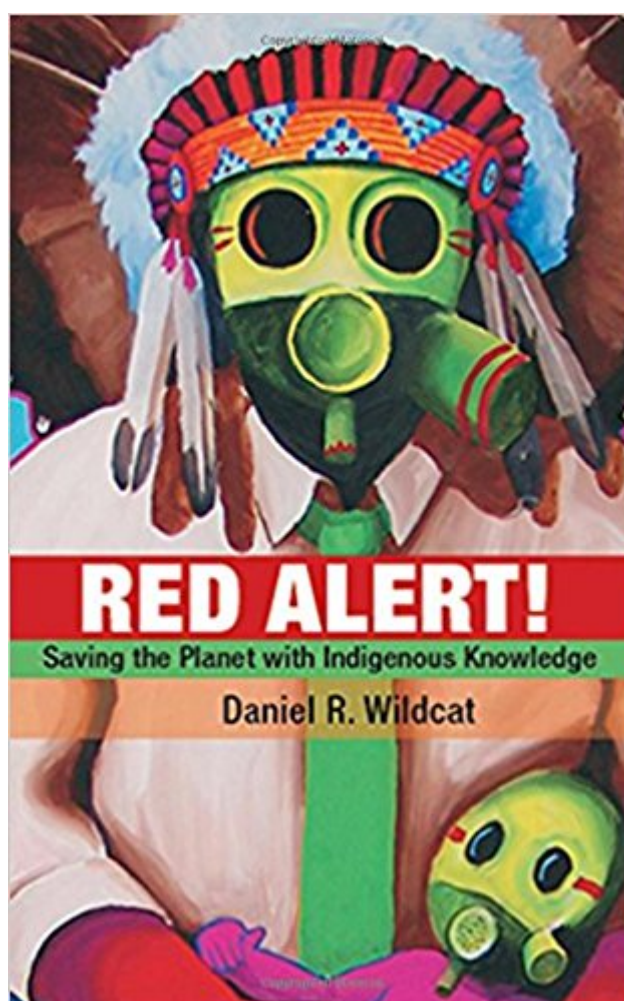


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# Red Alert!: Saving The Planet With Indigenous Knowledge (Speaker's Corner)



## Synopsis

What the world needs today is a good dose of indigenous realism, says Native American scholar Daniel Wildcat in this thoughtful, forward-looking treatise. *Red Alert!* seeks to debunk the modern myths that humankind is the center of creation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An indigenous inheritance exists for humankind that takes many forms from many places and peoples regarding how humankind might reexamine lifeways that...suggest in practical terms how we might adopt life-enhancing cultures situated in a symbiotic relationship of nature and culture. Will this indigenous inheritance be denied and go unclaimed? I hope not, for the sake of the rich diversity of life we share this planet with and for the sake of our human selves. It is time to issue a Red Alert. --Indian Country Today, November 24, 2009 "Taking a hard look at the biggest problem that we face today - the damaging way we live on this earth - Daniel Wildcat draws upon ancient Native American wisdom and nature-centered beliefs to advocate a modern strategy to combat global warming." --Green (Living) Review, December 17, 2009 *Red Alert!* offers a dose of indigenous realism as well as hope. It has a place where individuals want to explore what contemporary indigenous societies have to offer...a place wherever people are willing to share fruitful as well as difficult discussions. Anyone who is wondering what should we do? will benefit from the indigenuity of *Red Alert!* --Winds of Change Winter 2010 Arguing against man's battle with nature and stating

that there is no controlling the Earth, Daniel R. Wildcat presents many intriguing ideas for readers that is well worth considering for those worried about the environment. "Red Alert!" is a top pick for those seeking second opinions about the environmental crises." --Wisconsin Bookwatch

Red Alert examines from a Native perspective the problems facing our planet today and calls for a return to the nature-centered wisdom of indigenous cultures.

