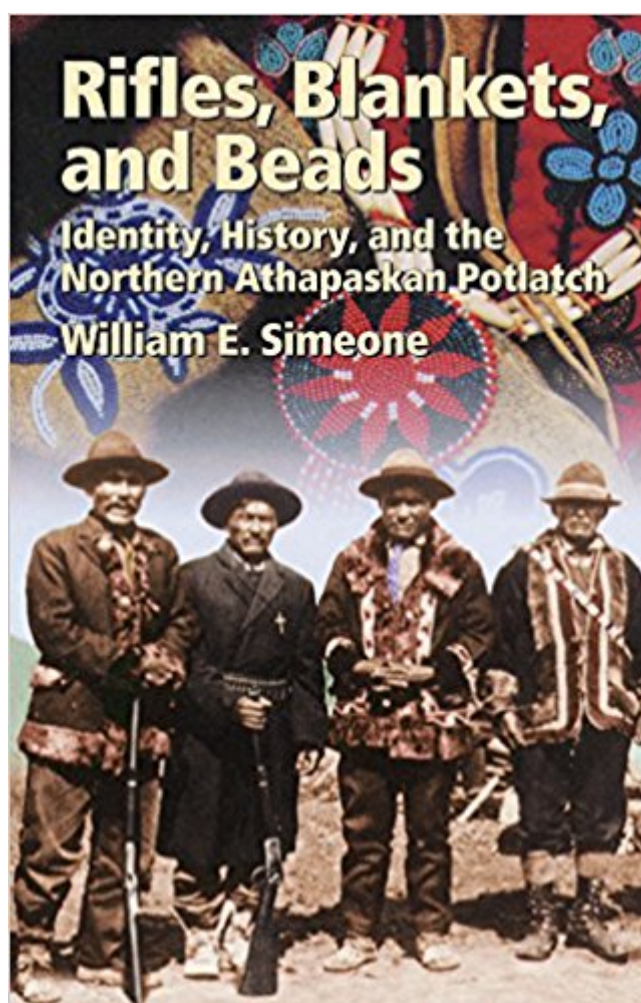


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Rifles, Blankets, & Beads: Identity, History, And The Northern Athapaskan Potlatch (The Civilization Of The American Indian Series)



Synopsis

Whoever heard of a party at which the hosts lavishly give away presents, refusing to accept any gifts in return, keeping little for themselves? This is the custom of the Northern Athapaskan potlatch, a tradition that has long fascinated Americans. In *Rifles, Blankets, and Beads*, William E. Simeone explores the potlatch and its role in balancing competition and cooperation among the Tanacross people, a Northern Athapaskan culture. According to Simeone, the potlatch tradition helps the Tanacross people uphold standards of acceptable behavior through curbing competitiveness and stressing the ideals of cooperation. Simeone also examines Northern Athapaskan leadership practices, the introduction of trade goods into Athapaskan culture, and the complexities of cultural identity for the Tanacross.

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Customer Reviews

William E. Simeone works for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence. He is the author of several books and articles on Northern Athapaskan culture.

Volume 216 in the outstanding University of Oklahoma Press "The Civilization of the American Indian Series", *Rifles, Blankets, And Beads: Identity, History, And The Northern Athapaskan Potlatch* by Northern Athapaskan Native American culture expert William E. Simeone is an impressive presentation and analysis of the Northern Athapaskan potlatch, a Native American

tradition in which the hosts have a party for the specific purpose of giving their possessions as presents to their guests, while accepting no gifts in return, and keep very little for themselves. The role of the potlatch in promoting societal cohesiveness, in curbing greed and excess, in encouraging familial and tribal cooperation, and a great deal more is carefully scrutinized in this intriguing study. Rifles, Blankets, And Beads is a welcome and valued contribution to any personal or academic Native American Studies collection.

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