**The Waking up Rakes**

Introduction

The story of Native American is a long Saga (a long story, series of incidents) of sorrow, frustration, anger, depravity, and exploitation of the first people of the land that came to be known as America and later USA.

The Native Americans or as the mis nomer goes, the red Indian/The red skins etc., were systematically reduced to beggary and dependency on the alms of the white man. In 2003, we get 562 federally recongnized tribes. It is said that the original number could be much more.

The white man came with Religion, mutilated it and began to systematically obliterate the natives. The methods used were multiple bribes, outright, cheating, threat, and finally brutality in its worst form. The Moarie “Bury thy heart at wounded knee and soldier blue” depict the reality in all its vulgarity and brutality.

As little as the fifty cents to one dallar and twenty five cents were offered to sitting bull, the chief of the Sioux tribes. Promises were made only to be broken blatantly. Truths were twisted to fool and when all failed the saber and the gun was used to annihilate women, children, the old and young ruthlessly.

The process of obliteration began sufficiently early enough to push these great tribes to bend their knees. The buffalow, was slot for sport and their skin which lead to storage of food (these peoples were hunters not formers) the land and its resources were exploited to the maximum. The white man’s greed for the yellow metal lead disembowelment of the earth, exploited to the maximum. It was left unfit to regenerate. Rivers, again a source of food was forbidden ground to of all modes of siurvival. These one proud tribes slowly and steadily were made to bend and finally breath. The great white father was so different from Hitler or any other dictator.

Vine Deloria’s “Custor died for our sins” talks in detail about the great ‘lie’, this abominable sin, the savagery and discrimination.

When the great USA talks about protecting freedom upholding democracy in its own backyard the owners of the land, the first people languish in reservations. The Afro American still face discrimination. The red Indian had the great respect for nature because ‘nature’ fed them and protected them. They recognized the link connecting of all that lived, breathed existed on earth, Life is inter-connected. Human think they are the roof and crown of God’s creations – but no life can continue or exist without depending on the other.

Destroy the trees – the season revolts, destroy the animal life indiscriminately and the starvation can follow, kill the tiger and the whole eco system can get disturbed. Life is a chain. Everything is interdependent exploit any one too much and it results in chaos.