As a PhD in civil engineer with degrees in four specialties, I've spent years studying "adaptive co-management" (ACM) [http://www.resalliance.org/index.php/adaptive\\_comanagement](http://www.resalliance.org/index.php/adaptive_comanagement) and reading society and ecology <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/>, trying to understand how to bring complexity and community into systems to restore balance and sound evolutionary form. However, until I read Wildcat's Red Alert, I didn't really understand that the critical ACM concept of social, experiential learning celebrating a diversity of knowledge systems (free of dualism) to enhance collaboration and adaptation is simple wisdom of all indigenous peoples, NOT "new, integrative science". Building on a "7th generation way of thinking", tribes have come to relate to a deep sense of place and treat living relatives, not as resources, but as teachers to be revered by the attentive human student. This extends to natural LAW - respect for the land, air, and water - and reminds us not to take our screen representations of distinct layers in GIS too seriously. Instead, we must comprehend the complexity and inter-relatedness of the world itself, which possesses emergent properties of the whole, often lost in our scientific dissections of the parts. Sometimes, when we've then rebuilt the pieces into scientific models reality could be misinterpreted through these results, if we lack careful re-integration through a deeper knowledge of place that its people, creatures, and plants all possess and share. By listening and adopting Wildcat's carefully elaborated worldview, a path emerges to correct recent missteps that have impoverished life and led to such biodiversity declines. We can choose to find and journey with the remnants of those yet still well-connected to place to help us see how each landscape may be repaired and enhanced. In this way, perhaps our great-grandchildren may not suffer from our current lack of attention to what has been going on in our own backyards. Wildcat give us hope that together we can reconstitute, revitalize, and most importantly, reimage a homeland to which we can all identify proudly. Engineers in particular may appreciate Wildcat's direct effort on page 131 to help us "get it" by using the  $3C/E=T$  formula, which meaning you'll discover for yourself once you get to that point. So what are you waiting for? Begin your journey to becoming an engineer MUCH better equipped to more responsibly invent an enhanced, shared future. Without as much background and the more regular, purposeful native

interactions I now enjoy, you will need to both REREAD this book several times and WORK HARD to meet people of place and listen beyond, or you may end up like the only negative reviewer of this book, who seemed offended by the truth and remained unable to discern any solutions, while claiming to be a conscientious environmentalist - try not to be that sad, ok?

Climate Change, if you've been paying attention to this worldwide crisis, is a bewilderingly complex issue where there are many knowns, known unknowns, and probably an infinite amount of unknown unknowns. We don't know how to get greenhouse gases down in any measure that will actually make a difference. We don't know if many of our ecoregions are on the edge of collapse. We especially don't know how the present state of our environment will fare in a warmer climate, an environment that is filled with manmade pollution and replete with a great loss of biodiversity. This all matters because most climate studies and plans assume that our present environment is the only rational starting point from which to plan for a sustainable environment in the future. Red Alert reminds us that there are centuries of endemic peoples' knowledge that can and should be tapped to create a more realistic baseline for climate studies. Rather than assume that our present over-populated, over polluted, and other-than-human-species-impooverished world is the starting point for our climate studies, we should consider the vast knowledge gained from a people who understood what it meant to live sustainably long before it has become a crisis. To leave our American Indian knowledge out of our climate plans and studies is to attempt a sustainable future with more unknown unknowns than we can possibly imagine. We should look to the peoples who knew how a healthy environment actually worked before it was seriously disturbed. Daniel Wildcat paints a clear picture of what will be lost if modern Climate Change planners don't include critical information gained by a people in touch with their environment.

This is an outstanding book. The topic is timely, a red alert situation for the whole world, a wake-up call from a distinctly native framework. The clarity of the writing is fantastic. It is easily accessible to anyone and it is a clear statement of indigenous thought and a call to action to move toward practices which native people employed to create and maintain a sustainable world. Great critique of current practices in society. It challenges our apathy in the face of potential world destruction. It is a great book for a course for undergraduates in many fields, but anyone can read and enjoy it.

Like a lot of the concepts in the book but it felt like it didn't offer enough solutions. Instead it echoed

the same idea that the planet should be saved with Indigenous knowledge.

Needed this for my Climate Change class in college and it is a great read, especially if you are Native.

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