



Chapter 1

 “They are the Life of the Nation”:
Women and War in Traditional Nadouek Society
Kathryn Magee Labelle 

Questions for Critical Reading

1. How integral was women’s “behind-the-scenes” work in the context of traditional warfare?
2. In their introduction to the chapter, the editors point out that the Jesuits and other missionaries worked hard to undermine the influence of Nadouek women. How strong was the women’s influence and how visible was it to outsiders?
3. Where can we see the matriarchal society structure in Nadouek warfare practices?
4. Why has “war and women” been a neglected topic of study by historians?

List of Primary Sources

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- “Sauvage Iroquois (Wild Iroquois Man)”. Sauveur, Jacques. Print. 1796–1804.
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- “Grand Chef de Guerriers Iroquois (Grand Chief of Iroquois Warriors.” Grasset de Saint-Sauveur, Jacques. Print. 1796–1804.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3025431&rec_nbr_list=3025431
- “Homme et Femme Iroquois (Iroquois Man and Woman).” Grasset de Saint-Sauveur, Jacques. Print. 1796–1804.
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- “Geurrier Iroquois (Iroquois Warrior).” Grasset de Saint-Sauveur, Jacques. Print. 1796–1804.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3025435&rec_nbr_list=3025435

- “Michilimackinac on Lake Huron.” Published by Richard Dillon Jr. Print. 1813.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2838152&rec_nbr_list=2838152
- “English Translation of the Concession of 7 March 1742.” Land grant. 1790.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3986066&rec_nbr_list=3986066
- “Iroquois in Native Dress with Rifles and Traditional Weapons Standing among Teepees.” Photo. 1890–1910.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3337651&rec_nbr_list=3337651
- “1764 George III Indian Chief Medal, Happy While United.” Fueter, Daniel Christian. Medal. 1764.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2851169&rec_nbr_list=2851169
- “Indian Woman Making the War Dress.” Miller, Alfred Jacob. Watercolour. 1867.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2833872&rec_nbr_list=2833872
- “Indians Returning from War.” Rindisbacher, Peter. Watercolour. 1825.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2835798&rec_nbr_list=2835798
- “Dance Preparatory to War among the Indians of North America.” Heriot, George. Print. 1821.
http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3017924&rec_nbr_list=3017924

Multimedia Resources

- Alanis Obomsawin, *Kanehsatake: 270 years of Resistance* (National Film Board of Canada, 1993).
www.nfb.ca/film/kanehsatake_270_years_of_resistance/
- The St. Lawrence Iroquoians
www.virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/expositions-exhibitions/iroquoiens-iroquoians/introduction-eng.html
- SFSUCaptions, “Iroquois Women The Three Sisters,” YouTube video, 10:06, posted August 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW9DQ7lXhzQ>
- The Uncollected Prose of Pauline Johnson: The Iroquois Women of Canada

www.victoria.tc.ca/~sly/epj/women.htm

- A Soldier's Heart, A Sister's Hands: Haudenosaunee Women Veterans
www.iroquoismuseum.org/#!veterans/c1ioe