

Part 4

The Flaw in the Weave

Historical Trauma Response (HTR) and Intergenerational Trauma (IT)



Historical Trauma Response (HTR)

**It is said that past events shape
current reality**

HTR Theory continued...

- ◆ **A collection of characteristics is formed in relation to the trauma that a group of people have endured**
- ◆ **HTR shows itself across Native American Nations as a group, as well as with individuals**

An Important Element

- ◆ Trauma responses to past cataclysmic events can be transferred to offspring.
- ◆ Descendants of people who have suffered genocide not only identify with the past, but also emotionally re-experience it in the present



The Trauma

- ◆ 1880's – 1950's boarding school era
- ◆ Federal Policy forced removal of Indian children from their homes and into abusive institutions



Distortion of Identity

- ◆ Self-concept
- ◆ Values
- ◆ Traditional ways-bonding with a group





Carlisle Indian Boarding School

Pathways to Healing

- ◆ Tapping into history, not the trauma, but the thousands of years of strength, spiritual direction, inherent resiliency, and the discovery of positive identity
- ◆ Healing Circles-grieving for our forefathers, acknowledgement of the pain



Key Points

- ◆ **HTR is a response to past cataclysmic events that our individuals ancestors have experienced**
- ◆ **HTR can be transferred to offspring**
- ◆ **HTR for American Indians was caused by the forced removal of tribes to the west and removal of children to boarding schools**

Key Points continued...

- ◆ **Stripping of ones culture causes distortion of identity causing psychosis and mental health problems**
- ◆ **Tribal communities are learning to heal by grieving for their fore fathers and acknowledging the pain that they suffered**