls "a language to engage the spirit."

#### [Native-Owned Newspaper Wins Battles with Torch of Truth](#)

Tim Giago

Founding editor of the first widely distributed Native American newspaper writes of the positive impact journalism has had in Indian country. Giago is an Oglala Lakota.

## **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

#### [Endangered Languages](#)

Akira Y. Yamamoto

Languages, which embody many elements of indigenous cultures, are rapidly being lost, and the author writes that it is critical to preserve those that remain.

#### [Universe of Spirits](#)

Vine Deloria Jr.

The universe of earth, sky, plants, animals, and spirit permeates daily life in traditional Native American belief, along with tales of ancestors, writes the late Standing Rock Dakota scholar.

### [Ceremony](#)

Joseph Bruchac

Storyteller Bruchac, of Abenaki descent, gives several examples of traditional ceremonies, ranging from personal acts to group rituals, that are central to the mental and physical health of indigenous communities.

## **HANDS ACROSS BORDERS**

### [Indigenous People Today: Interview with José Barreiro](#)

Lea Terhune

In this interview, Cuban-born scholar of Taino heritage discusses the challenges and resiliency of Latin American indigenous peoples and what is being done to protect their cultures and rights.

### [CGNet and Citizen Journalism Among Tribals in India](#)

Shubhranshu Choudhary

A grassroots, online citizen journalism project is helping rural Adivasis — India’s “original people”— raise issues critical to their well-being.

### [Toward a Worldwide Indigenous Network](#)

Jonathan Hook

Programs that link indigenous tribes across the world, such as a new initiative at the University of North Texas (UNT), bring deeper understanding, awareness of shared issues, and a sense of global community. Hook, a Cherokee, directs the UNT program.

## **Resources**

### [Additional Resources](#)

Books, articles, Web sites and films on Indigenous People.

## **Photo Gallery**

### [People and the Arts](#)

Indigenous people are leaders, writers, performers, and artists, and they hail from diverse indigenous communities worldwide.

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