The struggle of indigenous peoples: Chile’s Mapuche

Indigenous peoples worldwide are fighting for political recognition and a greater say in decisions that affect their lives. Mila Lizarraga, a writer and editor on human rights, sustainable development and corporate responsibility issues, describes the plight of Chile’s Mapuche.

Between 300 million and 400 million people around the world identify as indigenous. In Chile, although this number is small, the Mapuche (or Mapuche) is the term most widely used. In 2007, the United Nations declared 2019–2024 the International Decade for People of Indigenous Origins. The Mapuche are a group of indigenous peoples who are native to South America, primarily in Chile and Argentina. The Mapuche are known for their strong cultural and linguistic traditions. They are one of the oldest cultures in the Americas, with a long history of resistance to colonization.

The Mapuche people are one of the oldest indigenous groups in South America. They have a rich history and culture, and are known for their traditional way of life. They are also known for their resistance to colonization and the fight for their land rights. The Mapuchepeople have experienced significant challenges over the years, including displacement, violence, and loss of land.

In the 19th century, the Mapuche were subject to forced relocation and assimilation policies. This included the Alta-Rio River in southern Chile, where the Mapuche were relocated through biodiversity-rich mountainous, rural lands to the Pehuenche (“People of the Pines”). This area is known as ENDESA, or the Mapuche’s national electric company. ENDESA has been involved in disputes with the Mapuche over the construction of hydroelectric dams, which threatened the Mapuche’s way of life and cultural identity.

In January 2004, Mapuche leader Victor Ancalaf was sentenced under Chile’s notorious “anti-terrorist” law for his role in the Mapuche resistance. The Mapuche have long been targeted by the Chilean government for their resistance to the exploitation of their land and natural resources. The Mapuche have been repeatedly targeted by the government and corporations for their activism, with severe consequences for their physical and mental health.

The Mapuche are in a constant struggle for their land rights, cultural preservation, and self-determination. They continue to fight against the policies and practices that threaten their way of life and cultural identity. The struggle for the Mapuche is not just for land, but for the preservation of their way of life and cultural traditions. The Mapuche are a symbol of resistance against colonization and the fight for indigenous peoples’ rights.

Population matters

Demographers from the Washington-based Population Reference Bureau believe the planet is in a period of population swings between 2005 and 2015. The most striking fluctuations can be observed in developing countries, with a huge tracts of native forest. Logging as private corporations clear-cut the south-marine areas, resulting in the destruction of the communities and expulsion from their lands.

With democracy’s return in the 1990s, Chile passed a new ‘indigenous law’ to promote Mapuche autonomy by treaty. Although there is no standard definition of the term ‘indigenous peoples’, they refer to a group of people who have a shared ancestry, culture, and history. The Mapuche people, who are native to South America, primarily in Chile and Argentina, can be considered an indigenous group.

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