

# NATIVE CANADIANS

ABORIGINALS, INUIT, METIS

Indian Residential Schools Student Documentary

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ\\_qiCt7tHw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ_qiCt7tHw)

Canadian Aboriginal History: "Did You Know"? (part 1 of 2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8QmxU6lZHw>



# **CANADIAN SOCIETY.** **NATIVE PEOPLES**

**Aboriginals comprise a small but extremely  
disparate group in Canada.**

**They constitute roughly 3.7 percent of  
Canada's population..**



## **NATIVE STATUS**

**1982 Charter of Rights and  
Freedoms-Aboriginal peoples  
included.**

**1.6 million Canadians reported  
Aboriginal ancestry that year.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of  
million hold Native status.**

....3.7 percent of total population..

1991-“Indians, Inuit, Metis, 790,000

Indians, 515,000 Metis, 49,000 Inuit-



## INDIAN ACT 1985 (BILL C-31)...

The term Indian today (status or registered) refers to those who are recognized as Indian by the federal government's Indian Act 1985...

I.e. Women who married non-Indians lost status-patriarchal until Bill C-31...



# **COLONIZED PEOPLES** **HAD RIGHTS?**

King George III in 1763 acknowledged the right of Aboriginal peoples to negotiate treaties for land use and status...

The Proclamation was soon forgotten...Cooperation turned into domination



## UNDER KING GEORGE III IN 1763

### Natives were:

- Relegated to remote land areas
- Land deemed useless by government'
- 1876 status and non status Indians were Isolated & marginalized

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# **COLONIALISM DEFINED**

Colonialism is the extension of a nation's  
sovereignty over territory beyond its borders  
By the establishment of either settler colonies  
Or by administrative dependencies in which  
indigenous populations are directly ruled or  
displaced.



# **DECOLONIZATION**

**Decolonization refers to the  
undoing of colonialism.**

**Gradual weakening of  
oppression..**



# **COLONIAL RACISM: THREE COMPONENTS**

**One,** the culture of the colonist and the colonized;

**Two,** the exploitation of these differences for the benefit of the colonialist;

**Three,** the use of these supposed differences as standards of absolute fact....



# **RACISM**


**RACISM APPEARS THEN, NOT AS AN  
INCIDENTAL DETAIL, BUT AS A  
CONSUBSTANTIAL PART OF  
COLONIALISM.**

**Racialization is the word...**



# ABORIGINAL SELF-DETERMINATION

The struggle for Aboriginal *self-determination* is the product of its unique dialectic with the Canadian State and its policies of Uni-culturalism, bi-culturalism and multiculturalism.



# **RESISTANCE OF COLONIAL MASTERS**

The issue resistance, violence, oppression-  
**Indian Act of 1876-**

**Parts** still in application

le.To be eligible one must be part of 622  
native bands, be registered in Ottawa,  
be entitled to live on reserves.


# **1876 INDIAN ACT**

**European customs were built into the  
right for freedom 1876 Alternative-  
Non Status Indian**

**The right to freedom meant loss of  
Native Identity.**



**By enfranchising, a person was supposed to be consenting to abandon native identity and communal society (with its artificial legal disabilities) in order to merge with the "free," individualistic and non-native majority.**





## FACTOID

There were in fact relatively few such enfranchisements over the years;

i.e A law to force enfranchisement of natives (in force 1920-22, 1933-51) was unpopular and a failure.




# **1876 INDIAN ACT**

- Given right to Voter-Enfranchisement-to set free-to admit citizenship-
- Thereby given privilege rights?
- To vote, to marry, to own property,  
Baptized a Christian

## **1960 ABORIGINAL DISENFRANCHISED**

In 1960, the Indian Act extended the ability for a native to be recognized as a Canadian citizen, but it was not until 1985 & Bill C-31 that the offensive Enfranchisement Clause was removed  
Not truly free in rights until then.




## **SYMBOLS, LABELS**

**De-colonialization is about the indigenous people of Canada challenging externally imposed labels. .**



## **NATIVES: A YOUNG DEMOGRAPHIC**

- More than one-third of Ontario's native population is under age 15.
  - Only 4% is older than 65
  - 40% between 20 and 44 years
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## **BIRTH RATE**

**Native females have a birthrate five times greater than general female population in Canada.**

**23/1000 women compared to 11.1/1000.**



The policy was to remove children from the influence of their families and culture and assimilate them into the dominant Canadian culture.



The system had origins in pre-Confederation times, but was primarily active following the passage of the Indian Act in 1876, until the late-20th century.






# **RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Nearly 39% of First Nations elderly lived in Residential schools.

- Physical and psychological abuse
- Loss of cultural identity
- separation from family
- Now 37% of women, 30% report abuse.

# **NATIVE SUICIDE AS CAUSE OF DEATH**

1. **Suicide 37% among youth**
  2. **Suicide 23% among young adults**
  3. **Rates 6 and 4 times greater than the general population.**
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# **ADDICTIONS**

Aboriginals are 6 times more likely to abuse alcohol.


The rate of fetal alcohol syndrome is three times higher for aboriginals babies at 100/1000 compared to .33 for Western countries.



