



Week 3: Native Nation Internal

How Tribal Governments Serve Their People

Tribal Sovereignty

- + Last week, we saw that to be sovereign means tribes must make their own laws and be governed by them
- + Governing is for the benefit of the tribal community
- + Contemporary tribal governments often incorporate democracy (elected officials, for example) while continuing to utilize custom and tradition
- + While tribes today accommodate outside concerns (i.e., commercial dealings, non-Indian patrons), their first and primary concern is their people

Serving the People

- + The most important part of contemporary tribal government is serving their people
 - + Protection of cultural heritage
 - + Language
 - + Elders programs
 - + Child Welfare
 - + Health care
 - + Nutrition
 - + Education
 - + Law Enforcement and Fire Safety
 - + Recreation
 - + Access to Justice

Serving the People

- + External Service to the People
 - + Economic development
 - + Political involvement
 - + Government-Government relations (tribal, federal, state, and local)
 - + Law Enforcement and Fire

The Third Sovereign

- + Indian Tribes exist as a sovereign, within a sovereign (respective state(s)), within a sovereign (federal)
- + Many issues that affect tribal governments and communities involve interactions with outside entities
 - + Gaming (state, local, and federal)
 - + Development (local and federal)
 - + Child Welfare (state and county)
 - + Cultural Resource Protection (federal, state, and local)
 - + Legislation (federal and state)

Contemporary Tribal Governance

- + Interaction with local, state, and federal agencies/governments
- + Interaction with non-Indians
 - + Commercial activity: contractual relationships
 - + Commercial activity: invitees onto sovereign lands
 - + Law Enforcement/Fire Safety
 - + Child Welfare

Contemporary Tribal Governance

- + Tribes today balance several interests, the first being their tribal community
- + Increasing interactions with non-Indians, and other governmental entities – what does that mean for sovereign Indian nations?
- + Serving the tribal membership in a competitive world