

3 – 3

Victorian times & Aboriginal people

p. 93 – 97

- Generally Victorians saw Aboriginal people as uncivilized & childlike – the so called “noble savage”.
- Immigration had an enormous impact on Aboriginal peoples.
 - Pushed aside to make room for colonial settlers.
 - Suffered from disease, poverty & social problems.
 - Forced to adapt to European culture to survive.
- Many Aboriginal communities were based on hunting & fishing instead of agriculture. The government forced them settle & farm – a severe change in lifestyle many resisted. Some Aboriginal groups like the Mohawks were better suited to this lifestyle.
- Many Aboriginal leaders began to realize they would no longer be treated as allies by the colonial government.
- Colonial government policy was to assimilate Aboriginal peoples, often by relocating them away from their original homes.
- Settlers pushed further into Aboriginal lands challenging the terms of established treaties. The government often took lands away from Aboriginal bands, violating these treaties.
- 1857 – The Province of Canada passed the **Gradual Civilization Act**, which meant to assimilate Aboriginal people into British citizens. If they are citizens of Britain:
 - They would have none of the treaty rights or protected status of First Nations.
 - The government would be able to ignore past agreements.
- Despite tremendous pressure to assimilate into European society, Aboriginal culture has enjoyed a revival.

