Province I Indigenous Peoples' Justice Network Book Discussion Series - Wednesday, November 8, 2023 (7:00 -8:30 p.m.)
Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctfuGqqj8jHdEhZ1iv3IhYQsEPCmKrieKX

***This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving*, 2019**
By David Silverman

In March 1621, when Plymouth's survival was hanging in the balance, the Wampanoag sachem (or chief), Ousamequin (Massasoit), and Plymouth's governor, John Carver, declared their people's friendship for each other and a commitment to mutual defense. Later that autumn, the English gathered their first successful harvest and lifted the specter of starvation. Ousamequin and 90 of his men then visited Plymouth for the "First Thanksgiving." The treaty remained operative until King Philip's War in 1675, when 50 years of uneasy peace between the two parties would come to an end.

400 years after that famous meal, historian David J. Silverman sheds profound new light on the events that led to the creation, and bloody dissolution, of this alliance. Focusing on the Wampanoag Indians, Silverman deepens the narrative to consider tensions that developed well before 1620 and lasted long after the devastating war—tracing the Wampanoags' ongoing struggle for self-determination up to this very day.

This unsettling history reveals why some modern Native people hold a Day of Mourning on Thanksgiving, a holiday which celebrates a myth of colonialism and white proprietorship of the United States. *This Land is Their Land* shows that it is time to rethink how we, as a pluralistic nation, tell the history of Thanksgiving.
(From the Bloomsbury Publishing Homepage)

David Silverman (Ph.D., Princeton, 2000) is Professor of History at George Washington University, specializing in Native American history, Colonial American history, and American racial history. This is his most recent book. He is also the author of *Thundersticks: Firearms and the Violent Transformation of Native America* (Cambridge, MA., 2016); *Red Brethren: The Brothertown and Stockbridge Indians and the Problem of Race in Early America* (Ithaca, 2010), and *Faith and Boundaries: Colonists, Christianity, and Community among the Wampanoag Indians of Martha's Vineyard, 1600-1871* (New York, 2005), and co-author of *Ninigret, the Niantic and Narragansett Sachem: Diplomacy, War, and the Balance of Power in Seventeenth-Century New England and Indian Country* (Ithaca, 2014). His essays have won major awards from the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the New York Association of History. (From David Silverman's GWU homepage)