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Author

Johnson, Troy

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Haida, Tsimshian, Nuxalk, and Kwakwaka'wakw. Would Black argue that the surrounding styles might just as logically be seen as reflecting different substyles of Heiltsuk or at least Northern Wakashan sculpture?

Alan Hoover
Royal British Columbia Museum

The Cambridge History Of The Native Peoples of America, Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2. Edited by Bruce G. Trigger and Wilcomb E. Washburn. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1996. 1,349 pages. \$99 cloth (both parts); \$49.95 each part.

Parts 1 and 2 *Native Peoples of the Americas* is the first volume of a massive three-volume series undertaken by Cambridge University Press. Volume II, titled *Mesoamerica*, is edited by R.E.W. Adams and Murdo Macleod, and Volume III, titled *South American*, is edited by Frank Salomon and Stuart B. Schwartz. If the scholarship found in Volume 1 is replicated in Volumes II and III, Cambridge University Press will have succeeded in bringing together the first truly hemispheric history of the Native peoples of the Northern Hemisphere.

In this two-part volume consisting of more than 1,000 pages, editors Bruce Trigger and Wilcomb Washburn bring together years of research and writings from a large number of noted archeologists, anthropologists, historians, linguists, and specialists in Native North American culture. The reader should be aware that in keeping with the tradition of Cambridge histories, the collection is not new research but rather a synthesis of existing knowledge. In order to present a balanced work, the editors compiled an impressive authorship including, in alphabetical order, Linda S. Cordell, University of Colorado, Boulder; David Damas, McMaster University; Robin Fisher, University of Northern British Columbia; Loretta Fowler, University of Oklahoma; Michael D. Green, University of Kentucky; Frederick E. Hoxie, Newberry Library; Howard R. Lamar, Yale University; Peter Nabokov, then at the University of Wisconsin; Arthur J. Ray, University of British Columbia; Neal Salisbury, Smith College; Bruce D. Smith, Smithsonian Institution; Dean R. Snow, Pennsylvania State University; William Swagerty, University of Idaho; Sam Truett, Yale University; as well as other articles.

Part 1 covers the period from precontact to the expansion of European colonization to the Mississippi Valley, 1780-1880, and includes articles focusing on the Native view of history, Native peoples in Euro-American historiography, the First Americans and the differentiation of hunter-gatherer cultures, indigenous farmers, agricultural chiefdoms of the Eastern Woodlands, entertaining strangers, North America in the sixteenth century, Native people and European settlers in eastern North America, and the expansion of European colonization to the Mississippi Valley.

I was encouraged when I started reading this volume because it began with a discussion of cultural views of history and the dynamics of myth. This, to me, held out the promise of a new, sensitive comparison of Native worldviews and values, including the value of Native history as told through legends, oral traditions, and Indian history written by Indian people. Much to my disappointment, however, even though the authors address the oral history of Native peoples with some degree of sensitivity, the volume remains largely an anthropological critique of the Bering land bridge migration, hunter-gatherer societies, and European contact and colonization.

Part 2 begins with the arrival of the horse on the Great Plains and concludes in the Native scholarly renaissance in the 1970s. It includes articles on the greater Southwest and California from the beginning of European settlement to the 1880s, the Northwest from the beginning of trade with Europeans to the 1800s, the reservation period, the Northern Interior, 1600 to modern times, and the Arctic from Norse contact to modern times. The most recent material on the political renaissance is dated in the 1970s and focuses on the role of the American Indian Movement, the National Congress of American Indians, and significant political changes such as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

Most of the material in Parts 1 and 2 will be familiar to people who have read the scholarly material for these periods; there is not much new in the way of exciting discovery or analysis. Exceptions to this are Robin Fisher's article, "The Northwest from the Beginning of Trade With Europeans to the 1800s," and Arthur J. Ray's "The Northern Interior, 1600 to Modern Times." Both of these articles provide succinct and insightful research into government relationships with the First Nations people of Canada.

While not much in the way of new and exciting material is presented to the reader, three extremely important points can

be made regarding this collection. First, it is probably the finest collection of articles of this type (anthropology, archeology, and Western history) that exists in any two-part set in print anywhere today. Second, the bibliographic essays at the end of each selection are undoubtedly the best I have ever seen. If the reader is interested in further references for research or reading, this is the place to look. The editors have done an exceptional job. This is equally true regarding the eighty-four illustrations that are presented in the two books. They are extremely valuable to the reader and provide a sense of place and continuity to the overall presentation. Third, and most important, the history of the First Nations people is presented here in the most complete and accurate manner that this reader has ever seen. This is extremely important as we think more and more in a hemispheric or global frame of reference of the relationship between colonial powers and indigenous peoples. No history of indigenous people can be complete without such an analysis.

I recommend this two-part volume to the library of every Native American and First Nations scholar and student. It is a valuable synthesis of the best of the scholarly writings on the Native People of the Americas and could easily be adopted for use in a two-semester seminar or undergraduate classroom setting.

Troy Johnson
California State University, Long Beach

Elusive Empires: Constructing Colonialism in the Ohio Valley, 1673-1800. By Eric Hinderaker. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997. 299 pages. \$49.95 cloth.

The colonizing powers of France and England failed in their efforts to extend imperial dominion over the Ohio Valley, Eric Hinderaker argues in this important study, while the newly independent United States succeeded wildly in forging an "empire of liberty." The European powers' efforts to exert control from the center foundered when confronted with the capacity of people on the scene, both Indians and Euro-Americans, to reshape and resist centrally devised programs and goals. But the United States, emboldened by its own revolutionary ideology, eschewed centralization. Instead of attempting to mediate among conflicting frontier interests, as earlier imperial powers had done, the new nation keyed its