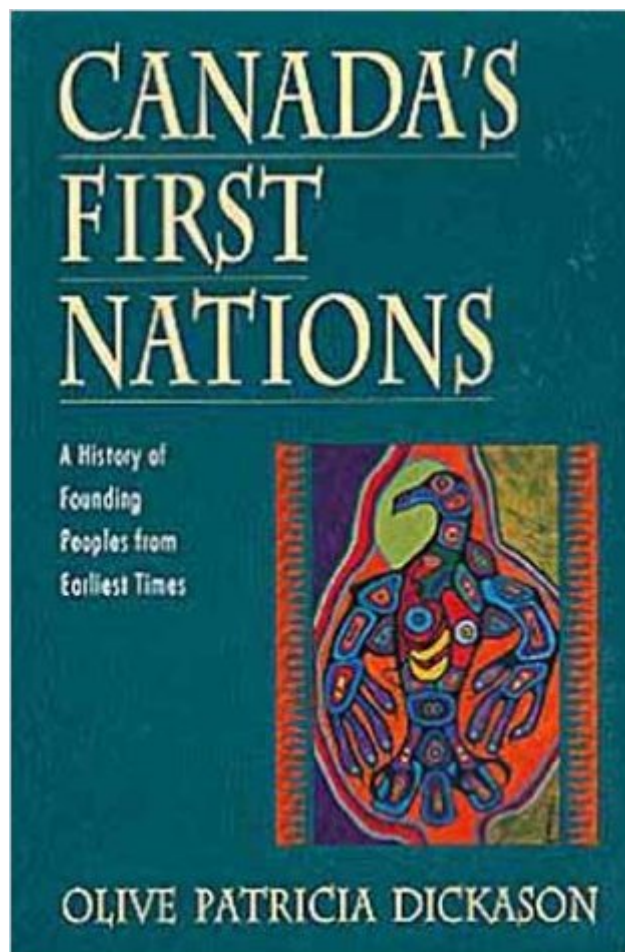


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Canada's First Nations: A History Of Founding Peoples From Earliest Times (Civilization Of The American Indian)



Synopsis

This is a comprehensive history of Canada's original inhabitants-- Indians, Inuit, and later, Metis. Using an interdisciplinary approach that combines history, anthropology, and archaeology, Dickason tells the story of the more than 50 nations in the territory that is now Canada, beginning with the arrival of people in North America from across the Bering Strait many thousands of years ago. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Canada's First Nations is a solid piece of scholarship detailed enough to satisfy advanced historians and well written in order to please a greater audience. Make no mistake, this is a vast topic covering 15,000 years in history and pre-history that had to be shrunk to 560 pages only. Of course there are a few omissions, of course there needed to be some sort of selection of incidents and sources. Most of the author's choice regarding her focus can be understood easily and makes the book a good read. The only grave criticism of which the author cannot be spared is that at some places Dickason does not sufficiently question her ancient written sources, but rather takes for granted what has been said about amerindian behavioural patterns in the 16th and 17th century. While this can be attributed to the vast undertaking itself, it nonetheless may be one wrong approach to sources leading to a perhaps distorted picture of amerindian ancient culture. One example: "All Iroquoians practised torture and cannibalism"...[56]. While the first can be regarded as proven, sources related to the alleged latter behaviour are definitely not to be taken at face value, as Heidi Peter-R  cher

(Kannibalismus in der Prähistorischen Forschung, Studien zu einer paradigmatischen Deutung und ihren Grundlagen.) in her doctoral thesis of 1994 (University FU Berlin) quite convincingly points out. In fact, as Peter-Räppler succeeded to show, remarks related to cannibalism have to be taken with utmost care.

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