European Impact on First Nations Essay

Whether or not the First Nations were impacted by the European settlers can be said to be a debatable question, but it really is not. The First Nations were obviously impacted greatly by these settlers. The French traded with these people, causing them to get iron tools and even had bad influences like causing disturbances in the ecosystem, changing how the First Nations ran their villages. The opposing side may say that even though they had to change their hunting a bit, they still lived the same way, and that is simply absurd and easily knocked down.

The French traded with the First Nations, causing them to get iron tools such as cooking utensils. They traded furs for these tools, which meant they could live easier with these new items at their disposal. The First Nations demanded the Europeans to enter an alliance with them if they wanted to trade. This caused the First Nations to get important iron goods like metal pots and needles, as well as weaponry and hunting tools such as axe heads, knives, and even guns. (FirstPeoplesOfCanada) This alliance also made the French have to aid the Iroquois in battles against other groups. The superior weaponry caused the Iroquois to have an edge over their enemies. Battles between villages were never fought the same again.

Even though the French and the Iroquois had a friendly relationship, the French did have a negative impact on the First Nations. After settling down and making camps, the French caused a disruption in the forest, making previously good game trails useless. The animals were disturbed and moved locations to get away from the commotion that the Europeans were causing. This made it harder for the Natives because their well known hunting grounds were useless now and they had to find new grounds to hunt on. The new settlers caused a disruption in the ecosystem that the First Nations work so hard to preserve. If animals are run out of their previous homes, they become more easily spooked, making it harder to hunt them.

People apposing that the First Nations were impacted by the Europeans coming to France may say that even though they got iron tools and had to move hunting grounds, they lived their lives the same as they did before the French came. This statement actually isn’t true because the French brought sickness with them when they went around trying to convert the Natives. The Natives got a sickness that the could not cure causing many of them to die. People of the French Church also went to live with the Iroquois to learn their culture and language to try and convert them to Catholicism. Some of these people did convert, causing an uproar in the villages. The tools that were given to them through trade also changed the way they lived. They became powerful through use of guns and intimidated the other groups. Saying these people lived the same as before is not true because they had all these new tools to work with and religions to deal with.

The Native people of Canada never lived the same after the new settlers came. Advanced tools and weapons allowed for these people to work and fight more efficiently. The impact on the ecosystem that the French had caused previous game trails become useless and made the First Nations have to find new areas that animals live in. The French brought the idea of new religions causing some to convert, but the sickness had a huge impact, causing tons of Natives to die. The question here shouldn’t be if the French settlers made an impact on the First Nations, it should be how much of an impact their was.

Citations:

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