
Conformity and Conflict: Past and Present Meskwaki (and Sauk) Justice and Authority Systems
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This paper examines the Justice and Authority systems of the Meskwaki and to a lesser degree Sauk. It seeks to construct understandings of historic forms of justice and authority from historic records from earliest sources through the forced application of western-style justice and authority systems by the US Government in the late 1800s. Mechanisms and positions/roles will be reviewed addressing small-scale (residential unit/clan) versus large-scale processes (village/nation). Lastly, the impacts of the US Government on these traditional forms will be discussed followed by comments on the contemporary configurations and their relationship to their traditional counterparts. The focus of this paper will be Meskwaki forms, but comparative a