



The Sea Is My Country: The Maritime World of the Makahs (The Henry Roe Cloud Series on American Indians and Modernity)

By Joshua L. Reid

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The first full-scale history of the Makah people of the Pacific Northwest, whose culture and identity are closely bound to the sea

For the Makahs, a tribal nation at the most northwestern point of the contiguous United States, a deep relationship with the sea is the locus of personal and group identity. Unlike most other indigenous tribes whose lives are tied to lands, the Makah people have long placed marine space at the center of their culture, finding in their own waters the physical and spiritual resources to support themselves. This book is the first to explore the history and identity of the Makahs from the arrival of maritime fur-traders in the eighteenth century through the intervening centuries and to the present day.

Joshua L. Reid discovers that the “People of the Cape” were far more involved in shaping the maritime economy of the Pacific Northwest than has been understood. He examines Makah attitudes toward borders and boundaries, their efforts to exercise control over their waters and resources as Europeans and then Americans arrived, and their embrace of modern opportunities and technology to maintain autonomy and resist assimilation. The author also addresses current environmental debates relating to the tribe’s customary whaling and fishing rights and illuminates the efforts of the Makahs to regain control over marine space, preserve their marine-oriented identity, and articulate a traditional future.

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Review

“Among many recent histories of Northwest Coast ecology and Native peoples, this one is outstanding for Reid's knowledge of the ecological background.”—*Choice*
(*Choice*)

“In *The Sea Is My Country*, Joshua Reid takes readers on a ‘forensic voyage’ as he chronicles the history of the Makahs over three centuries.”—*Perspectives on History*
(*Perspectives on History*)

Won an honorable mention for the 2016 Frederick Jackson Turner Award, given by the Organization of American Historians.
(Frederick Jackson Turner Award *Organization of American Historians* 2016-02-11)

Won a honorable mention for the 2015 John Lyman Book Award in the U.S. Maritime History category, sponsored by the North American Society for Oceanic History.
(John Lyman Book *North American Society for Oceanic History* 2016-06-16)

Winner of the 2016 Sally and Ken Owens Award given by the Western History Association.
(Sally and Ken Owens *Western History Association* 2016-09-16)

Winner of the 2016 John C. Ewers Award given by the Western History Association.
(John C. Ewers Award *Western History Association* 2016-09-16)

Winner of the 2016 Caughey Western History Prize given by the Western History Association.
(Caughey Western History Prize *Western History Association* 2016-09-16)

Winner of the 2016 Erminie Wheeler-Voeglin prize for the best book-length contribution to ethnohistory, given by the American Society for Ethnohistory.
(Erminie Wheeler-Voeglin Prize *American Society for Ethnohistory* 2016-11-17)

About the Author

Born and raised in Washington State, **Joshua L. Reid** (Snohomish) is assistant professor of history and director of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Program, University of Massachusetts, Boston. He holds a PhD from the University of California, Davis, and is a three-time Ford Foundation Fellow. He lives in Quincy, MA.

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