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Reading log #3

History 1120-01

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1. Naomi Grifiths has an interesting perspective on Acadian history, seeing as she was not very familiar with the group previous to acquiring her job at the University of New Brunswick. Nevertheless, she became very educated on her the topic. Her main argument of this document is the deportation of the Acadian population and how they managed to survive such a traumatic catastrophe of a nation. Acadians are French speaking Catholic people located in the territories of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. In many instances, the Acadians were thriving as a population in all aspects, from religion to agricultural growth. This document analyses the declination of the Acadian people.
2. The separation of the Acadian people was for the purpose of diminishing or extermination the Acadian identity. Although that was the intention of Britain, Acadian identity stood strong. “The Exile—by whatever name it was an event that broke apart the first Acadian community but it did not destroy the Acadian identity. The strength of the Acadian reaction to their exile is extraordinary.”[[1]](#footnote-1) After the deportation of the Acadian community, the declination of the population grew violently. The death toll on the ships peaked at fifty percent and in most cases was roughly thirty percent. “Once landed, epidemics of smallpox and cholera struck the exiles, who had little experience of, and therefore little immunity to these diseases.”[[2]](#footnote-2) After these dilapidated living conditions the Acadians endured, they had to persuade the local authority to acknowledge them as part as the community, or worse, continue to travel further.
3. Naomi Griffiths did a great job of illustrating the living conditions the Acadians had to endure and also developing an understanding of what happened to the Acadians to the reader. This may spark questions for the reader, such as how much of the Canadian population have Acadian descent? If the deportation had not occurred, how much of the Canadian population would be consumed by Acadians or Acadian descendants? Would Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island be different if some Acadians hadn’t returned? Or did the return of the Acadians make much of an impact on these locations? Many of these questions are hypothetical, but also intrigues the reader to look further into the Acadian identity.

1. Griffiths Naomi, “Acadian Identity: The Creation and Re-Creation of the Community” Dalhousie Review (1993) 325-349 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Griffiths Naomi, “Acadian Identity: The Creation and Re-Creation of the Community” Dalhousie Review (1993) 325-349 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)