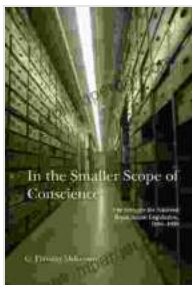


The Struggle for National Repatriation Legislation: A Historical Perspective

The repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural objects has been a contentious issue in the United States for centuries. In the 1980s, a growing movement of Native American activists and scholars began to demand the return of their ancestors' remains and cultural artifacts from museums and other institutions. This movement led to the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in 1990, which established a legal framework for the repatriation of Native American cultural heritage.

The Early Years

The first repatriation efforts in the United States date back to the 19th century. In 1890, the Smithsonian Institution returned the remains of several Native American chiefs to their tribes. However, these early efforts were sporadic and often met with resistance from museums and other institutions.



In the Smaller Scope of Conscience: The Struggle for National Repatriation Legislation, 1986–1990

by C. Timothy McKeown

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4489 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 288 pages



In the 1970s, the repatriation movement gained new momentum. The American Indian Movement (AIM) and other Native American organizations began to stage protests and occupations at museums and other institutions that held Native American cultural heritage. These protests helped to raise public awareness of the issue of repatriation.

The Struggle for Legislation

In 1986, Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). NAGPRA established a legal framework for the repatriation of Native American cultural heritage. The act requires museums and other institutions to inventory their collections and identify any Native American human remains and cultural objects. These objects must then be repatriated to the tribes that have a cultural affiliation with them.

NAGPRA was a major victory for the repatriation movement. However, the implementation of the act has been slow and uneven. Many museums and other institutions have been reluctant to repatriate their collections. As a result, the repatriation of Native American cultural heritage is still an ongoing struggle.

The Impact of NAGPRA

NAGPRA has had a profound impact on the repatriation of Native American cultural heritage. The act has led to the repatriation of thousands of human remains and cultural objects. It has also helped to raise public awareness

of the issue of repatriation and the importance of Native American cultural heritage.

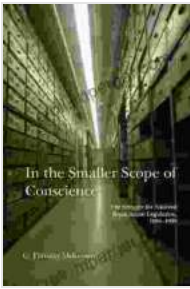
However, NAGPRA has also had its critics. Some critics argue that the act is too narrow and does not cover all Native American cultural heritage. Others argue that the act is too burdensome for museums and other institutions.

The Future of Repatriation

The future of repatriation is uncertain. NAGPRA is still a relatively new law, and its implementation is ongoing. It is likely that the repatriation of Native American cultural heritage will continue to be a contentious issue for many years to come.

However, the repatriation movement has made significant progress in recent years. NAGPRA has established a legal framework for the repatriation of Native American cultural heritage. The act has also raised public awareness of the issue of repatriation and the importance of Native American cultural heritage. These are important steps forward, and they provide hope for the future of repatriation.

The struggle for national repatriation legislation was a long and difficult one. However, the passage of NAGPRA in 1990 was a major victory for the repatriation movement. NAGPRA has established a legal framework for the repatriation of Native American cultural heritage and has helped to raise public awareness of the issue of repatriation. The repatriation of Native American cultural heritage is still an ongoing struggle, but NAGPRA has provided a foundation for the future.



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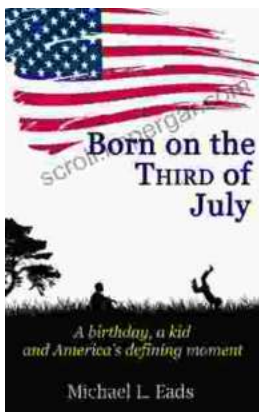
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