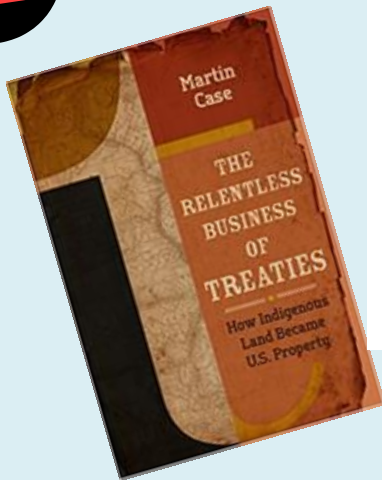


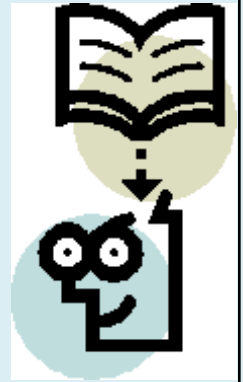
## DFL SENIOR CAUCUS



# BOOK CLUB



**Selection for January 18**  
**The Relentless Business of  
Treaties: How Indigenous Land  
Became US Property**  
by  
**Martin Case**



## Discussion

This book explains how the property system of the United States was foisted on indigenous peoples through the mendacity of traders, speculators, and politicians. Commercial, family, and political ties among US treaty signers and negotiators ensured corrupt bargains and the tragic loss of tribal lands.

The process of making treaties for land cessions with Native American nations transformed human relationships to the land and became a profitable family business. The story of "western expansion" is a familiar one: U.S. government agents, through duplicity and force, persuaded Native Americans to sign treaties that gave away their rights to the land. But Martin Case argues that this framing hides a deeper story. Land cession treaties were essentially the act of supplanting indigenous kinship relationships to the land with a property relationship. And property is the organizing principle on which U.S. society is based. Rather than focusing on the impacts of a treaty or the process of treaty negotiations, Case analyzes the motivations of those who signed the treaties on behalf of the United States government.

### **Coming Meeting** **The Relentless Business of Treaties**

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86446648933>

**11:00 – 1:00 Monday**  
**January 18, 2021**

Contact: Cindy Spellman (651-728-0575  
rooskie0825@gmail.com)

### *February 15:*

Discussion with a representative of MN Move to Amend, an organization promoting an amendment to reverse the SCOTUS 2011 Citizens United decision that corporations are "people" for purposes of the law.