

# From a Native Son

Selected Essays in Indigenism, 1985–1995,  
Second Edition

Ward Churchill • Introduction by Howard Zinn

*From a Native Son* was the first volume of acclaimed American Indian Movement activist-intellectual Ward Churchill's essays in indigenism, selected from material written during the decade 1985–1995. Presented here in a new revised edition that includes four additional pieces, three of them previously unpublished, the book illuminates Churchill's early development of the themes with which he has, in the words of Noam Chomsky, "carved out a special place for himself in defending the rights of oppressed people, and exposing the dark side of past and current history, often forgotten, marginalized, or suppressed."

Topics addressed include the European conquest and colonization of the Americas, including the genocidal record of Christopher Columbus, the systematic "clearing" and resettlement of American Indian territories by the United States and its antecedents, academic subterfuges designed to deny or disguise the extent of Indian land rights, radioactive contamination of Indian reservations by energy corporations, government-sponsored death squads used to "neutralize" the native struggle on the Pine Ridge Reservation during the mid-1970s, the ongoing dehumanization of American Indians in literature, cinema, and by their portrayal as sports team mascots, issues of Indian identity and the expropriation of indigenous spiritual traditions, the negative effects of "postmodernism" upon understandings of contemporary circumstances of native people, the false promise of marxism in terms of indigenous liberation, and what, from an indigenist standpoint, the genuine decolonization of North America might look like. Of particular interest is Churchill's inclusion in the new edition of his 1986 "Statement of Position and Principle" concerning the Indian/Sandinista conflict along the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua, an item which should go far in dispelling recent confusion about his thinking and actions in that regard.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Ward Churchill** (Keetoowah Cherokee) was, until moving to Atlanta in 2012, a member of the leadership council of Colorado AIM. A past national spokesperson for the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, and UN delegate for the International Indian Treaty Council, he is a life member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War and currently a member of the Council of Elders of the original Rainbow Coalition, founded by Chicago Black Panther leader Fred Hampton in 1969. Now retired, Churchill was professor of American Indian Studies and chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies until 2005, when he became the focus of a major academic freedom case. Among his two dozen books are the award-winning *Agents of Repression*, *Fantasies of the Master Race*, *Struggle for the Land*, and *On the Justice of Roosting Chickens*, as well as *The COINTELPRO Papers*, *A Little Matter of Genocide*, *Acts of Rebellion*, and *Kill the Indian, Save the Man*.

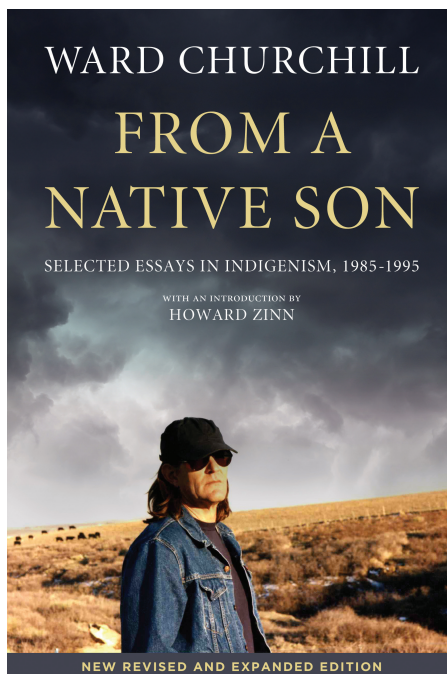
**Howard Zinn**, a much revered dissident intellectual who passed on in 2010, taught history and political science at Boston University. He was author of the celebrated *A People's History of the United States* and wrote or edited some two dozen other books during his lifetime. Several additional volumes collecting his shorter writings have been published since his passing.

## ACCOLADES

"There's no better writer on indigenous issues than my brother, Ward Churchill."  
—Russell Means, American Indian Movement

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**SUBJECT CATEGORY**  
History-U.S./Native American Studies

**PRICE**  
\$24.95

**ISBN**  
978-1-62963-108-0

**PAGE COUNT**  
608

**SIZE**  
9x6

**FORMAT**  
Paperback

**PUBLICATION DATE**  
03/16

**DISTRIBUTED BY**  
Independent Publishers Group  
(312) 337-0747  
www.ipgbook.com

**DISTRIBUTED IN THE UK/EUROPE BY**  
Turnaround Publisher Services Ltd  
t: 020 8829 3000  
orders@turnaround-uk.com

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