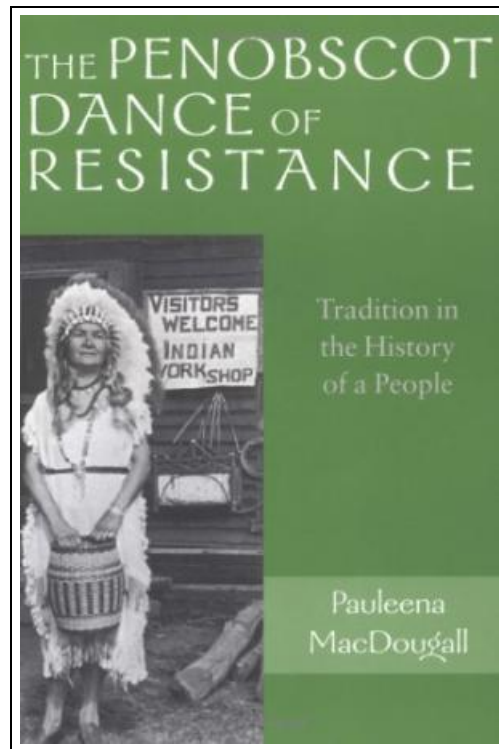


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niversity of New Hampshire Press, 2004. Softcover. Book Condition: New. 264 pages. Softcover. New book. NEW ENGLAND. An intriguing history of the survival of a Native American people. Although historians predicted the demise of the Penobscot Indians early in the nineteenth century, the tribe is thriving at the opening of the twenty-first century. Having by the early 1800s been rendered all but invisible to the dominant culture, the Penobscots, by selectively adapting to changing circumstances, won back land and visibility. The vital importance of employing elements of cultural resistance as a survival mechanism has, until now, been underestimated. In a larger context, Dance of Resistance demonstrates how an examination of the history of one Indian nation provides a window on the complex interaction of cultural systems in America. MacDougall demonstrates that Penobscot legend, linguistics, dance, and oral tradition became "foundations of resistance" against assimilation into the dominant culture. She thoughtfully and accessibly reconstructs from published, archival, and oral sources the tribe's metaphorical and triumphant "Dance of Resistance"Ñfounded on spiritual power, reverence for homeland, and commitment to self-determinationÑfrom colonial times to the present. A decade of political activism culminated in the precedent-setting 1980 Maine Indian Land Claims settlement. Today the Penobscots run small industries, manage their natural resources, and provide health services, K through 8 education, and social services to the poor and elderly of their community. "Based largely on primary sources from archives and fieldwork, MacDougall uses the metaphor of dance to illustrate how the Penobscots have been able to preserve their culture in the face of European domination, pressure, and assimilation . . . the book is an informative description of the Penobscot situation, which parallels the history of most other Native American groups."ÑJournal of Folklore Research "MacDougall shows how the tribe has changed in enormous ways just as...



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