



Sovereignty and Indian Affairs

Wednesday, October 20, 2004, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Wohlstetter Conference Center, Twelfth Floor, AEI
1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Since 1831, when Chief Justice Marshall described the relationship between Indian tribes and the federal government as “nations within a nation,” as “domestic dependent nations,” and as “that of a ward to his guardian,” Indian tribes have struggled to define and assert their sovereignty. Their struggle has been blown by political winds between the extremes of termination and self-determination, with the result always being continued poverty and dependence on the federal government.

Given the institutions that govern tribal politics and economics, this result should not be surprising. A growing body of empirical literature shows that economies governed by a strict rule of law, secure property rights, and secure freedom of contract perform better than those without these institutions.

This seminar will consider how political and legal institutions governing reservations affect economic performance. The first session will focus on judicial independence and the impact of gaming on reservation economies; the second on the implications of sovereignty for secure property rights and contracting on reservations. Over a luncheon, Maurice McTigue of the Mercatus Center will reflect on the issue of sovereignty as it relates to other indigenous populations, with a focus on the Maori in New Zealand.

- 8:15 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 **Sovereignty and Credible Commitments in Reservation Economies**
- “The Wealth of Indian Nations: Economic Performance
 and the Institutional Environment on Reservations,”
 by Terry Anderson, PERC and the Hoover Institute, and
 Dominic P. Parker, PERC
- “Native American Casinos: Another Tragedy of the Commons?”
 by Ronald N. Johnson
- 10:30 **Property Rights and Sovereign’s Paradox**
- “Facets of Sovereignty: Institutions That Spur and Institutions
 That Retard Tribal Development,”
 by David D. Haddock, Northwestern University, and
 Robert J. Miller, Lewis & Clark College
- “Indian Property Rights and American Federalism,”
 by James L. Huffman, Lewis & Clark College, and
 Robert J. Miller, Lewis & Clark College
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
- “Sovereignty, Treaties, and Indigenous Rights:
 Maori Claims in New Zealand,”
 by Maurice McTigue, Mercatus Center
- 1:30 Adjournment

I will attend the sovereignty conference on Wednesday, October 20.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____

Please check if this is a new address.

Please register online at www.aei.org/events or by faxing this form to 202.862.7171.
Shortly after the event occurs, a video webcast will be available on the AEI website at
www.aei.org/events/eventvideo_list.asp.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth White at 202.862.4878 or ewhite@aei.org.
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