

Question 1

One of the origin stories I encountered within the textbook is the Iroquois myth, an allegorical tale upheld by Iroquois tribes. According to this origin story, a pregnant woman used to live on a land above the sky and is believed to be central to all creations of the earth. Her husband, out of jealousy and contempt, kicked her down through a hole that was opened up when the tree on the land was uprooted; the woman fell and was caught by two birds. Through collaborative efforts by various animals, the woman was able to settle on the land of America and gave birth to two children: Sapling and Flint. Sapling created positive things for the earth, whereas Flint did the opposite. The story accentuates Native Americans' appreciation toward nature and animals because of the way it portrays the role that animals played in contributing to saving the woman and ultimately, Americans' coming into existence as well as the villainous image of Flint.

There are several theories regarding the earliest peopling of the Americas, the first of which is the Bering land bridge migration model, which holds that the earliest settlers of the Americas migrated from Siberia to Alaska from around 50,000 to 10,000 BPE (Belshaw, 2015). Within this hypothesis, the pathway that enabled people to embark on the land of the Americas was Beringia, a plain of land that connected Asia and America but was later submerged by higher sea levels. During 10,000 to 14,000 BPE, people from Asia and Eurasia made four migrations to Alaska and settled in both North and South America until 9,000 BC (Morton, 2017). These people are named Clovis people.

However, as Morton points out (2017), theories conflicting with the Clovis First Hypothesis have emerged recently. Given that the route that could have allowed the Clovis people to migrate from Asia to America was covered with ice until thousands of years after the earliest settlement, archaeologists argue that the earliest route was coastal rather than inland (Morton, 2017). There is a number of evidence in support of the view that Beringia was not a viable route for the earliest settlers. First of all, research studies have set forth that various plants and animals were virtually non-existent on the ice-free corridor until 13,000 years ago, suggesting an ecological inviability, which contradicts the Clovis First Hypothesis (Morton, 2017).

Adopting shotgun sequencing of DNA, researchers found evidence rejecting that humans crossed the Beringia by foot. Besides, researchers have discovered Paleoindian sites in British Columbia where they found human footprints along the coastline, which predates the time frame regarding the appearance of settlers of the Clovis First Hypothesis. The sites on the Channel Islands and along the “kelp highway”, in which tools not resembling Clovis technology were found, in Southern California and other places stretching thousands of kilometers are also in support of the above evidence (Morton, 2017).

Due to the non-resemblance of Clovis tools to findings in Asia or Beringia but to Solutrean tools of Spain, France, and Portugal, many researchers have hypothesized that the earliest colonizers of the Americas came from Europe, thus producing the Solutrean Hypothesis. However, the earliest peopling of the Americas is still up for debate to this day.

Question 2

One example of confession and execution is the case wherein a man helped his accomplice steal things from a liquor store by giving him a copied key to the liquor store. The man was then captured and forced to wear a placard on which his crimes were written and stand outside the Church on Sunday for display. Another example, more common in New France, is that the procession of the execution would stop at the crime site, followed by the criminal kneeling, telling his wrongdoings, and begging for God's mercy. The third example is amende honorable, a penitential ritual that forced a naked prisoner to kneel before a church and shout that he had tarnished and offended God, the king, and justice.

One of the core values that Christianity instills in people is repentance and atonement. Through confessing, criminals beg for God's mercy and forgiveness, seeking salvation. Therefore, going along with the public rituals is essentially driven by the desire for one's soul to be saved. In addition, the sequence of sin was commonly practiced in Roman Catholics, and it was carried over to the criminal justice system at the time where the penitential act (confessing) became an essential part of the aftermath of crimes, symbolizing Christian values as well as reinforcing the reign of the government, for the onlookers would always see that guilt came after crime.

The reason that authorities would insist on punishing the deceased people who died of suicide is because suicide was considered an anti-God behavior at the time.

Not only was the insistence on the punishment an adherence to Christian values and moral order, but it also contributed to the reinforcement of the omnipotence of the government and the king and a reflection of the view that ordinary people are guided by greed and fear, who are best to be disciplined through punishment than reward, the former of which is also more effective, economical, and compensatory to police inefficiencies at the time.

Once the officials determined the cause of death to be suicide through a physical examination, the body would then be dragged through the streets on its face and hanged for several hours before being thrown into a river or ocean, which is a non-Christian way of burying the body. The way execution in effigy of escaped criminals is carried out typically through hanging the effigy or painting of the criminal on a gallow. Besides, in some cases, the effigy would be dragged through the streets. As the execution of the effigy or painted representation is completed, the absent criminal is also deprived of his legal rights and identity. These forms of punishments served as deterrents to committing crime and made the point that no crime will go unpunished.

One of the worst crimes that a person could commit in New France or other French colonies is the rape of a minor, which would result in being hanged and dragged in the roadway and beheading. Moreover, the crimes that were seen as potentially capable of infecting moral order and outraging public morality were also the worst types. Dueling and forgery are among two of these crimes.

References

Belshaw, J.D. (2015). *Canadian History: Pre-Confederation*. Victoria, B.C.:

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Morton, M. C. (2017). *The first Americans: How and when were the Americas populated?*