

Is It Logical to Limit Natives Who Have a “Special Relationship” Solely to Those that Are in “Indian Tribes”?

NO:

* All Indians were in tribes at the time the Constitution was written— they could not become citizens at that time— the term was used generically to refer to all Indians.

* The concept of a “tribe” has been malleable and elusive during most of our nation’s history.

* Many of the Alaskan Natives are not “tribal,” but they have always been viewed as having a “special relationship” with the United States.