

Seeing "The Other": European Views Of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples

BLM
1.3.8

With a partner, analyze two or more of the following quotations using BLM G.1 "Analyzing Quotations". Discuss your analysis in a small group and add your analysis to your portfolio.

"[Indians] are a remarkably strange and savage people, without faith, without law, without religion, without any civility whatever, living like irrational beasts, as nature has produced them, eating roots, always naked, men as well as women."

Andre Thevet, monk, Sixteenth Century

"...although they have been formed by as many different skills and usages as we have been, their nature is still half-way between man and beast, as they have not developed and learned the arts of peace and war as have the people of the other three parts of the habitable world."

Anonymous, 16th century

"This people may well be called savage, for they are the sorriest folk there can ever be in the world, and the whole lot of them had not anything above the value of five sous, their canoes and fishing nets excepted."

Jacques Cartier, explorer, 1491-1557

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"These people live like animals...it is evident that some men are by nature free, and others servile. In the natural order of things, the qualities of some men are such that they should serve, while others, living freely, exercise their natural authority and command."

John Mair, theologian, 1469-1550

The above quotes are found in:

Dickason, Olive Patricia. *The Myth of the Savage: And the Beginnings of French Colonialism in the Americas*, by Olive Patricia Dickason, The University of Alberta Press, 1984.

"They [the Norse people who settled in North America] needed to copy the Inuit practice of burning seal blubber for heat and light in the winter, and to learn from the Inuit the difficult art of hunting ringed seals, which were the most reliably plentiful source of food available in the winter. But the Norse had contempt for the Inuit—they called them skraelings, "wretches"—and preferred to practice their own brand of European agriculture."

From review of: Jared Diamond's "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed" Gladwell.com, The New Yorker , 2005 Archive

http://www.gladwell.com/2005/2005_01_15_a_collapse.html

"The Indians on board the ships called this island Saomete. I named it Isabela."

Christopher Columbus

From Revolution to Reconstruction: Documents: Christopher Columbus: Extracts from Journal (1942)

<http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/1400-1500/columbus/extract.htm>

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"The Indians gave up the land of their own free will, and for it received brass kettles, blankets, guns, shirts, flints, tobacco, rum and many trinkets in which their simple hearts delighted."

Patrick Gordon

http://www.changesurfer.com/Family/PS05/PS05_107.htm

"I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them. There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves."

John Wayne

"John Wayne's Approach to Native Americans"

<http://www.emmanuellevy.com/article.php?articleID=3792>

"Then, I realized that there is an indigenous presence in the Solar System. It's us. So, then, I got to wondering what would happen if a more technologically advanced society moved next door to us, the way we moved next door to the American Indians."

Sarah Zettel

"A Conversation with Sarah Zettel"

<http://www.sfsite.com/02a/sz74.htm>

"Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic, and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department."

Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, 1920
Titley, Brian, E. *A Narrow Vision: Duncan Campbell Scott and the Administration of Indian Affairs in Canada*, University of British Columbia Press, 1986, p. 50.