**Business and Politics in Indian Country You Can't Handle the Truth**

## Discussion Questions

1. **Truth and Accountability:**
   The book reveals how power and politics often distort the meaning of sovereignty. What does "sovereignty" mean when it can be bought, sold, or silenced from within?
2. **Cultural Identity vs. Modern Reality:**
   How have modern tribal governments reshaped what it means to be "Native"? Do we still carry forward the values of our ancestors, or have they been replaced by administrative survival?
3. **Economic Dependency:**
   Many chapters challenge the comfort of federal funding. Is dependency a survival mechanism—or has it become a new form of control?
4. **Tribal Leadership:**
   Consider the phrase, *"When the enemy looks like your cousin."* What does this say about the internal conflicts within tribal governance today?
5. **Justice and Inequality:**
   In *Tribal Courts, Tribal Crimes*, D.G. Comer exposes bias and favoritism. How do justice and fairness survive when personal ties outweigh tribal law?
6. **The Role of the Church:**
   Reflect on the chapter *The Impact of Missionary Work and the Churches Today*. How has religion shaped, and in some cases confined, the Native spirit of self-determination?
7. **Healing and Identity:**
   The book often connects healing with truth-telling. Can a community truly heal while refusing to confront its own internal wounds?
8. **Education and Empowerment:**
   *Tribal Colleges: Reclaiming the Classroom or Reinforcing the Cage* asks whether we are preparing our youth to lead—or to comply. What kind of education builds real sovereignty?
9. **Media and Silence:**
   Discuss the idea that "the loudest silence in Indian Country is often self-imposed." What responsibility do Native media outlets and leaders have to tell uncomfortable truths?
10. **The Path Forward:**
    After finishing this book, what changes—personal, cultural, or structural—do you believe are necessary for a true restoration of integrity in Indian Country?

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## Suggested Use

- **Classrooms:** Encourage open discussion and written reflections on each theme.
- **Tribal Leadership Programs:** Use the guide as part of governance training and policy review sessions.
- **Book Clubs & Community Groups:** Select one question per meeting to foster thoughtful, respectful dialogue.

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## For Classroom or Leadership Use

This guide may be reproduced for educational purposes.

- Ideal for tribal leadership programs, governance courses, and Native Studies curricula.
- Discussion leaders may select one question per session or encourage written reflections on selected themes.
- Group dialogue is most effective when participants read the Introduction and one related chapter before discussion.

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## Author's Reflection

This book began as a mirror held to the systems that define Indian Country — but it became a mirror for all of us.

Every chapter was written not to condemn, but to challenge. If even one reader walks away more aware, more courageous, or more willing to speak the truth, then this work has done its job.

— *D.G. Comer*

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