

Chapter 8 Excerpts

When we asked people to describe themselves and the conflict, they said things like, “We are here to stop the injustices perpetrated by the [tribe],” or “We are here to oppose the racism of the [townspeople].” One member of the nonnative community pointed to how his fundamental rights were being denied and said that he has ready to “fight the Revolutionary War all over again.”

This dispute, which developed in the context of three hundred years of native/nonnative conflict and had been escalating for many years, had become a defining force for many. Opposing the other side became their reason for being. If they are cruel, we are just. If they are deceitful, we are honest. As much as they all regarded the conflict as a problem, it was also very difficult for them to give it up or to conceive of a situation in which the tribe and the towns worked together as allies, not adversaries.

– pg. 191