

Indian Country in Crisis: D.G. Comer Reveals Poverty, Nepotism, Hunger, Addiction, & Broken Systems Cripple Sovereignty

An investigative report by D.G. Comer details systemic failures within tribal leadership and calls for greater accountability to restore genuine sovereignty.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Author and Native executive D.G. Comer follows up his groundbreaking book [Business & Politics in Indian Country – You Can't Handle the Truth](#) with a second-week exposé that refuses to let the conversation fade. His investigation exposes how poverty, nepotism, addiction, broken systems, and moral complacency continue to undermine Native sovereignty from within.

"The first week exposed the message," Comer says. "The second week demands a reckoning."

While Indian Country still battles the long shadow of federal oppression, Comer argues the deeper danger is internal decay — tribal governments and corporations that mimic the very bureaucracies once used to control them. "We've inherited the tools of colonialism," he warns, "and we're using them on ourselves."

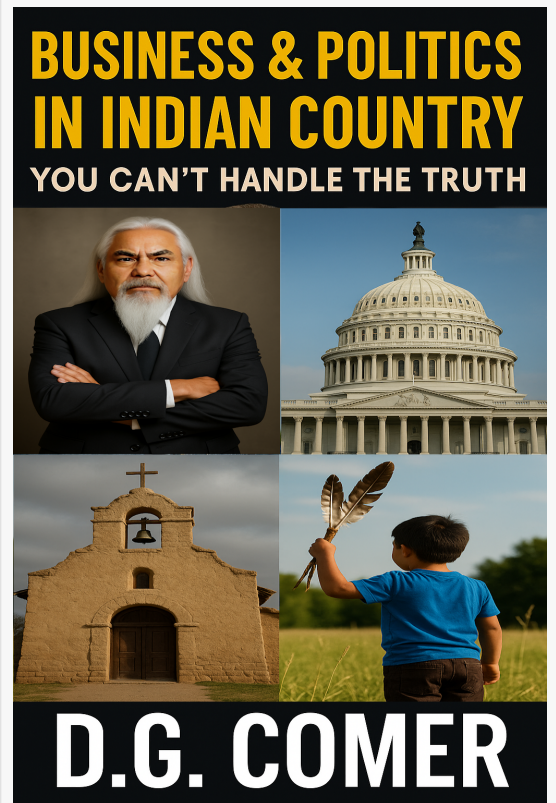
A Crisis Hidden in Plain Sight

“

We've inherited the tools of colonialism—and we're using them on ourselves.”

D.G. Comer

Across more than 570 federally recognized tribes, billions circulate each year, yet many Native families still endure poverty, unsafe water, and unemployment rivaling the Great Depression. Comer says these contradictions are not coincidences.



Front Cover of Business & Politics in Indian Country

"Too many leaders have mastered the art of blame," he writes. "We blame the Bureau of Indian Affairs or Congress — while ignoring the dysfunction inside our own walls."

"Sovereignty isn't a slogan," Comer continues. "It's a system of responsibility. If you can't run your own government with fairness and honesty, you haven't earned it."

He calls this failure the defining crisis of modern Indian Country — "hidden in plain sight, dressed in cultural pride but hollow at its core."

The Manufactured Trap of Dependency

Poverty remains the most visible symptom. Many tribal economies depend almost entirely on gaming or federal allocations, creating what Comer calls a "manufactured dependency loop."

"When your income depends on outside approval, sovereignty becomes theater," he says. "Freedom begins when we own our income streams, not just our land titles."

He highlights tribes building renewable-energy, construction, and technology ventures as examples of economic diversification. "We don't lack capacity," Comer notes. "We lack replication. Courage is contagious — but so is complacency."

Nepotism: The Quiet Saboteur

If dependency is the cage, nepotism is the lock. Comer's research exposes how favoritism and cronyism limit opportunity to those within political or family circles.

"Some councils operate less like governments and more like private clubs," he says. "We've replaced colonial hierarchy with cousin hierarchy."

Kinship itself, he insists, is not the problem — corruption is. "Family should be our strength,"

"The truth isn't lost. It's buried — under silence, loyalty, and fear."

For generations, Native politics have been split in two: the version we say out loud, and the one we survive in silence.

Business & Politics in Indian Country - You Can't Handle the Truth. doesn't play it safe. It breaks the code. It confronts the dysfunction. And it drags the real stories—of corruption, betrayal, and cultural decay—into the light where they belong.

This isn't theory. It's a reckoning.

Written by a Native business leader who's lived it from the inside, this book doesn't ask for permission or forgiveness. From casino profits and per-capita wars to dis-enrollment, failed leadership, and identity politics, D.G. Comer calls it like it is—chapter by chapter, truth by uncomfortable truth.

"We cannot heal what we're too afraid to name. And in Indian Country, fear has been running the show for far too long." — D.G. Comer

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

D.G. Comer is an enrolled member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and a U.S. Army veteran. He's spent decades seeing the truths in tribal governance and politics up close. He has been deeply involved in economic development and federal contracting across Indian Country. In this book, he presents a brutally honest view and a zero tolerance for softening the message. Comer doesn't write to be popular—he writes to wake people up.

