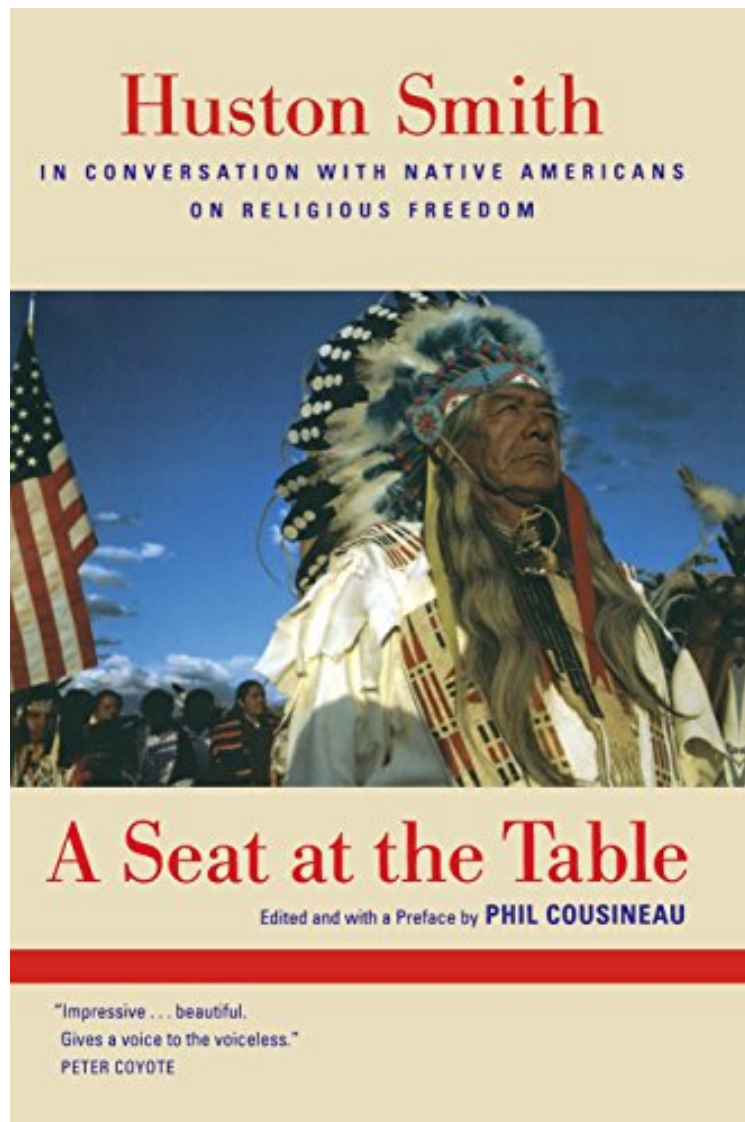


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## A Seat at the Table: Huston Smith in Conversation with Native Americans on Religious Freedom

*Huston Smith, Gary Rhine*  
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**Huston Smith, Gary Rhine : A Seat at the Table: Huston Smith in Conversation with Native Americans on Religious Freedom** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Seat at the Table: Huston Smith in Conversation with Native Americans on Religious Freedom:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. So interestingBy PammyThis is an assigned book for my Native

American Religions class. It has many interviews of Native Americans and discusses their view regarding various subjects. It's a very interesting read, and I recommend it to anyone interested in Native American cultural perspectives. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful book put together by a beautiful man. By Happy Poet A beautiful book put together by a beautiful man. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Finally! By Julia C. Ford We have neglected and mistreated our Native American citizens for far too long. It's time their stories were heard and restitution made.

In this collection of illuminating conversations, renowned historian of world religions Huston Smith invites ten influential American Indian spiritual and political leaders to talk about their five-hundred-year struggle for religious freedom. Their intimate, impassioned dialogues yield profound insights into one of the most striking cases of tragic irony in history: the country that prides itself on religious freedom has resolutely denied those same rights to its own indigenous people. With remarkable erudition and curiosity and respectfully framing his questions in light of the revelation that his discovery of Native American religion helped him round out his views of the world's religions, Smith skillfully helps reveal the depth of the speakers' knowledge and experience. American Indian leaders Vine Deloria, Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux), Winona LaDuke (Anishshinaabeg), Walter Echo-Hawk (Pawnee), Frank Dayish, Jr. (Navajo), Charlotte Black Elk (Oglala Lakota), Douglas George-Kanentiio (Mohawk-Iroquois), Lenny Foster (Dine/Navajo), Tonya Gonnella Frichner (Onondaga), Anthony Guy Lopez (Lakota-Sioux), and Oren Lyons (Onondaga) provide an impressive overview of the critical issues facing the Native American community today. Their ideas about spirituality, politics, relations with the U.S. government, their place in American society, and the continuing vitality of their communities give voice to a population that is all too often ignored in contemporary discourse. The culture they describe is not a relic of the past, nor a historical curiosity, but a living tradition that continues to shape Native American lives.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . In 1999, Smith, renowned authority on world religions, accompanied a delegation of Native American religious leaders to the World Parliament of Religions in Cape Town, South Africa. These delegates contended that understanding the world's religions was impossible without considering the indigenous religions of the New World, which had so often been overlooked. This book grew out of a documentary film of the sessions at the parliament called *A Seat at the Table: Struggling for American Indian Religious Freedom*. Smith interviewed Native American leaders ranging from the well-known (Vine Deloria Jr., Walter Echo-Hawk and Charlotte Black Elk) to the less widely recognized, such as Lenny Foster and Tonya Gonella Frichner. The remarkable conversations trace the common thread that Native Americans follow a spiritual path imbuing all their life, encompassing art, morality and literature. Topics include the fight for prisoners' rights, ceremonial rituals, the role of elders and the genius of oral traditions. Smith's interlocutors plead for a restoration of religious freedom so long repressed by an American government they believe is seeking to displace tribes from their lands and rob them of their tribal and spiritual identities. The interviews provide a fine introduction to Native American religions. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From the Inside Flap "A Seat At The Table is a valuable and insightful book about a too long overlooked topic - the right of Native American people to have their sacred sites and practices honored and protected. Let's hope it gets read far and wide, enough to bring about a real shift in policy and consciousness. Bonnie Raitt "Phil Cousineau has created a fine companion book to accompany the important film he and Gary Rhine have made in defense of the religious traditions of Native Americans. [Native Americans] are recognized the world over as keepers of a vital piece of the Creator's original orders, and yet they are regarded as little more than squatters at home. This book features impressive interviews, beautiful illustrations, and gives a voice to the voiceless. Peter Coyote