



Article Navigation



Article navigation
Volume 29, Issue 1
1 January 2005

RESEARCH ARTICLE | OCTOBER 01 2007

Buffalo Tiger, Bobo Dean, and the “Young Turks”: A Miccosukee Prelude to the 1975 Indian Self-Determination Act

Harry A. Kersey Jr.

American Indian Culture and Research Journal(2005) 29 (1): 1–19.

No cover
image
available

[< Previous Article](#) [Next Article >](#)

<https://doi.org/10.17953/aicr.29.1.45m12720183924t2>

ews 
Share 
Tools 

This content is only available as a PDF.

Article PDF first page preview

Buffalo Tiger, Bobo Dean, and the “Young Turks”: A Miccosukee Prelude to the 1975 Indian Self-Determination Act

HARRY A. KERSEY JR.

On 12 June 1971 United States Commissioner of Indian Affairs Louis R. Bruce journeyed to the Florida Everglades to meet with Miccosukee chairman Buffalo Tiger and members of the tribal business council. The purpose of his visit was to celebrate the signing of a contract on 14 May in Washington between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, allowing the tribe to operate comprehensive social and educational programs formerly administered exclusively by government bureaucrats. Under the headline “Florida Indians Assume Own Rule,” the *New York Times* reported, “The accord signed after six months of difficult negotiations, is the first such agreement reached between an Indian tribe and the federal government since President Nixon, in a 1970 message to Congress, announced that he favored a policy of Indian Self-determination.”¹

Arguably this transaction placed the Miccosukee tribe in the vanguard of the Indian self-determination movement. The following is an account of the Miccosukees’ struggle to wrest control over their own economic destiny from conservative elements within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Department of the Interior and is based heavily on recent interviews with former Miccosukee tribal chairman Buffalo Tiger, who engineered the groundbreaking agreement, and Washington attorney S. Bobo Dean, who represented the tribe in the negotiations, as well as Bradley J. Patterson Jr., an official in the Nixon administration who was intimately involved in framing the president’s 1970 message.

Harry A. Kersey Jr. is professor emeritus of history at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. He is the author of seven books on the Seminoles and Miccosukees, was a consultant to the tribes in various court cases, and served for a decade on the Florida Governor’s Council on Indian Affairs, which advised the state’s chief executive on policy matters affecting indigenous peoples. Kersey has been a Fulbright Scholar in both Africa and New Zealand and is currently engaged in a comparative study of Maori and American Indian sovereignty issues.

1

You do not currently have access to this content.

[View full article](#)

Sign in

Don't already have an account? [Register](#)

Client Account

Email address / Username

Password

[Sign In](#)

[Reset password](#)

[Register](#)

Sign in via your Institution

[Sign in via your Institution](#)

 [Buy This Article](#)

1 American Indian and Culture Research Journal Block of 3 Token

\$45

 [Buy Token](#)

1 American Indian and Culture Research Journal Block of 5 Token

\$60

 [Buy Token](#)

[View Your Tokens](#)



[View Metrics](#)

CITING ARTICLES VIA

[Google Scholar](#)

[CrossRef](#)

Latest

[Most Read](#)

[Most Cited](#)

[A Chapter Closed?](#)

America Meredith

Living in a (Schrödinger's) Box: Jimmie Durham's Strategic Use of Ambiguity

Suzanne Newman Fricke

The Artist Knows Best: The De-Professionalism of a Profession


Nancy Marie Mithlo

Hustling and Hoaxing: Institutions, Modern Styles, and Yeffe Kimball's "Native" Art

Sarah Anne Stolte

Aspirational Descent and the Creation of Family Lore: Race Shifting in the Northeast

Darryl Leroux

 Get Email Alerts

Article Activity Alert

Latest Issue Alert

About This Journal

Contact Us



ISSN: 0161-6463

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Get Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

[Support](#)

She and the Beast; The Woman and the Beast; 그녀와 야수. Read online Chapter 29. Viewed today: 4595. Buffalo Tiger (Heenehatche), (born 1920), first chief of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, led initiatives for self-determination[16]. Wikimedia Commons has media related to Miccosukee. Notes. ^ a b Harry A. Kersey Jr., "Buffalo Tiger, Bobo Dean, and the "Young Turks": A Miccosukee Prelude to the 1975 Indian Self-Determination Act", American Indian Culture and Research Journal, Volume 29, Number 1 / 2005, ISSN 0161-6463 (Print). ^ "Tribal Programs and Business" Archived 2013-06-16 at the Wayback Machine, Miccosukee Tribe website. Buffalo Tiger's first major accomplishment was putting an end to this period of exploitation, and moving the families back to the Everglades where they continue to reside to this day. In the early 1950s, Buffalo Tiger was appointed by the medicine people to be a spokesman of the Miccosukee Tribe and liaison with the Florida and Federal governments. He accepted this uncompensated position with honor and as time passed he grew into a true leader of his tribe. The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida received Federal recognition on January 11, 1962. At that time, Buffalo Tiger became official Chairman of the tribe, a position in which he served for 24 years. Buffalo Tiger, Bobo Dean, and the "Young Turks": A Miccosukee Prelude to the 1975 Indian Self-Determ January 2005 · American Indian culture and research journal. Harry A. Kersey Jr. Read more. We also showed life-size photo models of dog, leopard, bear, tiger, wolf, and lion to the deer and video taped their responses after seeing these models. Père David's deer stared at and approached the hidden loudspeaker when they heard the roars of tiger or lion. The deer listened to tiger roars longer, approached to tiger roars more and spent more time staring at the tiger model. The stags were also found to forage less in the trials of tiger roars than that of other sound playbacks.