

Rift Between Worlds

Lit 501- Indigenous
(Canadian) Narratives
WS 23/24

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and
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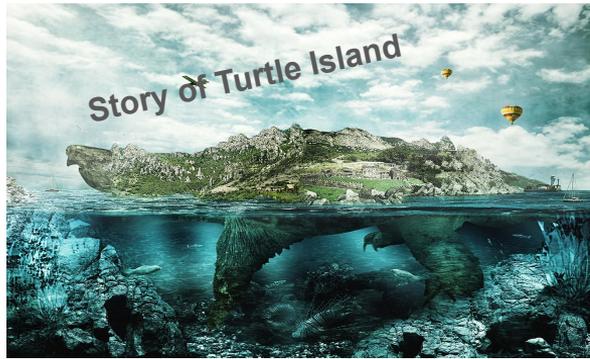
Many indigenous cultures believe the northern lights to be spirits of their ancestors and they are often attributed to various spiritual or natural forces.

Various tales emphasise on a deep connection between the natural world and the spiritual realm, highlighting the northern lights as a bridge between these two realms.

Spirituality



Christianity is a monotheistic religion. A central doctrine is the holy trinity, meaning the unity of God in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The sacred scripture is the Bible.



This is a tale found in many indigenous tribes. While details often vary, this tale showcases the importance put on nature as a spiritual entity which one should live in harmony and balance with.

Not all indigenous tribes feature a turtle in their creation story. Others feature a raven, the ocean spirit Sedna or the wolverine Kuekuatsheu



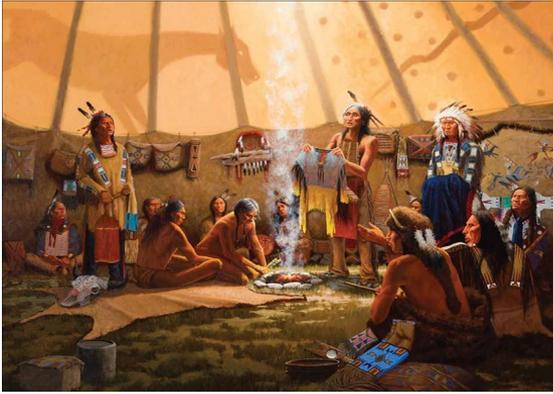
Nature



Since the enlightenment, western culture has been set on a path to utilize and “dominate” nature in an attempt to improve the human condition. This path to “realize man’s infinite potential” has in turn lead to many environmental problems today as the balance with nature has not only been disturbed, but destroyed.



Environmental efforts today aim to return this balance of nature and offer ideas how we can live in harmony with our planet. These efforts are not too different from some indigenous beliefs.



Possessions reinforced tribal identity and belongings.

Heirlooms are passed down to generations, connecting individuals to their ancestry and cultural heritage.

Possessions in Native American cultures carried culture memory, spiritual weight and resilience facing the historical challenges.

Possessions



In the western world, possessions are connected with identity. According to William James (1890), a person's self includes not only their body and mind, but also their possessions, e.g. clothes, house or bank account.

In capitalism, elements such as profit, competition and private property are very prominent.



Cultural identity is strongly connected with the tribal nation where an individual belongs.

Traditions and rites also play a significant role in Native American culture.

In addition to this, elders are highly respected in these societies, as they are considered as wise and have a lot of knowledge.

Culture



Native American children were ripped off their families in order to attend residential schools. The aim of the schools was to assimilate Indian American children into the western culture. The boy in this picture was forced to get his long hair cut, even though the hair has symbolic significance.



Residential schools were run by the church and government. Indian Americans had to leave behind their culture and religious beliefs, otherwise they were punished in horrible ways.

