

MISHEPISHU MIIGAAZO

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIVE PEOPLES

MATTHEW L.M. FLETCHER

ANIMIIKI – THUNDERBIRD



THE ANISHINAABEG BELIEVE THAT NANABOOZHOO
CREATED THE THUNDERERS AS MASTER OF THE AIR.

NANABOOZHOO INTENDED THE
THUNDERERS TO SERVE AS A
COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE
WATER SPIRITS.

THE THUNDERERS ALSO SERVED
TO INFLICT PUNISHMENTS ON THE
ANISHINAABEG WHO VIOLATED
INAAKONIGWIN — NATURAL LAW.

MISHEPISHU – UNDERWATER PANTHER



THE ANISHINAABEG BELIEVE THAT
MISHEPISHU IS MASTER OF THE WATERS.

THE UNDERWATER
PANTHER IS THE
COUNTER-POINT TO
THE THUNDERERS.

THESE TWO MANIDOWAAG — OR
MYSTERIES OR SPIRITS —
EXEMPLIFY HOW THE
ANISHINAABEG VALUE HARMONY.

INAWENDEWIN – RELATIONS

HARMONY IS THE
ANISHINAABE WAY.

ANISHINAABEWAKI — THE
WORLD OF THE ANISHINAABEG
— TRENDS TOWARD HARMONY.

IN ANISHINAABE
POLITICAL THEORY,
HUMANS ARE
LOWER CREATURES.

THE MANIDOWAAG
ARE THE MOST
POWERFUL.
ANIMALS ARE
ALSO POWERFUL.

THE ANISHINAABEG BELIEVE
THAT IF HUMANS EXERCISE
TOO MUCH POWER, THERE
WILL BE DISHARMONY.

CHMOOKMON POLITICAL THEORY

WESTERN POLITICAL THEORY ASSUMES THE WORLD IS CHAOTIC. HOBBS SAID THAT THE STATE OF NATURE IS NASTY, BRUTISH, AND SHORT.

IN THIS WORLDVIEW, HUMANS ARE SAVAGE CREATURES, VIOLENT, SELFISH, AND COMPETITIVE. . .

. . . AND THE MOST IMPORTANT AND POWERFUL CREATURES, ENTITLED AND ENCOURAGED TO ACQUIRE PROPERTY AND WEALTH BY VIRTUE OF NATURAL LAW.

DANGER
KEEP BACK
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

HOBBS, LOCKE, AND THE AMERICAN FOUNDERS BELIEVED THAT HUMANS WOULD NOT SURVIVE UNLESS THEY CREATED AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL ENTITY — SOVEREIGNTY — TO STOP US FROM KILLING EACH OTHER EVERY CHANCE WE GOT.

IT WORKED. THE UNITED STATES IS THE WEALTHIEST, MOST POWERFUL NATION IN HUMAN HISTORY.

WE ARE ALSO THE FILTHIEST, MOST DESTRUCTIVE PEOPLE EVER ORGANIZED IN HUMAN HISTORY.

ANISHINAABE POLITICAL THEORY

AS LOWER CREATURES, HUMANS MUST RESPECT THE HIGHER POWERS — THE MANIDOWAAG, THE LAND, WATER, AND AIR, AND LIVING CREATURES.

THUNDERBIRD STRIKE, BY ELIZABETH LAPENSÉE

THE ANISHINAABEG ONCE ORGANIZED GOVERNMENT TO HONOR THE ANIMALS — OUR CLANS ARE NAMED AFTER MYSTERIES AND ANIMALS AND GIVEN RESPONSIBILITIES BASED ON EACH CREATURE.

4/24/2018 4:4

THE CLANS ARE EQUAL. EACH MUST SPEAK AND ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CREATURES. ALL CLANS MUST BE HEARD BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE.

H: 286.2 °

D: 233.62 ft


Temp: 50.3 °F

ENBRIDGE LINE 5 UNDER
MACKINAC STRAITS


THERE ARE NO ZERO-SUM GAMES, NO BARE MAJORITY RULE. THERE IS COMPROMISE AND THE SEARCH FOR HARMONY.



INDIAN TRIBES ARE TIMELESS



LITTLE TRAVERSE
BAY BANDS OF ODAWA
INDIANS — “NIBIISH
NAAGDOWEN” — CARE
OF THE WATER LAW.



NOTTAWASEPPI
BAND OF THE
POTAWATOMI —
“MNO KI NENYAK”
— ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAMS.



BAY MILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
— WAISHKEY BAY FARM —
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD PRODUCTION.

SKETCH FROM **SNAPPING TURTLE GOES TO WAR**, BY
MATTHEW L.M. FLETCHER. ART BY DALE DEFOREST.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



EDDIE BENTON-BENAI,
THE MISHOMIS BOOK:
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JOHN BORROWS,
LAW'S INDIGENOUS
ETHICS (2019).

AARON MILLS,
MIINIGOWIZIWIN: ALL
THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN
FOR LIVING WELL
TOGETHER—ONE VISION
OF ANISHINAABE
CONSTITUTIONALISM
(2019).

GREAT LAKES FISH
AND WILDLIFE
COMMISSION,
DIBAAJIMOWINAN:
ANISHINAABE
STORIES OF
CULTURE AND
RESPECT (2013).

MONTE MILLS, CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN WATER
LAW AND TREATY RIGHTS: OLD PROMISES, RECENT
CHALLENGES, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR A NEW FUTURE, 64
ROCKY MT. MIN. L. INST. 9-1 (2018).

MIIGWETCH!