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Outline of seven lectures on the B.C. Land Question

W. Duff, Spring term, 1972

1. When and how was the country "taken away from the Indians"?

An overview of the most important single issue in the minds of Indian leaders; introduction of the concept of aboriginal title; introduction to the issues in the Nishga case and the Union of Chiefs brief (now ready for presentation to Prime Minister Trudeau).

2. Treaties.

Early British and Colonial policies; Governor Douglas' treaties on Vancouver Island and their present status as shown by the White and Bob case.

Canadian policy of treaty-making; Treaty No. 8 in north-eastern B.C.

Where does this leave the rest of the Indians of B.C.?

3. Reserves.

Colonial policy: Douglas (first, reserves with treaties, then reserves without treaties) and Trutch (cutting back of earlier reserves).

Confederation and the clash of two policies; compromise; the reserve commissions of 1876-1908 and 1913-1916.

The end result: numbers and status of reserves, does this constitute a suitable land base for the Indian people?

summary  
1038  
minutes  
for review

4. The reserves in the West Coast National Park (lecture with slides).

History of allocation; situation before Park; situation after Park; options open to the bands concerned.

5. The Nishga Case.

History of growth of the Nishga claim; the settlement of 1927; rebirth of the claim in 1955; submission to the courts.

6. The Nishga Case (2).

Court decisions so far; the issues which the Supreme Court is pondering.

7. How can the Land Question be resolved?

An Indian Claims Commission? Another Treaty? Does the Alaskan settlement provide a model?

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