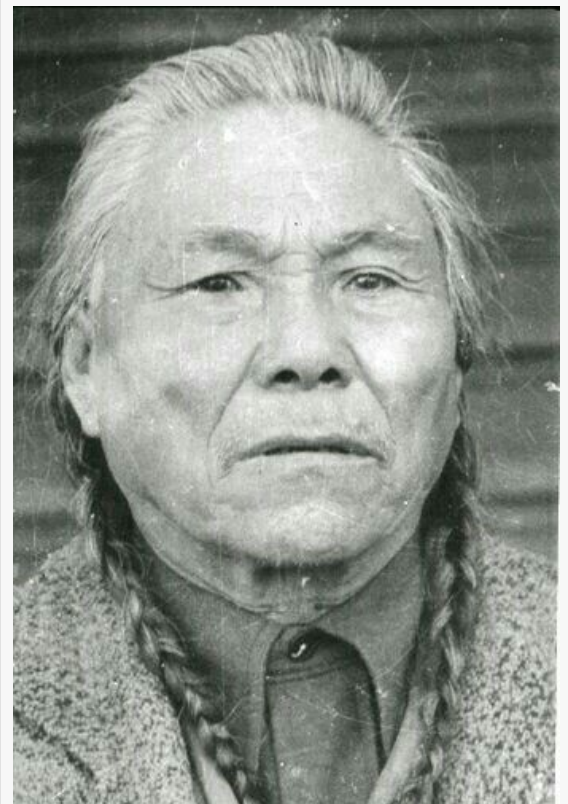
"The most honest book ever written about Indian Country—and the most necessary"



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Back cover of *Business & Politics in Indian Country*



Schitsu'umsh -- Morris Antelope

Comer writes. "But when family loyalty replaces fairness, we lose both."

Addiction and Mental Health: The Unspoken War

Few topics cut closer to home. "Every Native family I know — including my own — has buried someone because of addiction or despair," Comer shares. "We light candles for them, but we don't light a fire under the system that failed them."

He criticizes programs that spend heavily on "awareness" while neglecting treatment and follow-up care. "We don't need another poster campaign," Comer says. "We need sober leadership, not slogans."

He calls for mandatory audits of addiction funding, transparent recovery data, and youth programs that treat prevention as investment, not afterthought.

Broken Systems and the Bureaucracy of Failure

Beneath these issues lies structural rot — systems that preserve paychecks instead of progress. Education departments track attendance, not learning. Courts enforce loyalty, not law. Agencies reward silence over competence.

Comer calls it the "bureaucracy of failure" — a cycle of mediocrity sustained by fear of change. "Too many officials think reform means rebellion," he says. "They protect the comfort of power instead of the power of the people."

He challenges leaders to "stop mistaking ceremony for sovereignty." Cultural pride, he argues, must be matched with competence. "Our ancestors didn't pray for more committees — they prayed for warriors willing to speak truth."

A Call for Accountability

Comer's exposé offers a framework for reclaiming authentic sovereignty:

****Merit Over Bloodline **** – Hire for skill, not surname.

****Radical Transparency **** – Publish budgets and contracts for public review.

****Ethics Oversight **** – Create independent review boards immune to political pressure.

****Health First **** – Make recovery and youth wellness central to governance.

****Diversified Sovereignty **** – Build enterprises that outlive election cycles.

“Accountability isn’t anti-Native,” Comer insists. “It’s the oldest tradition we have — standing responsible for what we’ve been given.”

Beyond the Book

This exposé continues Comer’s ongoing effort to confront internal challenges within Indian Country and to encourage open discussion about accountability and reform. He urges tribal citizens, leaders, and readers alike to think critically about how sovereignty is practiced—not just proclaimed.

Comer emphasizes that change must begin within Native communities themselves. “Change imposed from Washington is supervision,” he says. “Change demanded by our own people is sovereignty.”

He envisions a future built on transparency, ethical leadership, and courage to confront difficult truths.

“Our elders fought to reclaim our nations,” Comer concludes. “Now it’s His goal is to turn dialogue into measurable reform — open audits, leadership training, and a new generation of Native professionals unafraid to challenge the system.

“Our elders fought to reclaim our nations,” Comer concludes. “Now it’s our turn to reclaim our integrity.”

About the Author

D.G. Comer is a Native executive, U.S. Army veteran, and author whose work spans business leadership, tribal governance, and social reform. Through Heck Fuzzy Productions, he challenges entrenched narratives and sparks national dialogue with firsthand, unapologetic truth-telling.

Availability

Business & Politics in Indian Country – You Can’t Handle the Truth is available in hardcover and paperback from [HeckFuzzy.com](https://heckfuzzy.com), [Amazon](https://amazon.com), and IngramSpark.

Limited Autographed First Editions, embossed and gold-sealed, are available exclusively through the author’s website while supplies last.

“If we don’t fix what’s broken within, it won’t matter who stands outside our doors. The real battle for sovereignty begins in the mirror.” D.G.Comer

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