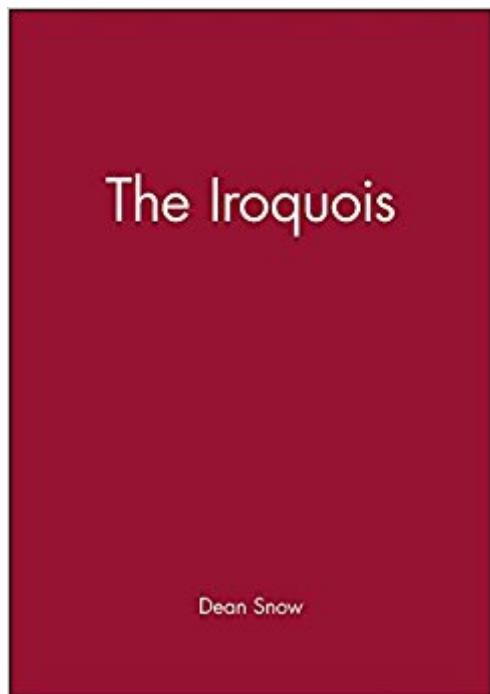


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# The Iroquois



## Synopsis

This is a comprehensive account of the five tribes - Onandagas, Senecas, Mohawks, Oneidas and Cayugas - who together made up the Iroquois nation, from their origins in prehistory to their dispersal and confinement after the American Revolution. This accessible account by the leading scholar in the field draws on the widest possible range of archaeological evidence to provide a narrative interpretation of a people whose beliefs and culture have remained to Americans matters of mystery.

## Book Information

Paperback: 290 pages

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell (April 11, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1557869383

ISBN-13: 978-1557869388

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #520,890 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > History > Americas > Canada > Pre-Confederation #172 in Books > History > Americas > Canada > First Nations #1281 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Native American Studies

## Customer Reviews

The Iroquois nation, made up of five tribes-Onandagas, Senecas, Mohawks, Oneidas, and Cayugas-had a rich culture and history before and after the European invasion. Snow (SUNY, Albany) takes us from their origins in the first century through their survival to the present. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"In this informative and highly readable study, Snow has produced an impressive synthesis of Iroquois history from its antecedents in Northeastern Archaic cultures to the present. The text blends archaeological, historical and oral traditions into a tapestry of the significant role the Iroquois have played, and continue to play, in American society." R. L. Haan, Choice "There is no better introduction to the history and culture of the people. The book confirms Snow's reputation as one of

North America's leading historical anthropologists." Bruce G. Trigger, Professor of Anthropology, McGill University "Here finally is an accurate, readable, general book on the complex prehistory, history, and culture of the Iroquois. Such a work could only be produced by an author deeply involved in recent research on these topics. For years to come it will surely be the source of first resort on these important peoples of Eastern North America." William C. Sturtevant, Curator of North American Ethnology, and General Editor, Handbook of North American Indians, Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution "While he contributes fresh and significant analysis of their early, precolonial history and of Iroquois material culture - insights based on his important archaeological investigations - Snow falls well short of providing the "vivid and moving history" that his book jacket advertises. Although designed for a general audience, the book reads too often like a dull, technical research report... Dean Snow's *The Iroquois* ... succeeds in providing brief and insightful analysis of changing Iroquois culture and experience." *The Journal of American History*

The author put together information that was informative and gets the reader into that time period allowing for a overall picture of what the Iroquois was all about.

This book is a great introduction to the history and ethnography of the Iroquois. It starts with a summary of the archaeology of the various Iroquois speaking groups in the north east U.S. and southern Canada (not all Iroquois speakers were Iroquois Indians!) and moves forward in time. Its main focus is on the 5 groups who eventually formed the League of the 5 Nations. The origins of the league are explored as well as the precontact culture of the people. The history of the Iroquois is well covered in summary form from their first contacts with the French and the Dutch through to recent confrontations on reserves and reservations in Quebec and New York. A fine book as an introduction to the Iroquois people which has served to whet my appetite for more info. Fortunately Snow has included a suggested list for further reading!

Highly recommend.

Excellent buy.

good overview, but shallow

Great condition, thanks.

Very informative when it comes to logistics but I was hoping for something that offered more detail on day to day life etc.

One night I was driving down highway 20 through the Niagara peninsula's escarpment country, searching for something to listen to on the radio, when I found an unrecognized FM station playing different music. It seemed like an unusual mix of folk, rock and instrumental music, but with a bit slower pace and, maybe, underneath it all a note of sadness. I continued to wonder what I was listening to until a man's voice came on - "Hello Six Nations, this is CKRZ, your station, 100.3, all Indian radio." The Six Nations reservation is on the Grand River in southern Ontario. I had fished as a boy and teenager across the river from the reservation, not knowing that the entire river had once belonged to the Iroquois, the reason for their road blockade in 2006 because of a housing development on land they claim. I got a copy of Dean R. Snow's 'Iroquois' to learn more about these interesting people. The Six Nations are basically Iroquois who fought on the side of the British during the American Revolution, then were invited by the British to move across the border. Believing themselves no longer welcome in the new republic, they accepted and were given the Grand River's lands. Other Iroquois remained in New York state. Like the Zulus in Southern Africa, the Iroquois dominated eastern North America until they were checked by confrontation with European civilization. But unlike the Zulus, they had been well equipped with guns and had two hundred years of experience fighting the French. It was disease that felled them, reducing their population to about 20% and removing most of their leaders. Otherwise, the five nation league of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca, on land that would become upper New York State, might they may well have held their own when that land was invaded. They might have changed the history of North America. There is so much about the Iroquois that is unique. For example, when they look into the past they focus on the previous seven generations, and when they look into the future they think of the next seven generations. Snow takes their history up to 1994 and says, on the last page, "The Iroquois are in the throes of reinventing themselves again, a tradition that is itself seven times seven generations old." The Iroquois are still part of North America's ongoing story and this must be one of the best books about them.

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