

Dakota Access Controversy



This photo was taken on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota in 2016 during the height of the Dakota Access pipeline protests. The movement to prevent the pipeline from being built is incredibly controversial, one side, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe argues, “that the pipeline... could threaten their sole water source and that, more importantly, they were not consulted before the pipeline was approved” (Meyer). On the other end of the spectrum, many believe, “it would also significantly decrease U.S. reliance on foreign oil” and “free up railways to transport "crops and other commodities currently constrained by crude oil cargos” (Yen). But this photo and this issue are indicative of much more, we are at a point in our history at which we must make a choice, a choice between old world traditions and new

world industrialism, the environment and the economy, urbanization and heritage. This photo showcases the divide in our culture and our beliefs, and quite literally shows the line between the old and the new world, peace and violence. The historical significance of this photo lies in its ability to showcase this divide we face at the beginning of the 21st century, and decades from now we can look back, wondering if we made the right choice. In the future I hope this photo exists as a symbol that we can fight for our beliefs, and not as a sad reminder of a long lost past.

Works Cited

- Meyer, Robinson. "The Legal Case for Blocking the Dakota Access Pipeline." *The Atlantic*. Atlantic Media Company, 09 Sept. 2016. Web.
- Yan, Holly. "Dakota Access Pipeline: What's at Stake?" *CNN*. Cable News Network, 28 Oct. 2016. Web.