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Reading Log #2

HIST 1120-01

Chapter 2

1. Belshaw does a great job at choosing his starting point for discussing Canadian history. The primary knowledge of Canadian history would begin with post European contact, however, Belshaw discusses how Canada had been previous to the exposure of Europeans. As far as my experience with Canadian history, I have only learned about post European contact. Belshaw illustrates how Aboriginals lived previous to European contact, and also sheds light on how the Europeans discombobulated the ways of living for the Aboriginal people of Canada. This insight of the history of aboriginals gives a convincing argument for the reader because it demonstrates how the abrupt arrival of the Europeans had changed the ways of living for Aboriginal people, which is a great base to start with as far as Canadian history.
2. When talking about pre contact societies, Belshaw draws on how reliant these groups were on the land by saying, “Agriculture, horticulture, foraging, hunting, and fishing were key features of the economies of the pre-contact Americas” (52). This topic seems to become a reoccurring theme in this chapter as Belshaw continuously discusses how the Aboriginal societies used the land as a primary source of food.
3. Some questions that came to me as I read this chapter is why it is so uncommon to learn about these pre-contact societies. Maybe it might be from my personal experience, not once have I ever been introduced to the History of ore-contact aboriginal groups. Personally, I feel that Belshaw has demonstrated a comprehensible way of understanding the beginning of Canadian history because he has begun with the First Nations groups that had lived in the Americas for many years previous to the European contact.

Work Cite

Belshaw, John Douglas. *Canadian history. [electronic resource] : pre-confederation*., 2015. *Thompson Rivers University Catalog*, (accessed September 19, 2016).