Reading Log #7

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History 1120-01

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1. The principle emphasis that is displayed by Mica Jorgenson in “Into That Country to Wok” is that there is evidence of First Nations population in the work force of the Gold rush, primarily in Barkerville. Many First Nations communities were included in the Gold rush, but the Dakelh (Carrier) people were the group that took the Gold rush head on. Jorgenson illustrates the poor job of citing a First Nations presence by saying, “despite much documentation of First Nations presence, Barkerville has long been subject to the myth that no First Nations lived or worked there.”[[1]](#footnote-1) There are many implications that First Nations tribes were absent in the Gold rush, but the Gold rush had settled on First Nations territory.
2. As previously stated, many academic sources fail to mention that First Nations tribes were present in the Gold rush. The Dakelh tribe were the primary group to participate in the Gold rush in Barkerville. Jorgenson expresses this by saying, “Even though First Nations did, in fact, live and work in the Region.” [[2]](#footnote-2)This remains the theme of the article and is the most significant point Jorgenson tries to get across. Disease is also another significant topic Jorgenson discusses. She illustrates how this genocide of the First Nations population correlates with these diseases such as influenza and smallpox. Disease also has a direct influence of the migration of most of these First Nations groups. Jorgenson displays the effects of disease by saying, “estimates for population loss in epidemics range as high as 90 percent in parts of British Columbia.’’[[3]](#footnote-3)
3. Many questions may rise while reading this article, but many of the themes of those questions might fall in the category of the violent loss of the First Nations population. For a race that had been so rich with resources to suddenly die off raises many questions such as how may First Nations were there before disease took effect? If they were to migrate, where would they? And might it even be worth it? At this point in time, Europeans had been spreading though the country at a rapid rate, how far must you travel to ensure they wouldn’t reach you in the near future? Would tribes be reluctant to migrate because they had subsistence strategies for these specific regions? Many of these questions had most likely gone through the minds of the tribal leaders, and had all most likely been considered by the leaders of these tribes.

1. Jorgenson Mica, “Into That Country to Work” BC Studies (2012) 109-136 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Jorgenson Mica, “Into That Country to Work” BC Studies (2012) 109-136 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Jorgenson Mica, “Into That Country to Work” BC Studies (2012) 109-136 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)