

Discussion Questions for Sarah Deer, *The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2015).

Source of the problem

1. Finding justice is difficult for all women who experience rape. How and why are Native women's experiences different from what other women suffer? How is the criminal justice infrastructure in Indian country partly responsible for these differences?
2. How does the rape of an individual traumatize an entire Native community?
3. Sarah Deer tells the story of Dana Deegan, a woman from the Fort Berthold Reservations who was imprisoned for killing her newborn son. How does her story illustrate the intersecting traumas of rape and colonialism in Native American communities?
4. How does an intersectional feminist or an Indigenous feminist analysis of rape help us understand the causes of sexual violence in Native communities?
5. How is the persistent development of fossil fuels in and around Indigenous communities connected to the escalating violence against Native women?

Challenges to reform

6. Pointing to the importance of restoring land, governance, and culture to Native communities, Native American Studies scholars caution us to avoid using "decolonization," as a metaphor. How do you think Sarah Deer is using the term? Does the experience of Native American women challenge that framework?
7. How is tribal sovereignty both personal and political?
8. In 1978, the Supreme court ruled in *Oliphant v Suquamish*, that tribal courts could not prosecute nonmembers. Why was this decision particularly devastating for Native women?

Ways of Healing

9. Sarah Deer examines three apologies the federal government offered to Native people for various injustices Americans inflicted on Native American communities. Why were those efforts problematic?
10. Sarah Deer argues that we must change rape culture. What kinds of changes are needed in Native American communities? How might non-Native communities follow their example?
11. How might incorporating a victim-centered approach to rape rebuild the "Sovereignty of the Soul" in Native communities?
12. How can activists and scholars apply Sarah Deer's research in their efforts to establish justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women? Does her work make you feel hopeful that change is possible?