

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- * An introduction to indigenous peoples – who are they – how are they defined – examples
- * An introduction to international law – traditionally only “states” were actors – now expanded to include other participants – corporations, regional organizations, individuals, NGOs, and now “indigenous peoples”
- * An introduction to the United Nations and its General Assembly – what is a “Declaration”
- * The long process that led to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – why was this so difficult? What was the US position on it?
- * “Self-Determination” – what is it? Distinguish between self-determination for nonselfgoverning peoples and for indigenous peoples.
- * What rights to indigenous peoples have?
 - ** Self-government
 - ** Ability to define their own membership
 - ** Control of their own land and resources
 - ** Control of their own education, in their own language
 - ** Control of their own cultural heritage
 - ** Control of their own “traditional knowledge” and “human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts.”
- * How are we doing with regard to protecting these rights –
 - ** In Hawaii?
 - ** In Guam?

Akaka Bill