

# Indigeneity and the Violence of Belonging in Southern Africa: Exploring Historical and Contemporary Dynamics

Indigeneity is a complex and contested concept that has been the subject of much scholarly debate. In Southern Africa, the issue of indigeneity is particularly salient, given the region's history of colonialism and racial segregation. This article explores the relationship between indigeneity and the violence of belonging in Southern Africa, examining both historical and contemporary dynamics.



## Queering Colonial Natal: Indigeneity and the Violence of Belonging in Southern Africa by T. J. Tallie

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The term "indigenous" is often used to refer to people who have a long-standing connection to a particular territory and who have developed distinct cultural practices and identities. However, there is no universal definition of indigeneity, and the concept can vary depending on the

context. In Southern Africa, the term "indigenous" is often used to refer to communities that have been marginalized and dispossessed by colonialism and other forms of oppression.

## **Historical Dynamics**

The history of indigeneity in Southern Africa is marked by violence and dispossession. During the colonial period, indigenous communities were forcibly removed from their land, their cultures were suppressed, and they were subjected to various forms of discrimination and exploitation. In many cases, indigenous peoples were treated as second-class citizens, and their rights were denied.

The violence of belonging is a concept that has been used to describe the ways in which indigenous communities have been marginalized and excluded from society. This violence can take many forms, including physical violence, economic violence, and cultural violence. Physical violence includes the use of force or coercion to intimidate or harm indigenous people. Economic violence includes the denial of access to resources and opportunities, which can lead to poverty and destitution. Cultural violence includes the suppression of indigenous languages, cultures, and traditions.

The violence of belonging has had a devastating impact on indigenous communities in Southern Africa. It has led to the loss of land, culture, and identity. It has also resulted in poverty, ill-health, and social exclusion. In some cases, the violence of belonging has even led to genocide.

## **Contemporary Dynamics**

The violence of belonging continues to be a problem for indigenous communities in Southern Africa today. Despite the end of colonialism, indigenous peoples continue to face discrimination and exclusion. They are often denied access to education, healthcare, and other essential services. They are also over-represented in the criminal justice system and are more likely to be victims of violence.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement for indigenous rights in Southern Africa. Indigenous communities are increasingly organizing themselves to demand recognition, justice, and self-determination. They are also working to preserve their cultures and traditions and to promote sustainable development in their communities.

The relationship between indigeneity and the violence of belonging in Southern Africa is complex and multifaceted. The violence of belonging has had a devastating impact on indigenous communities, but it has also led to a growing movement for indigenous rights. As indigenous communities continue to struggle for recognition, justice, and self-determination, it is important to understand the historical and contemporary dynamics of the violence of belonging.



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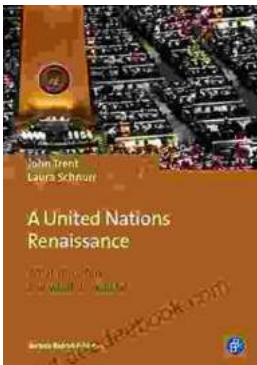
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