Circular Time



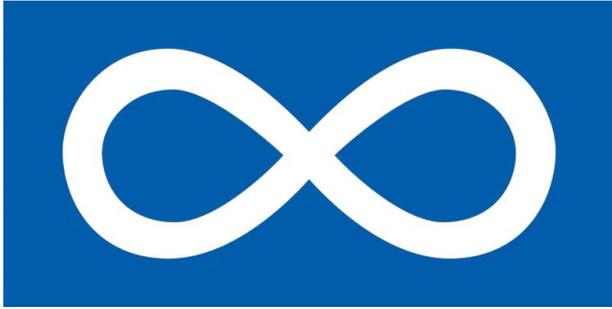
Indigenous tribes often hold a circular time belief, viewing time as cyclical rather than linear. This perspective sees events repeating and interconnected, emphasizing the ongoing relationship between past, present, and future

Time

Linear Time



Western culture is known for their linear views of time, which often underscores the importance of understanding history and traditions for navigating the present and the future.



Hope plays a big role in Native American culture, considering the generational trauma many of them still have to face.

By sharing experiences and stories from their past, such as in residential schools, Native Americans are given the chance to deal with their trauma and eventually start to heal from it.

Through healing, new families can break the cycle of neglect and abuse.



Joan Phillip. Activist for first nations and later Canadian politician

Hope



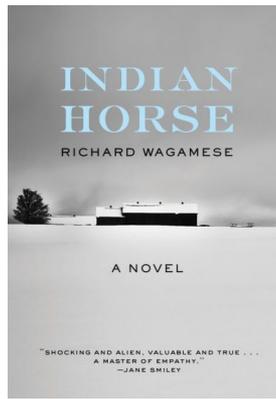
**IDLE
NO
MORE**



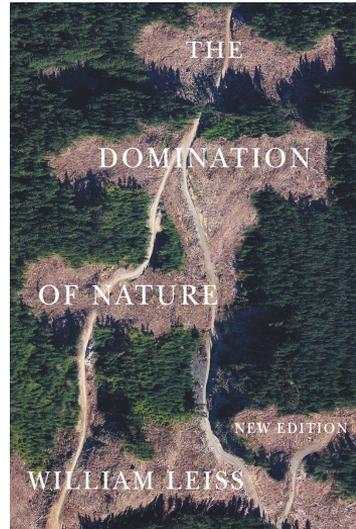
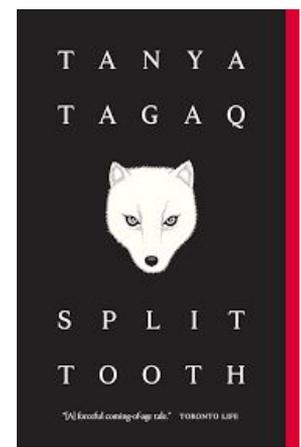
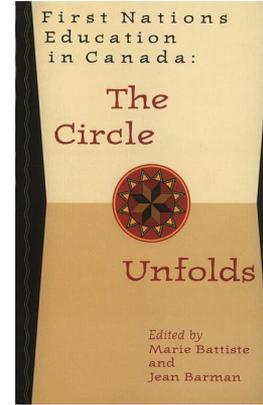
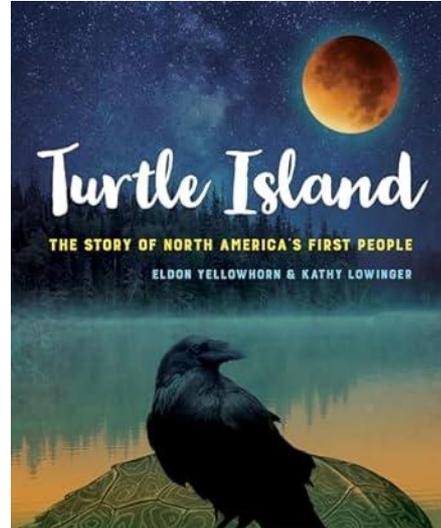
Canadian society can make a big impact as allies, such as showing compassion towards Native Americans as they mourn.

An effort can also be made in the field of educations, by teaching the history of Native Americans in schools.

The Canadian government has made efforts for reconciliation with Indigenous people, such as enforcements of Indigenous rights.



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