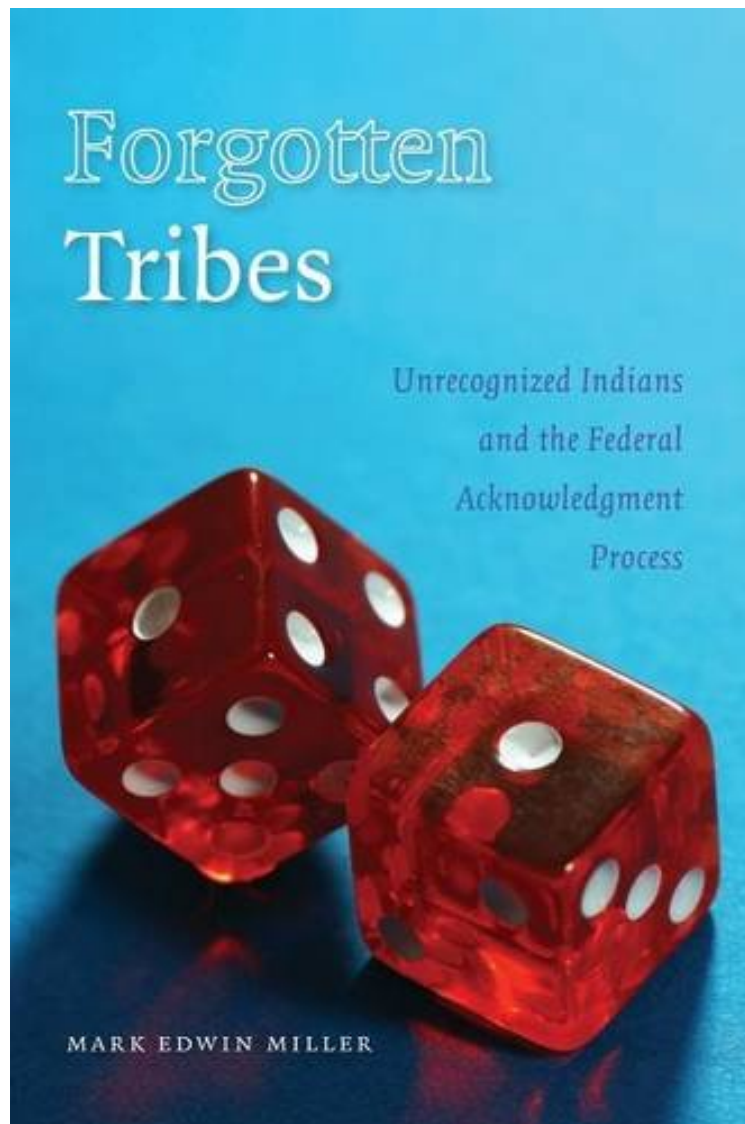


Forgotten Tribes: Unrecognized Indians and the Federal Acknowledgment Process

Mark Edwin Miller

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Mark Edwin Miller : Forgotten Tribes: Unrecognized Indians and the Federal Acknowledgment Process before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Forgotten Tribes: Unrecognized Indians and the Federal Acknowledgment Process:

The Federal Acknowledgment Process (FAP) is one of the most important and contentious issues facing Native Americans today. A complicated system of criteria and procedures, the FAP is utilized by federal officials to determine whether a Native community qualifies for federal recognition by the United States government. In *Forgotten Tribes*, Mark Edwin Miller offers a balanced and detailed look at the origins, procedures, and assumptions governing the FAP. His work examines the FAP through the prism of four previously unrecognized tribal communities and their battles to gain indigenous rights under federal law. Based on a wealth of interviews and original research, *Forgotten Tribes* features the first in-depth history and overview of the FAP and sheds light on this controversial Native identification policy involving state power over Native peoples and tribal sovereignty.

"Miller's exhaustive historical work, thorough interviews, and persuasive analysis all serve to document the troubles with acknowledgment in a powerful, and potentially enlightening, way. . . . I enthusiastically recommend this book for anthropologists interested in tribal peoples and indigenous politics, historians interested in the late 1990s, political scientists investigating bureaucratic decision-making as well as state and local governments, and anyone interested in American Indian politics, culture, and survival."-Renee Ann Cramer, *American Studies* * *American Studies* * "This book will readily find its way onto lists of required texts for course work in federal Indian law and policy. It will also serve as a handbook and cautionary guide to tribal groups enmeshed in, or contemplating entering, the federal acknowledgement process. . . . Miller's book will serve as the standard on the topic for some time to come." -Victoria Smith, *Journal of Arizona History* -- Victoria Smith * *Journal of Arizona History* * "As you read [Miller's] well-researched book, you may feel the beginnings of a headache creeping into your skull along with his words, as you take in the bureaucratic complexities and mind-boggling, intricate ambiguities of the federal acknowledgment process. This is no fault of Miller's-rather, it is a testament to his achievement in imparting a sense of the human impact of this process."-Southwestern Mission Research Center * *Southwestern Mission Research Center* * "What could be overwhelming and uninteresting bureaucratic, political, and petty personal minutiae is handled very well by Miller's insight, concise writing, and chapter organization."-Choice * *CHOICE* * "An important book that should be the cause of great discomfort for us all. . . . Highly original and well-executed."-Daniel M. Cobb, *Western Historical Quarterly* -- Daniel M. Cobb * *Western Historical Quarterly* * "Miller's well-researched book is a significant contribution to the literature on the federal acknowledgment process (FAP). . . . The book couples rigorous empirical research with a critique of cultural constructions of Indian identity."-*American Historical* * *American Historical* *
From the Inside Flap
The Federal Acknowledgment Process (FAP) is one of the most important and contentious issues facing Natives today. A complicated system of criteria and procedures, the FAP is utilized by federal officials to determine whether a Native community qualifies for federal recognition by the United States government. In *Forgotten Tribes*, Mark Edwin Miller offers a balanced and detailed look at the origins, procedures, and assumptions governing the FAP. His work examines the FAP as viewed through the prism of four once unrecognized tribal communities, the United Houma Nation of Louisiana, the Tiguas of Texas, the Pascua Yaquis of Arizona, and the Timbisha Shoshones of California, and their battles to gain indigenous rights under federal law. Although the criteria required for securing federal acknowledgment sometimes bear little resemblance to how Natives see themselves, federal recognition is important politically and economically. Tribal status qualifies Native communities to receive federal aid and tax exemptions. It also gives Native groups an authoritative voice when dealing with the federal government and usually exempts them from local laws and restrictions. In recent years, casino interests have had much at stake in championing certain Native communities through the FAP, and existing tribes have sometimes resisted the official recognition of other communities, fearing economic competition or a drain on federally allocated resources. Taken together, these realities have ensured that tribal acknowledgment remains a controversial issue. Based on a wealth of interviews and original research, *Forgotten Tribes* features the first in-depth history and overview of the FAP and sheds light on this controversial Native identification policy involving state power over Native peoples and tribal sovereignty.
About the Author
Mark Edwin Miller is an assistant professor of history at Southern Utah University.