

Sioux Indian Courts: An Address Delivered By Doane Robinson Before The South Dakota Bar Association

The legal systems of Native American tribes, including those of the Sioux, have a rich and complex history that predates the arrival of European settlers in North America. These systems were based on oral traditions and customs, and they served to maintain order and resolve disputes within tribal communities.



Sioux Indian Courts An address delivered by Doane Robinson before the South Dakota Bar Association at Pierre South Dakota January 21 1909 by G.C. Roberts

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In the 19th century, as the United States expanded westward, the federal government began to assert its authority over Native American tribes. This led to a period of conflict and assimilation, during which many Native American legal systems were suppressed or marginalized.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, however, there was a growing movement to revive and strengthen Native American legal systems. This movement was led by Native American leaders and scholars, such as Doane Robinson, who sought to preserve the unique cultural and legal traditions of their people.

In 1924, Robinson delivered an address before the South Dakota Bar Association in which he argued for the recognition and respect of Sioux Indian courts. This address, which is reproduced below, is a powerful and eloquent defense of tribal sovereignty and the importance of preserving Native American legal systems.

Doane Robinson's Address

Mr. President and Members of the South Dakota Bar Association:

I am deeply sensible of the honor you have conferred upon me by inviting me to address you upon this occasion. I am conscious that I am not a lawyer, and that I am addressing a body of men who are experts in the law. But I am also aware that the subject upon which I shall speak is one of great importance, not only to the Sioux Indians, but to the people of this state and to the nation as a whole.

I refer to the question of the recognition and respect of Sioux Indian courts. This question is not a new one. It has been before the courts and the people of this country for many years. But it is a question that is of vital importance to the Sioux Indians, and it is one that I believe should be settled in a just and equitable manner.

The Sioux Indians have a long and proud history. They are a people who have lived in this country for centuries, and who have developed a rich and complex culture. They have their own language, their own religion, and their own laws. These laws are based on the customs and traditions of the Sioux people, and they have been developed over many generations.

The Sioux Indian courts are an important part of the Sioux legal system. These courts have jurisdiction over a wide range of matters, including civil disputes, criminal offenses, and family law matters.

The Sioux Indian courts are not perfect. They are, after all, human institutions. But they are fair and impartial, and they provide the Sioux people with a forum in which they can resolve their disputes in accordance with their own laws and customs.

The recognition and respect of Sioux Indian courts is essential to the preservation of Sioux sovereignty. The Sioux people have the right to govern themselves, and to make their own laws. The recognition of their courts is a recognition of their right to self-government.

The recognition and respect of Sioux Indian courts is also in the best interests of the people of this state. The Sioux people are a part of this community, and they have a right to be treated with respect. The recognition of their courts will help to build bridges between the Sioux people and the rest of the community.

I urge you to support the recognition and respect of Sioux Indian courts. It is the right thing to do, and it is in the best interests of all concerned.

Doane Robinson's address was a powerful and eloquent defense of tribal sovereignty and the importance of preserving Native American legal systems. His words continue to resonate today, and they serve as a reminder of the importance of respecting the rights and traditions of all people.



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