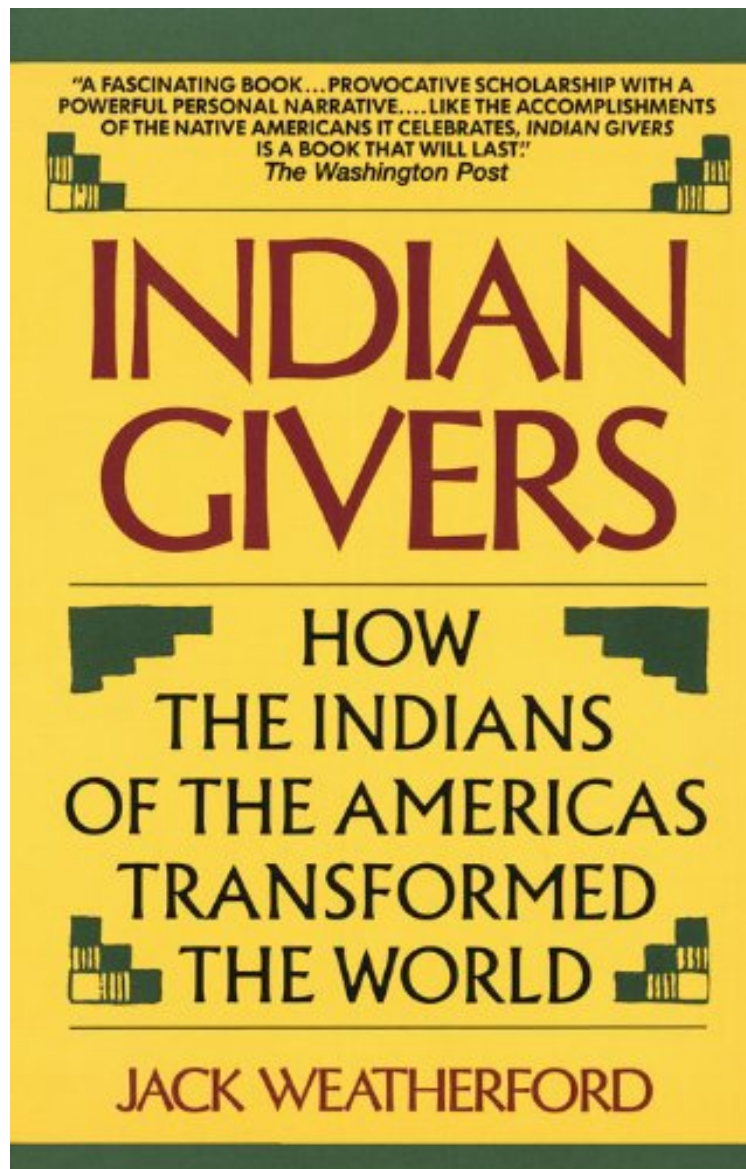


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# Indian Givers: How the Indians of the Americas Transformed the World

Von Jack Weatherford

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## Indians of the Americas Transformed the World:

Kurzbeschreibung "As entertaining as it is thoughtful....Few contemporary writers have Weatherford's talent for making the deep sweep of history seem vital and immediate." --Washington Post After 500 years, the world's huge debt to the wisdom of the Indians of the Americas has finally been explored in all its vivid drama by anthropologist Jack Weatherford. He traces the crucial contributions made by the Indians to our federal system of government, our democratic institutions, modern medicine, agriculture, architecture, and ecology, and in this astonishing, ground-breaking book takes a giant step toward recovering a true American history. From Library Journal An anthropologist's world tour Timbuktu, Machu Picchu, Europe, and the Orient revealing a seldom-told history. Behind scenes of everyday life, the author explains how the wealth and knowledge of Native America transformed and permeated Old World culture. The Native American roots of industrial capitalism and constitutional democracy, of the world's diverse cuisine and abundant pharmacopoeia, and of modern land use and transportation systems are demonstrated and documented. Although the title implies that the Indians donated or loaned their science to the world, native America was sacked and pillaged. This readable and informative adjunct to Alfred W. Crosby's *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (1972) should have general appeal. Allen C. Turner, Univ. of Idaho, Pocatello Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA-- Beginning with a clever title and continuing throughout the book, Weatherford lists the tremendous contributions which have been made by the Indian civilizations of the Americas to world culture. He shows the impact of gold and silver, agricultural techniques, medicine, and government on European history. The book makes for fascinating, thought-provoking reading, showing that Locke and Rousseau were both influenced by the concepts of power and government held by the people of the Americas before they produced their great documents of the Enlightenment. Weatherford also shows how the spread of the potato to Europe saved many lives from the malnutrition which had haunted them when grain crops had previously failed. He has a far-reaching scope and even suggests a fascinating theory on the purpose of Machu Picchu. By showing how the world was changed through these contributions, the author gives a greater appreciation of the Indians of America to readers. A fine synthesis book for global studies programs as well as American history.- Barbara Weathers, Duchesne Academy, Houston Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.