Abstract:
Manifest Destinies 19th Century Narratives of Expansion and Indigenous Peoples Eds: David Maybury-Lewis Theodore Macdonald Biorn Maybury-Lewis How was frontier expansion rationalized in the late nineteenth century Americas? As new states fleshed out expanded national maps, how did they represent their advances? Were there any distinct pan-American patterns? These questions arose from anthropologist and human rights advocate David Maybury-Lewis’ thinking, musing, and teaching over the last 30 years. Maybury-Lewis saw the Latin American frontiers as relatively unknown physical space and unexplored academic “territory” as well. This collection of essays, prepared by six country specialists for a 2006 conference that he hosted, explore public narratives of the expansion of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and the western regions of Canada and the United States during the late 19th Century, a time when those who then identified as “Americans” or saw their home as their patri claimed territories in which indigenous peoples lived and where now seen as economic and political obstacles. The chapters explore the perceptions, expressed in narrative forms, that stirred or rationalized expansion, and emphasizes their impact on the native residents. Nationalism and its imaginative explanatory power created also illustrate geographic and ideological similarities across the peripheries of the Americas, linking these distinct and individual narratives into broad pan-American patterns. In less than one-half century and largely independent of one another, a set of ideas and images appeared that would justify the occupation of frontier countries and regions by people who were not indigenous, and who would do so at their expense. The incorporation of these frontiers created, for most intents and purposes, the boundaries of the present day Americas. While the expansion took place on the lands and homes of indigenous peoples, the old residents, with exception of few well-known rebels, were seen largely as anonymous objects on a newly incorporated landscape. The chapters illustrate the variety and the similarities of these nationalist ideas and experiences. In most cases, these new states were imagined in symbolic and cultural terms, rather than explained in simple materialist or essentialist claims. The cases also illustrate that civic nationalism, often seem as inclusive as and more benign than ethnic nationalism, can produce similarly destructive human and cultural ends. As such the essays in this book suggest new ways to view nationalism, as a theoretical concept, as well as frontier expansion, as a historical phenomenon. Includes 3-4 maps; no figures, prints, or drawings.
Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Human Rights System. Fact Sheet No. 9. Rev.2. Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations. It applies human rights to indigenous peoples and their specific situations, thereby helping to reverse their historical exclusion from the international legal system. International activity on indigenous peoples’ issues has been expanding also in regional human rights bodies, such as the African and inter-American human rights systems, and into international law and policy areas as diverse as the environment (including climate change), intellectual property and trade. This Fact Sheet provides a reader-friendly overview of the United Nations human rights system and the rights of indigenous pe... Contesting Civilization's Destiny A REVIEW BY MARÍA CLEMENCIA RAMÍREZ Manifest Destinies and Indigenous PeoplesEdited by David Maybury-Lewis, Theodore Macdonald and Biorn Maybury-LewisThe David Rockefeller Center Series on Latin American Studies, Harvard University 2009. These dual commitments date back to Dr. Maybury-Lewis’s eighteen months of intensive fieldwork with the Xavante people of Brazil in the late 1950s, which his son Biorn also experienced as a toddler. The ideology of “Manifest Destiny” expanded the development of the Americas by exploiting resources to create new technology that ran their economy. But it was unethical because it drove indigenous people out of their land with the start of the Indian Removal Act to the Trail of Tears which led to long-term effects in present time. In the development of America, President Thomas Jefferson wanted to move the country forward to build the economy and help new European settlers. Westward Expansion would mean an increase in economic and social benefit, Jefferson thought. But he thought that the ind...