

NATIVE AMERICANS AND "THE" ETHNIC EXPERIENCE ^{MAS}

Scott Heron
University of Montana, Missoula, MT

By separating the last two centuries of Native American conflict into four distinct types, this paper examines the common origins, processes and outcomes of each. The commonalities, or "laws of conflict", can help anthropologists understand how and why groups that come into contact react

as they do. By using historical examples, I will show how conflict itself changes not only the groups' practices, but their ethnic identity as well. This model is applicable to all conflict situations and may help us to further understand them; possibly, even predict them.