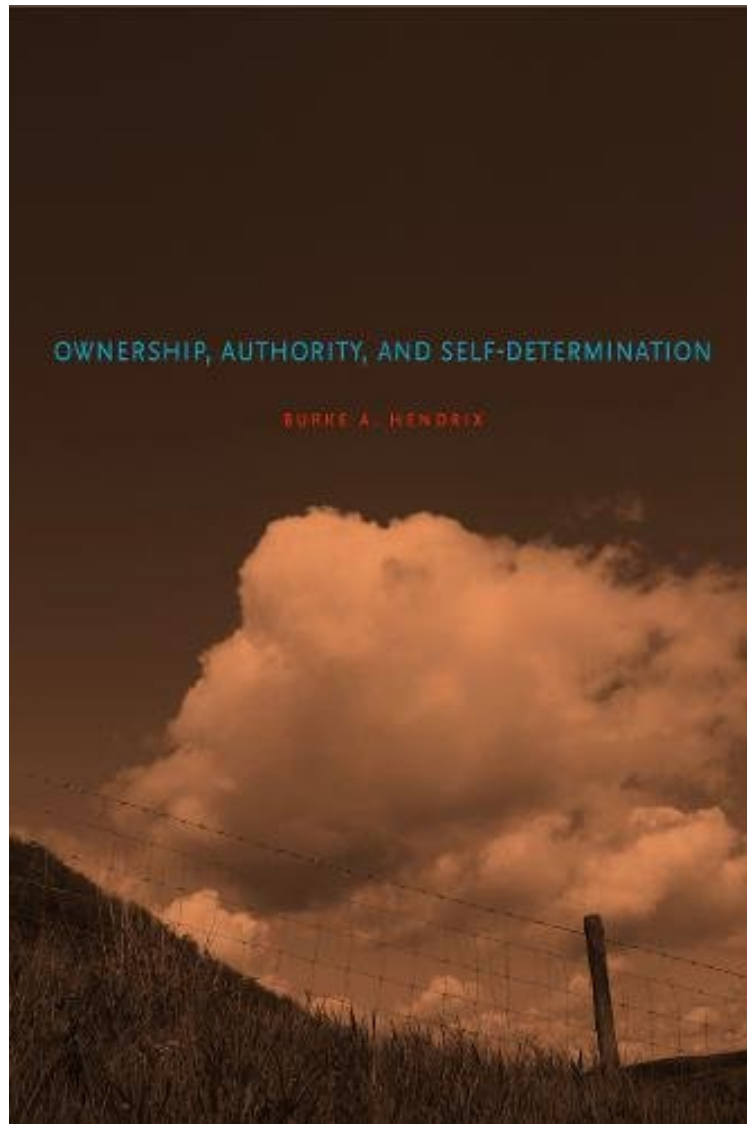


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# Ownership, Authority, and Self-Determination: Moral Principles and Indigenous Rights Claims

*Burke A. Hendrix*

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**Burke A. Hendrix : Ownership, Authority, and Self-Determination: Moral Principles and Indigenous Rights Claims** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ownership, Authority, and Self-Determination: Moral Principles and Indigenous Rights Claims:

Much controversy has existed over the claims of Native Americans and other indigenous peoples that they have a right based on original occupancy of land, historical transfers of sovereignty, and principles of self-determination to a political status separate from the states in which they now find themselves embedded. How valid are these claims on moral grounds? Burke Hendrix tackles these thorny questions in this book. Rather than focusing on the legal and constitutional status of indigenous nations within the states now ruling them, he starts at a more basic level, interrogating fundamental justifications for political authority itself. He shows that historical claims of land ownership and prior sovereignty cannot provide a sufficient basis for challenging the authority of existing states, but that our natural moral duties to aid other persons in danger can justify rights to political separation from states that fail to protect their citizens as they should. Actual attempts at political separation must be carefully managed through well-defined procedural mechanisms, however, to foster extensive democratic deliberation about the nature of the political changes at stake. Using such procedures, Hendrix argues, indigenous peoples should be able to withdraw politically from the states currently ruling them, even to the point of choosing full independence.

This is an important and original book, not only for those people interested in indigenous claims, but for all political theorists interested in the difficult questions of political legitimacy and the relationship of political authority to land and people. Margaret Moore, Queens University This book is an original reframing of questions of title, conquest, and authority that will interest readers in indigenous studies. It is also a careful, critical reading of contemporary theories of property, natural rights, the state, and consultative democracy of significant interest to political theorists. R. A. Cramer, Choice About the Author Burke A. Hendrix is Assistant Professor of Government at Cornell University, where he also has a joint appointment in the Program on Ethics and Public Life.