

Robert Brent Anderson. *Economic Development Among the Aboriginal Peoples in Canada*. North York, ON: Captus Press, 1999.

Reviewed by Lesley McBain, University of Saskatchewan

Robert Anderson's book, *Economic Development among the Aboriginal Peoples in Canada*, provides a wide range of examples and a new model of development in which to examine economic development initiatives currently taking place in Aboriginal communities across Canada. The book is based on research done by Anderson for his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Saskatchewan and contains examples of successful economic development initiatives undertaken by Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan, as well as other locations throughout Canada.

One of the goals of Anderson's work is to establish a new framework for analyzing Aboriginal economic development. The author starts by pointing out the objectives and characteristics of Aboriginal approaches to economic development, and the key questions that must be addressed if the objectives are to be realized. Anderson then proceeds to provide an overview of the orthodox (modernization) and radical (dependency, world system and modes of production) theories, two popular development theories during the 1950s and 1960s. However, as the writer points out, the theories failed to provide adequate insight into the emerging Aboriginal approach to development and were subsequently replaced with three new approaches: The alternative/Indigenous approach, regulation theory, and postimperial perspective. Anderson then combines key concepts from these three perspectives to form the contingency perspective which he uses to evaluate the emerging Aboriginal approach to economic development. The discussion of theoretical frameworks is helpful as it provides an overview of development theory, and the background to Anderson's newly developed contingency model.

Having provided the theoretical foundation for his work? Anderson goes on to explain how land claims processes have provided Aboriginal people with the opportunity to regain control over their traditional lands and resources, and to build the necessary capacity in which to pursue economic development. New relationships between Nativepeople, the state, and corporations have also emerged which are helping Aboriginal people to achieve their goal of economic self-sufficiency and self-determination. However, it should be noted that while First Nations and Inuit

people may have benefited from land claim settlements, the same cannot be said for Metis people, who with the exception of the Metis Settlements in Alberta, are without a land base. The Metis and Inuit people also have a different relationship with the Federal government, as they do not share the same rights, benefits and restrictions of the Indian Act as First Nations people. Although Anderson discusses the differences between Aboriginal people at the beginning of the book, the discussion is limited and does not include these very important distinctions which could have implications for both economic development and application of the contingency model.

Using Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC) as a prime example of successful economic development activities, Anderson shows how the Aboriginal perspective can be successfully integrated in the business world through joint ventures and other business initiatives. The use of tables and charts allows readers to see at a glance much of the statistical information presented throughout the book, and the related documents in the Appendices lend further support to Anderson's position of the benefits of Aboriginal economic development. A wide range of interesting and relevant case studies are included to capture and maintain the reader's interest. However, many of the examples are taken from the DIAND (Department of Indian and Northern Development) website and while certainly valuable in illustrating successes, including twenty-six vignettes seems excessive, particularly as little analysis is included. Having said that, the accounts do at least provide the opportunity for readers to appreciate the achievements being made in Aboriginal economic development and can act as a starting point for further investigation and evaluation if required.

One of the weaknesses of the book, although beyond the author's control, is with regards to editing. For example, in Chapter 4 there are several typing errors that were easily detected and could have been eliminated with good proof reading. Between pages 162-170, the font size changes for no apparent reason, and the page numbers for topics in the index do not correlate with those in the book. These are relatively minor criticisms, but nonetheless are annoying and detract from the quality of the book.

The book has been used in a senior level development class in the Department of Native Studies for two years and has been well received by the instructor and students. The writing style is clear and the material organized in a manner that allows it to flow from one topic to the next.

Although the contingency model proved somewhat obscure for some students, more than enough information and examples were provided which allowed them to recognize the successful economic development initiatives currently taking place in Aboriginal communities. Anderson points out that appropriate economic development is important for the futures of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada, and as books on this subject matter are rare, "Economic Development among the Aboriginal Peoples in Canada" makes an important contribution to filling the void.

Chris Arnett. *The Terror of the Coast: Land Alienation and the Colonial War on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, 1849-1863*. Burnaby, BC: Talonbooks, 1999.

Reviewed by Susan Neylan, University of British Columbia

*(Editor's Note: Prof. Neylan's review originally appeared in the previous issue but was inadvertently truncated. We deeply regret the error.)*

In *Terror of the Coast* Chris Arnett seeks to explore how imperial and colonial government policy towards Aboriginal lands on eastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands in the 1860s was a violent affair, heavily resisted by First Nations. Given recent land claim settlements in British Columbia, such as the Nisga'a Treaty (1999), after more than a century of the province's denial of aboriginal title, Arnett's study of the collapse of the first treaty process is timely. However, Arnett's attempts are uneven and his strongest interpretative statements are sometimes obscured in narrative detail and description of dramatic events surrounding what he calls the "colonial war" of 1863. The first four chapters of *Terror of the Coast* recount the arrival of *hwunitum* (literally "the hungry people," referring to those persons of European ancestry) to southeastern Vancouver Island and adjacent Gulf Islands, and their ensuing impact on *hwulmuhw* (meaning the Aboriginal inhabitants or "people of the land") sovereignty and jurisdiction. After the fourteen Douglas "treaties" in the early 1850s, there were no further attempts to extinguish Aboriginal title to the land or purchase portions for non-Native resettlement. Arnett is