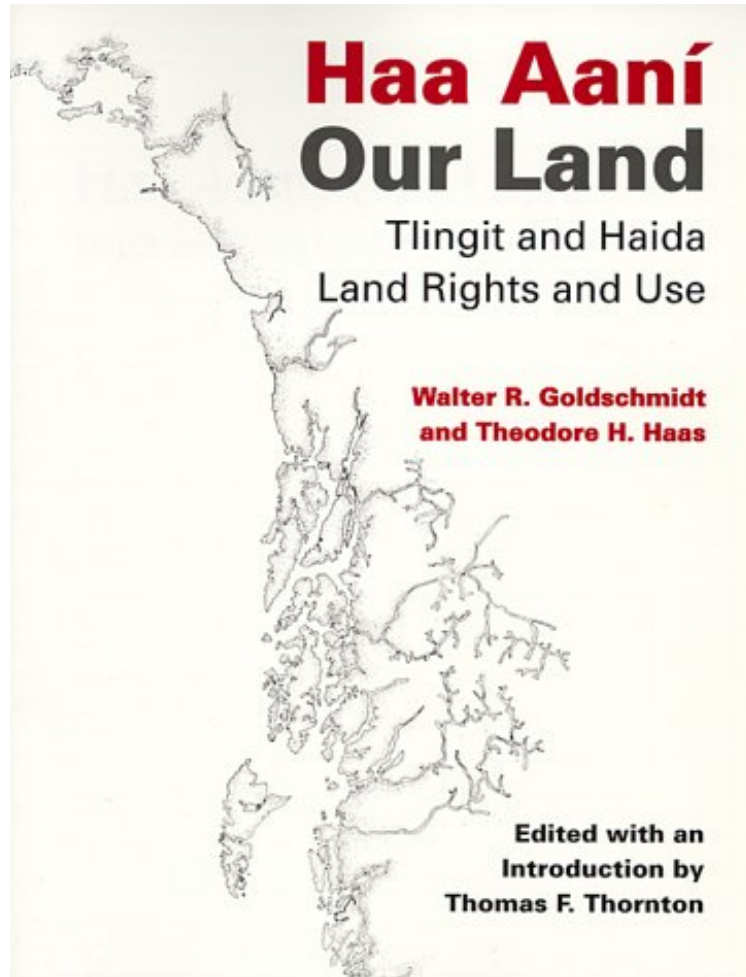


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Haa Aan / Our Land: Tlingit and Haida Land Rights and Use

Theodore H. Haas, Walter R. Goldschmidt
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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A "must read" historyBy BGWhile this work reflects some of the paternalism of the times in which the information was gathered, it also reflects the thoughtfulness and respect with which the researchers approached their work. Oral history, geography, research document: it is a tribute to the Native determination to "remain" and the willingness of the researchers to help them. It is a valuable and wonderful glimpse into Native history. I have not yet heard the response from the Native community, but as a long-time Alaskan I am grateful to the authors, editors and Sealaska Heritage Foundation for bringing it to light.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Alaska - A Different HistoryBy Ernestine HayesIf you're interested in Alaska, you've probably read all about the natural history, gold rush history, Russian history, etc. But here's part of the history of

Southeast Alaska from the view of its original people in their own words. A must-read for those whose interest is anthropological, historical, cultural or social. Thornton's introduction to the government study provides a brief but enlightening context.

In the early 1940s, a boom in white migration to Southeast Alaska brought questions of land and resource rights to courts of law, where neither precedence nor evidence was sufficient to settle claims. In 1946, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs assigned a team of researchers anthropologist Walter Goldschmidt, lawyer Theodore Haas, and Tlingit schoolteacher and interpreter Joseph Kahklento go from village to village to interview old and young alike to discover who owned and used the lands and waters and under what rules. Their mimeographed report, *The Possessory Rights of the Natives of Southeastern Alaska*, established strong historical evidence to support Native land claims. *Haa Aan, Our Land* publishes this monumental study in book form for the first time. A reminiscence by Walter Goldschmidt and introduction by Thomas Thornton explain the genesis, context, and significance of the original report. Previously uncirculated testimony from the original 88 witnesses is included, along with a bibliography and an index of names, clans, and resources.

"With everybody wanting to come to Alaska, we are afraid that we are going to lose everything and earnestly request the Government to give us protection and set aside for us the lands which are ours by aboriginal rights." Chilkoot Indian Association, 1946