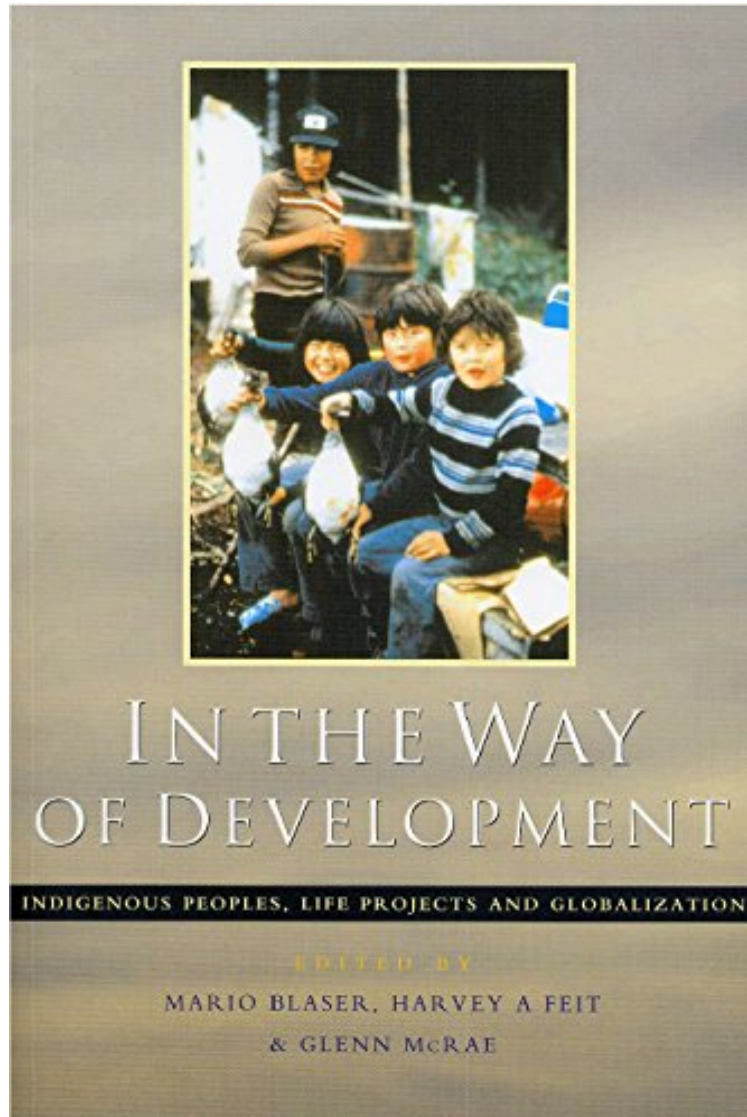


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In the Way of Development: Indigenous Peoples, Life Projects and Globalization

Mario Blaser, Harvey A. Feit

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A collaboration between indigenous leaders, social activists and scholars from a wide range of disciplines, In the Way

of Development explores the current situation of indigenous peoples enmeshed in the remorseless expansion of the modern economy. The volume assembles a rich diversity of statements, case studies and wider thematic explorations all starting with indigenous peoples as actors, not victims. The accounts come primarily from North America, but include also studies from South America, and the former Soviet Union. In the Way of Development shows how the boundaries between indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society, the state, markets, development and the environment are ambiguous and constantly changing. This fact makes local political agency possible, but also, ironically, opens the possibility of undermining it.

'This superb book builds on the illuminating contrast between the 'life projects' of indigenous people and the 'development projects' funded by global capital. 'Life projects' are about the right of any people to define the meaning of their life and their place in the cosmos. The book is filled with ambiguous but sometimes hopeful examples of indigenous peoples working with NGOs, governments, and corporations to defend their autonomy, and in the process shaping human rights and development agendas nationally and globally' - John H. Bodley, Professor of Anthropology, Washington State University, author of *Victims of Progress* (1999) and *The Power of Scale* (2003). 'A comprehensive account of relations between agents of globalization - corporations and states - and indigenous peoples worldwide. The book provides a unique synthesis of indigenous peoples' strategies of active resistance and approaches to living autonomously. It indicates lessons for us, both about the importance of supporting indigenous peoples who are at the front lines in this struggle, and for the ways we orient our own agency as we come to grips with similar forces.' - Michael Asch, University of Victoria, Canada
About the Author
Harvey Feit is Professor of Anthropology and Mario E. Blaser is a doctoral candidate, both at McMaster University in Canada. Glenn McRae teaches in the Anthropology Department at the University of Vermont.