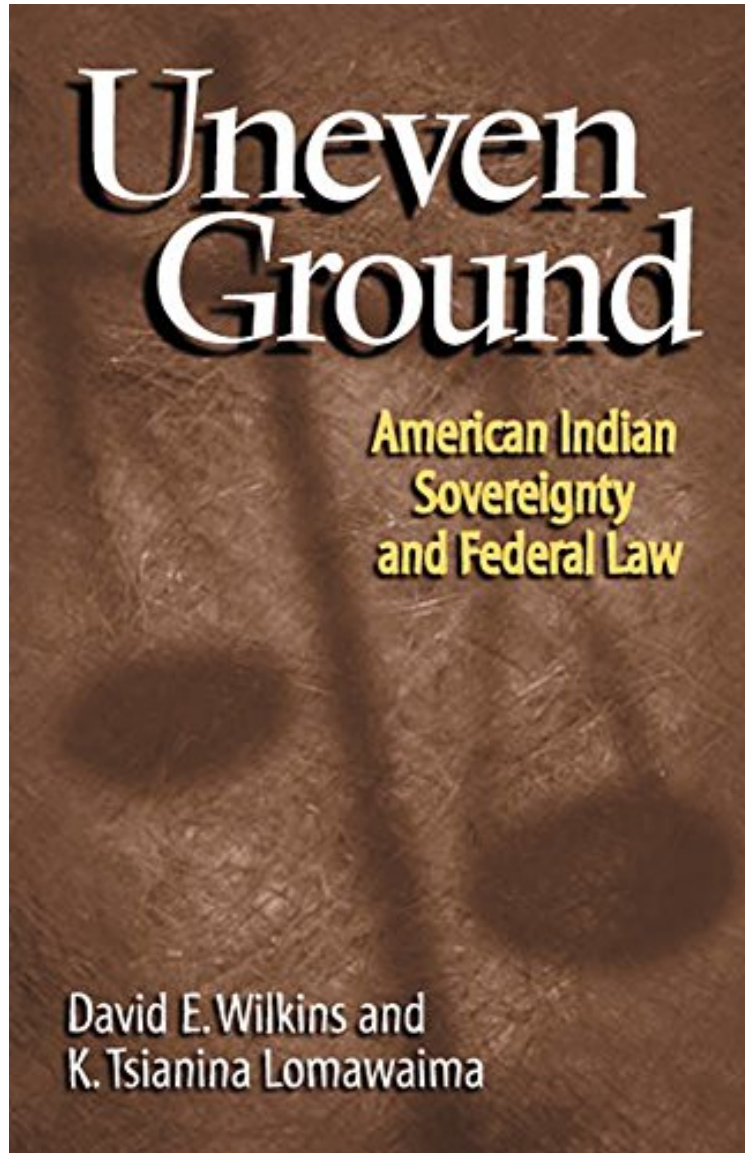


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Uneven Ground: American Indian Sovereignty and Federal Law

David E. Wilkins, K. Tsianina Lomawaima
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In the early 1970s, the federal government began recognizing self-determination for American Indian nations. As sovereign entities, Indian nations have been able to establish policies concerning health care, education, religious freedom, law enforcement, gaming, and taxation. Yet these gains have not gone unchallenged. Starting in the late 1980s, states have tried to regulate and profit from casino gambling on Indian lands. Treaty rights to hunt, fish, and gather remain hotly contested, and traditional religious practices have been denied protection. Tribal courts struggle with state and federal courts for jurisdiction. David E. Wilkins and K. Tsianina Lomawaima discuss how the political rights and sovereign status of Indian nations have variously been respected, ignored, terminated, and unilaterally modified by federal lawmakers as a result of the ambivalent political and legal status of tribes under western law.

About the AuthorDavid E. Wilkins is Professor of American Indian Studies and Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Law, and American Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and coauthor of *Uneven Ground: American Indian Sovereignty and Federal Law*.