

text for courses in North West Coast Anthropology--a rare resource indeed--particularly for instructors interested in presenting their students with a style to emulate.

In the continuing struggle by a small group of anthropologists to establish the Coast Salish peoples as an autonomous and noteworthy cultural unit on the North West Coast, this collection strikes a vigorous blow against many of the prevailing notions regarding the area's Native societies. On this basis alone it is an important contribution. But researchers will also be presented with numerous leads for further substantial research in the areas of prehistory, linguistics, and ethnology, making the reading of this book doubly worthwhile.

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#### REFERENCES

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Stan Schellenberger, Chairman: The Fur Issue: Cultural Continuity Economic Opportunity. Report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1986.

The Fur Issue is essential reading for all who are involved or interested in the future of Native culture in Canada, or the future of that large part of Euro-Canadian culture which has roots in the Native culture. Living from the land by hunting, fishing and

gathering was basic to Native society and culture, and the societies and cultures were organized to preserve these activities and the land on which they were based. Today, the land is being threatened by pollution and species extinction, and the activities are being threatened, both by the loss of the land base and the attempt to stop all land-based activities by various groups who are generally lumped together under the title "The Animal Rights Movement." Since these groups have been successful in stopping the harp seal harvest and, incidentally, largely destroying the commercial potential of traditional Inuit sealing, the Commons Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development set out to study and hear opinions on the questions of the importance of land-based activity to Native cultures today, the economic viability of these activities, and the question of whether these activities were evil, immoral or harmful to the environment. The Fur Issue presents a summary of its findings and a set of suggestions for government action based on them.

The report is only sixty-three pages (sixty-eight in French) but is well organized, readable and immensely informative. The authors have divided the report into six chapters. In the first chapter they outline the problem presented by the activities of the animal rights movement. The second chapter provides a brief history of the fur trade in Canada, and assesses the cultural and economic importance of trapping and subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering to the Native people. The third chapter entitled "The Trapping Profession" is misnamed. It deals, in fact, with the question of humane trapping and makes recommendations about the need for research and education to ensure humane trapping. Only at the end of the chapter do the authors deal with the knowledge and skill needed to trap successfully and humanely, and with the role these skills of the trapper can and do play in conserving the natural environment. The fourth chapter entitled "The Politics of Fur" is perhaps the most important in the report in that it critically analyses the motives, ideas and methods of the animal rights movement. The report distinguishes between the animal welfare concerns of many people and the animal rights movement

which uses these concerns to propagate its own point of view. It goes on to show how the movements' propagandists have been willing to distort the truth or even lie to sell their message. If there is a criticism of this chapter it is that the authors did not carry their analysis far enough and did not state that the blind self-righteousness of the animal rights movement permits it to hurt people whether or not animals benefit.

The fifth chapter describes the efforts of the Fur Industry and Native organizations to defend themselves. It praises their efforts and makes much of their apparent successes.

In the final chapter the committee criticizes the role of government in this issue in the past and recommends a series of government actions which it hopes will move the government from a defensive to an offensive role in the debate over trapping. In each of the previous chapters the committee had made recommendations, some twenty in all, which were to direct government action in regard to the matters discussed in that chapter (e.g., in Chapter Three, the chapter on the profession of trapping, they recommended the establishment of a Federal-Provincial Territorial Committee to develop consistent legislation governing trapping across the country). In this last chapter they put forward some sixteen further recommendations. These are designed to coordinate federal government activity and to move both policy and practice toward portraying trapping and other land-based activities as a benefit to Canada and the world, and not as an embarrassment.

It is to be hoped that both the spirit of this report and the recommendations it makes will be incorporated into government policy.

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