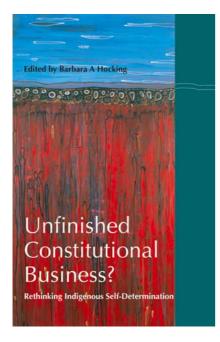
Unfinished Constitutional Business? Rethinking Indigenous Self-determination

Edited by Barbara Ann Hocking





Unfinished Constitutional Business? exposes the continuing struggles by Indigenous people to negotiate with States. It reinforces how far there is still to go in achieving Indigenous rights to self-determination.

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Indigenous self-determination is the recognised right of all peoples to freely determine their political status, and pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Unfinished Constitutional Business? offers fresh insights into the ways Indigenous peoples can chart their own course and realise self-determination. The right to self-determination remains the most hotly contested issue in the UN Working Group's Draft Declaration: because the history of colonisation is emotionally charged, the issue has been clouded by a rhetoric that has sometimes obstructed analysis.

Unfinished Constitutional Business? provides a comprehensive international exploration of Indigenous self-determination. It argues that patterns are emerging that point to effective strategies that will allow Indigenous peoples to realise their goals. The UN Working Group's definition of Indigenous peoples has been influenced by these different experiences of colonization. Diverse jurisdictions are examined as it surveys both common law and civil law systems: from the Saami Parliaments of Scandinavia, to the Maori seats in the New Zealand Parliament, of the Australian Indigenous peoples struggle for native title and self-governance, to the Canadian experience in territorial governance.

A selection of international authors challenge readers to (re)consider the meanings of self-determination and their implications for Indigenous peoples in different contexts.

Contributions from: Dr John Bradley, John Buick-Constable, Joshua Cooper, Jennifer Corrin Care, Chris Cunneen, Andrew Erueti, Barbara J Hocking, Catherine J Iorns Magallanes, Cleopatra Magwaro, Michael Mansell, Aileen Moreton-Robinson, Peter H. Russell, Kathryn Seton, Anne Waters, and Helena Whall.

Editor: Barbara Ann Hocking is with the Faculty of Law at the School of Justice Studies at Queensland University of Technology. In 2005 she was awarded the Lilian Penson Fellowship at the Institute for Commonwealth Studies at the University of London.

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