

For four centuries non-Indians in North America have had an “Indian problem”. In its most basic form this problem has had three aspects:

Non-Indian Agenda

Indian Agenda

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It has been an economic problem: how best to secure access to Indian resources, land in particular 2. It has been a problem in cultural transformation of Indians into non-Indians 3. It has been a political problem: how to maintain an effective system of controls over Indian groups so that problems 1 and 2 could be more satisfactorily resolved. 	<p>Indians, on the other hand, have had what might be called a “Euro-American” problem. In its essence this problem seems to have been tribal survival; the maintenance of particular sets of social relations, more or less distinct cultural order, and some measure of political autonomy in the face of invasion, conquest and loss of power.</p>
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The working out of these two conflicting agendas has given context and shape to Indian-White relations.

Stephen Cornell
 The Return of the Native
 American Indian Political Resurgence
 Oxford University Press 1988
 Pages 6 and 7

