

Wanda Wuttunee and Fred Wien (eds.), *Engraved on Our Nations: Indigenous Economic Tenacity*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2024. 304 pages. ISBN 9781772840643. \$29.95 paperback.

In the book, *Engraved on Our Nations: Indigenous Economic Tenacity*, the editors have brought together an impressive selection of thought leaders in Indigenous economic development to shape a timely and emergent dialogue that showcases how Indigenous Nations in Canada have approached economic development building on ancestral legacies of resilience and innovation. The book shares the stories of many who helped define Indigenous economic development at a time in Canadian history when the language and discourse was still experimental, institutional resources were scarce, if not non-existent, and precedence remained to be established. The contributions of each chapter paint a national picture that approaches to economic development are as unique as each Nation itself. The book captures these stories to remind communities of scholars, practitioners and Indigenous Nations that the landscape of Indigenous economic development was not always what it is today, and that there are many lessons to consider from Indigenous histories of collaboration, willingness to experiment, and a commitment to carrying forward unwavering values of care for Indigenous intergenerational wellbeing.

The book is structured into four sections. In each chapter, the reader gains depth of perspective into historical contexts, detailing how colonization disrupted traditional economies and the subsequent efforts by Indigenous peoples to reclaim and revitalize their economic practices. Many chapters illustrate how Indigenous entrepreneurs blend cultural values with modern business strategies, leading to unique and sustainable economic models. This hybrid approach not only promotes economic growth but also reinforces cultural identity and community cohesion. The authors argue that such integration is crucial for the long-term success of Indigenous enterprises.

The first section focuses on insights into strategy and leadership decisions by Indigenous Nations that have had lasting imprints on regional and local economies. This leads into the second section focusing on chapters that explore tensions that arise where Indigenous cultural values intersect with Western economic values and how three different approaches open space outside of conventional approaches to economic development. In the third section, authors explore legacies of Indigenous entrepreneurship that challenge mainstream assumptions about Indigenous economic development as a reasonably recent phenomenon. Instead, the authors shed light on Indigenous entrepreneurship that extends back to the turn of the 20th century, and how key institutions that emerged from that time have helped lift up community-based entrepreneurial initiatives that we see today. Thus, the editors emphasize that despite historical injustices, Indigenous communities have shown remarkable adaptability and innovation in their economic pursuits. In the fourth section, chapters explore how economic partnerships evolve out of meaningful relationships between Indigenous nations and local companies and local governments. What stands out from this final section is recognition that in order for partnerships to be truly long-term, there needs to be a combination of institutional permanence and commitments by leaders throughout the partnership to look after the relationship over time.

Another significant focus of the book is the role of land and natural resources in Indigenous economies. The contributors discuss the importance of land stewardship and the sustainable management of resources, which are often rooted in Indigenous beliefs and practices. The essays highlight various case studies where Indigenous communities have successfully leveraged their natural resources while advocating for environmental sustainability and social justice.

The primary audiences for this book are citizens of Indigenous Nations, practitioners of Indigenous economic development, and scholars and students in disciplines of management, leadership, policy development, entrepreneurship, business administration, business studies, Indigenous governance, and Indigenous studies. This book is a significant contribution of case examples within the thread of scholarship in Indigenous economic development because of its focus on Indigenous Nations and their unique approaches within Canadian contexts. It sits alongside three recently published and notable books: 1) Ron Trosper's theoretical contribution in 2022 with *Indigenous economics: Sustaining peoples and their lands*; 2) Shalene Jobin's theoretical contribution in 2022 with *Upholding Indigenous economic relationships: nehiyawak narratives*; and 3) *Wise practices: Exploring Indigenous economic justice and self-determination* published in 2021 by editors Robert Hamilton, John Borrows, Brent Mainprize, Ryan Beaton and Joshua Nichols which focuses more on institutional pathways for economic development built through Indigenous legal, political and economic practices. Throughout the 1990's and 2000's, the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development produced much published research, but focused largely on American Indian examples.

A strength of this collection of insights are the perspectives offered from those who have been in the field for decades, long before Indigenous economic development evolved into the maturity of local and regional economies today. Many authors speak from first-hand experience, having been at the forefront of building Indigenous economic development institutions from the ground-up, or having worked closely with those who have. This contributes to the authenticity of insights and experiences shared by illuminating not only stories of the multi-dimensionality of challenges that Indigenous economic development seeks to address, but by providing nuance and detail that can only come from experience.

The overall 'voice' of the book leans toward a scholarly collection with all the markers of substantive research based on qualitative data collection and referencing. I mention this because for readers who may be seeking more colloquial storytelling, or a diverse set of critical perspectives on the impact of Indigenous economic development, this book tells the story primarily from the perspective of those who 'made it happen' and what it took to do so. I would recommend the book for those who have a base-line understanding about Indigenous economic development as part of an evolving story, but want to develop greater nuance around how to think about critical pieces such as the role of institutional partnerships, seeing Indigenous business and economic development within a broader national and international legal and governance landscape, and recognizing that much remains to be done to build Indigenous economic futures that the next generations can, and want to live in.

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