

## *A Book Review—*

# **Indian, Inuit People of North Canada**

Existing books on Canadian history are essentially European in approach. In writing this book, the author has endeavoured to provide a history of the Indian and Inuit peoples of northern Canada interpreted from a native standpoint. He has been motivated by two considerations.

Firstly, he wants to give the original Canadians an opportunity to learn not only the broad outlines of their historical and cultural development, but also the details — people, places, and events — so that in common with other nations they can say, "this is who I am, these are my people, this is the road they trod and the things they did, these are my heroes."

Secondly, he wishes to present people in other parts of Canada and elsewhere in the world with a more accurate version of northern history and ethnology.

Starting with the arrival of man in North America, the author follows the story through prehistoric times to the emergence of the three great groups of hunting peoples, the Algonkian, the Athapaskan, and the Inuit, describing their lifestyles and characteristics which form an intrinsic part of the cultural heritage of the native peoples today.

He devotes particular attention to the fur trade, its effects, and the emergence of the Metis people; to the various Indian tribes and some of the outstanding personalities; to the great changes which trading and whaling brought to the Arctic and the Inuit peoples who lived there; to the Yukon Indians and the goldrush; to the coming of Christianity including a look at the native religious movements of today; and to the effect of government and wartime intervention on the people, and their

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whole way of life.

Finally, he describes how they have grasped the weapon of political power and provides a survey of current Indian, Inuit, and Metis leaders in many fields.

“A History of the Original Peoples of Northern Canada” is much more than valuable textbook for students. The difference in approach, the wealth of interesting information and anecdotes, and the individuality of its style make it a book with appeal for people of every age and walk of life, Canadian and non-Canadian alike.

Keith Crowe has spent much of his life living and working with the Indian and Inuit peoples and has been deeply involved with all aspects of northern administration and development.

He served as a research officer with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs from 1970 to 1973 and is currently on loan to the Northern Quebec Inuit Association. This book is published jointly with the Arctic Institute of North America.

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