

Quiz!

- Put everything away (notes, phones, laptops)
- Please print you name and student number on the front
- DO NOT open your quiz until I ask you to begin



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Sept 23



Course Business

- Dr. Yuan Ren will be teaching on Sept 25, 27, 30, Oct 2, 4, 7, 9, 11
- Dr. Ren wrote the chapters on Daoism and Confucianism, so you will be getting expert info
- I will be back Oct 16
- I will be in email contact the whole time
- Please check URCourses at least once a week
- Contracts due Oct 7, 11:59pm

Indigenous Religions in Canada and Residential Schools

- Residential Schools posed the greatest danger to the survival of Indigenous Religion in Canada
- Part of a larger Canadian Gov policy “to eliminate aboriginal governments; ignore Aboriginal rights; terminate the Treaties; and through a process of assimilation, cause Aboriginal peoples to cease to exist as distinct legal, social, cultural, religious, and racial entities in Canada” (TRC Summary Report, 1)

Residential Schools: The Numbers

- Operated for 113 years (last school closed 1996)
- 80 schools at peak
- Apr. children total 150,000
- At least 3,200 died
- TRC frequently reports emotional, physical, and sexual abuse

Cultural Genocide

- *Cultural genocide* is the destruction of those structures and practices that allow the group to continue as a group
- States that engage in cultural genocide set out to destroy the political and social institutions of the targeted group
- Land is seized, and populations are forcibly transferred and their movement is restricted
- Languages are banned
- Spiritual leaders are persecuted, spiritual practices are forbidden, and objects of spiritual value are confiscated and destroyed
- Families are disrupted to prevent the transmission of cultural values and identity from one generation to the next.

The Goal of Cultural Genocide

The Canadian government pursued this policy of cultural genocide because it wished to divest itself of its legal and financial obligations to Aboriginal people and gain control over their land and resources. If every Aboriginal person had been “absorbed into the body politic,” there would be no reserves, no Treaties, and no Aboriginal rights (TRC, 3)

John A. Macdonald

When the school is on the reserve the child lives with its parents, who are savages; he is surrounded by savages, and though he may learn to read and write his habits, and training and mode of thought are Indian. He is simply a savage who can read and write. It has been strongly pressed on myself, as the head of the Department, that Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thought of white men (TRC, 2)

Curriculum

“here was a picture of two Jesuits laying in the snow, they were murdered by these two ‘savages.’ And they had this what we call ‘a blood-curdling look’ on their faces is how I remember that picture.” -- Lorna Cochrane

Reconciliation

- To the Commission, reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in this country.
- We are not there yet. The relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples is not a mutually respectful one. But, we believe we can get there, and we believe we can maintain it. Our ambition is to show how we can do that.

Reconciliation

- Can only happen if *everyone accepts responsibility for healing*, not just blame for those who participated
- No room for “I didn’t do it” or “this isn’t my issue”

Survivor, Daniel Elliot, to the Commission:

- I think all Canadians need to stop and take a look and not look away. Yeah, it's embarrassing, yeah, it's an ugly part of our history. We don't want to know about it. What I want to see from the Commission is to rewrite the history books so that other generations will understand and not go through the same thing that we're going through now, like it never happened

What is Reconciliation?

- The Commission defines *reconciliation* as an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships.
- A reconciliation framework is one in which Canada's political and legal systems, educational and religious institutions, the corporate sector and civic society function in ways that are consistent with the principles set out in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which Canada has endorsed.

- Crucially important to know the history of Aboriginal peoples' *contributions* to Canada
- Very important Aboriginal people are not simply seen as the victims of history
- NOT about needed to be rescued
- Canadians must remain committed to the ongoing work of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships