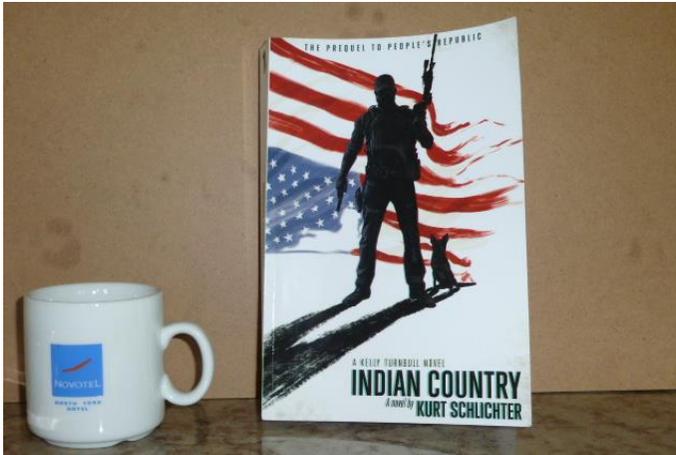


Indian Country

By Rod Fraser



FOR THOSE OF us who follow politics in the United States, the increasing polarization between Republicans and Democrats is worrisome. When I watch the evening news—night after night—I often wonder where it might lead. Is it possible history might repeat itself?

In the run-up to the civil war, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina seceded from the United States to form the Confederate States of America. Four other states (Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Arkansas) joined the Confederacy in the months that followed.

This action led to a civil war which lasted a little over four years (1861 – 1865). It resulted in the loss of life of 620,000 American soldiers.

IN LIGHT OF this current political polarization, Kurt Schlichter has written a cautionary novel about what can (and might) happen to a country unable to reconcile its differences. His book is called *Indian Country*, the year is 2027 and the United States is now two countries. The United States of America consists of what are today the red states; and the Peoples' Republic of North America is made up of the blue states.

Yes, I know! I know! Calling the blue states the Peoples' Republic is a little over the top. But that's not all. The novel shows Elizabeth Warren as the President of the Peoples' Republic, blue America's airlines have all been nationalized (the new entity is called – Justice Airlines), the concerns of the Peoples' Republic are obsessively oriented to social justice and its economy is falling apart.

Many people in blue America are abandoning their homes and businesses and moving to red America. For those who are right-of-centre, this novel has many anecdotes, witticisms and asides they will find amusing.

I found the portrayal of military officers, bureaucrats and others in authority in blue America (i.e.

Peoples' Republic) to be far-fetched, but perhaps that's just me. I have no love for leftist politics, but another author might have better described this new Jerusalem—a blue America where common sense and good governance is sacrificed to political correctness, groupthink and intimidation by the mob.

For all that, this is still an interesting novel. Some books are worthwhile for the overall narrative, the general setting of the book or the skill with which the author describes his characters. *Indian Country* is interesting because of its fascinating plot. With all that is going on in the United States today, it is surprising that only one author has dared to put in print what the rest of us only think. What might happen if the United States split up into two separate countries?

In *Indian Country*, at the time the novel takes place, America has already become two countries. Few details of the negotiations leading to the split are provided, but it seems each individual state declared its allegiance to either red or blue America. Within a short time, the two new countries were formed and there is an uneasy truce between them.

One of the major problems is that the people in parts of certain states are hostile to the country to which they have been assigned. For example, in the south of Indiana, many people consider themselves

part of red America culturally. They don't wish to be part of blue America. All the more so, because they are harassed and bullied by the police and political establishment of blue America. This area is now known humorously as *'Indian Country'*.

Negotiations are being conducted by the two countries to see what might be done. In the lead up to those negotiations, Kelly Turnbull, an officer in the United States Army (now red America), is sent to southern Indiana to create trouble. He is instructed to organize the locals to persuade blue America that it would be better for all concerned if they were to cede southern Indiana to red America. Similar resistance movements are active in other border states.

I don't wish to give the story away, but many readers will be fascinated to see what a well-armed local resistance can do when faced with a superior force in rural and urban areas. Each has its own particular strengths and weaknesses and it is not at all clear who might prevail in such a conflict.

Schlichter's military background is very useful in writing about an insurgency. In a recent [article](#) in *Townhall.com*—dealing with the possibility of civil war in the United States—he had this to say.

"The military would have the combat power to win any major engagement, but insurgents don't get into major engagements with forces that have more combat power."

"They instead leverage their decentralized ability to strike at the [military's] weak points.... In other words, hit and run, and no stand-up fights."

In a separate part of the same article, Schlichter speculated a group of American guerillas, confronted with one or two M1A2 Abrams tanks, would likely split into small groups. One or two groups would "ambush the fuel and ammo trucks," rendering the tanks inoperable in a short time.

Others would shadow the tanks—out of range—waiting for the tank crews to stop for a call of nature. When that happened, a sniper with a hunting rifle would take them down with a well-placed ".30-06 round ... from 300 meters."

IN ONE OF the final paragraphs of *Indian Country*, Schlichter wrote, "The big idea is that citizens armed with individual weapons can provide a powerful opposition to even a conventional military that is in the service of an oppressive government."

"The Founding Fathers knew exactly what they were doing when they enshrined the Second Amendment within the Bill of Rights. Let's hope we never have to put their wisdom to the test."

IT IS WORTH noting that Kurt Schlichter has had a very interesting career. He is currently a trial lawyer in Los Angeles, a senior columnist at *Townhall.com*

(where he writes two columns a week) and a former infantry officer in the U.S. Army (retiring with the rank of full colonel). It is not surprising that he was a stand-up comic for several years. This is apparent in his writing style.

He has a master's degree in strategic studies from the United States Army War College and has written a number of books. *Indian Country* is his most recent. It was published in 2017.

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