## **REVEALING STATS.**

- 1. 50% of all residents at homeless shelters are Native ancestry**
  - 2. 18% of all Native housing is in need of major repair**
  - 3. 17% do not have a telephone,**
  - 4. 52% do not have a computer**
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## **EDUCATION**

1. Only 14% of Native population has completed High School.
  2. Natives over 20 years, twice as likely not to have High School.
  3. Three times less likely to have Bachelor's Degree.
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# UNEMPLOYMENT

1. The Unemployment rate among First Nations people in Canada is 16%.

2. Median Income-

First Nations-18,233 vs. Ontario 24,813.



# **NATIVES IN 1996.**

**20% of this group is unemployed  
compared to:**

**9% British,**

**7.5% Western Europe,**

**Black- Caribbean 16.2%**



# **PERSPECTIVES ON NATIVE ISSUES**

1.     Functionalist
2.     Conflict Theory
3.     Anti Racist Theory



# **FUNCTIONALIST THEORY**

**Oscar Lewis (1965) John Porter (1965)**

- **-Emphasize individual problems within any ethnic group.**
- **achievement –Culture of poverty**
- **SF...Blames the victim**
- **reinforces stereotypes & existing prejudices.**

## **CONFLICT THEORIES**

Since the 1970's, sociologists have focused on blocked opportunities of Native vs. Non Natives...



Internal Colonial Model-analyzes the  
problem of in terms of hegemony and  
patterns of political economy...



# **CONFLICT POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**The Canadian Government is an  
instrument of colonial domination,  
government limits actions of  
bands...**



- i.e.. Government makes it illegal for natives to use band money to hire lawyers to fight over old land treaties.
- Up until the 1960's natives could not vote in Provincial or Federal elections.

# **GOVERNMENT**

Chiefs who failed to cooperate with Canadian governments were often carefully removed from their status positions.

Even today Band councils must have their decisions approved by the Federal government....



# **LAND CLAIMS**

In land claim disputes going back 100 years, government and private business have tremendously benefited from the exploitation of land appropriated from Natives.

I.e. Alberta natives are owed millions from 200 oil and gas wells on their land...



# **FEMINIST AND ANTI-RACIST THEORIES**

**Feminists are concerned that traditional conflict theories fail to explore the divergent realities of aboriginal men and women...**





# **NATIVES ARE DIVERSE**

**Issues of sexual equality, patriarchy and monolithic theorizing....**

**Not all natives are unemployed, on welfare, work in dead end jobs...**

**They point out that some aboriginal men and women are highly skilled professionals, owners and managers**



## **BOLDT (1993)**

**Boldt (1993) argues that there exist a two-class social order on reserves comprised of:**

**Class One-landowners,  
politicians, bureaucrats,  
entrepreneurs**



## **BOLDT (1993)**

**Class Two-high employment,  
family disintegration,  
alcoholism, violence, drug  
abuse, incarceration...**



## NATIVE `UNCLE TOM'?

Land claim benefits controlled by native elites,

Inuit ruling class in cooperation with external corporations-

Some have learned to buy into capitalist game at the expense of others in the community



# NATIVE COMMUNITY

DECOLONIZATION

# **COLONIAL RACISM: THREE COMPONENTS**

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# DECOLONIALIZATION

. Decolonialization – is about challenging externally imposed labels.

New identity...new consciousness raising.



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## **FEDERAL SPENDING**

**The government allocates 5 billion /year to this group, however, little is actually spent on economic development-**



# **NISKA TREATY**

**Niska Treaty-633 Chiefs-the Charter  
entrenched existing rights**

**-For example, the government of British  
Colombia denies that Native peoples  
have any historic ownership of land..**



## `RECENT INCIDENTS'

1. James Bay (1970s)
2. Oka crisis- (late 1980s)
3. Six Nations-Caledonia, Ont. (2005)

# **DISTINCTIVE CANADIAN FEATURES**

Canada is a liberal democracy with a capitalist economy and a social welfare system more developed than the United States but less extensive than in many European countries.

Canadian sociology is therefore a fusion of perspectives. Left vs. Right



# SUMMARY

Natives have historically been oppressed by both of Canada's charter groups French and English

...From 1763 and King George III to Calendonia Crisis in 2005

Native were historically subjected to colonial oppression

The gradual undoing of this oppression is “de-colonization”.





# **COLONIAL STATUS.**

As a nation, Canada was established as an Outpost of western European society, and this connection lasted much longer in Canada than in the United States.

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# **THE CANADIAN COLONY**

Each part of Canada was originally a colony of France or Britain.

Unlike most other countries of the Americas, Canada never had a revolution to end colonial control



# CANADIAN GOV'T

The long colonial connection led to a strong ruling elite, and to a political and social culture that is more conservative than that developed in other countries of the Americas, especially the United States

Canadian government is arrogant in its treatment of Native Canadians..



# **WELFARE STATE**

Canada post war development is the  
social welfare state as a means of  
organization,

Compared to the United States with the  
greater reliance on individual initiative  
and private charity,



## **PEACE, ORDER, GOOD GOVERNMENT**

The orderly development of the western frontier, under the guidance of the NWMP and the RCMP, as opposed to the disorderly and lawless United States frontier is a feature of Canadian westward expansion

# **NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE**

**SEE1901-1910 (Volume XIII) WALSH, JAMES MORROW**

**Helped Sitting Bull...**

