

## **Native Americans**

**As the efforts to assimilate us largely failed and we remained, mostly, in our homelands, Americans have gradually assimilated to our cultures, and our worldview, and our modes of connecting to nature.**

**The parks enshrine places, but they also emphasize and prioritize a particular way of interacting with the land.**

**In the nation's mythic past, the wilderness may have been a dangerous environment, something to be tamed, plowed under, cut down.**

**But that way of relating to the land is no longer in vogue.**

**For many Americans, our wildplaces are a solace, a refuge — cathedrals, indeed.**

**America has succeeded in becoming more Indian over the past 245 years than the other way around.**

**David Treuer, *The Atlantic*, May 2021**