

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE BRITISH DOMINIONS AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Timothy C. Winegard

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 Appendices, figures, maps, tables, photographs
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Timothy Winegard saw active duty in the Canadian Reserve Force from 2001 to 2010 and served on detachment duty to the British Army for a two-year period. He obtained various academic degrees from 1999 onwards, among others a BA Hons degree in History and an MA in War Studies. The book under discussion here is the third work by this author. Other publications from this author include *Oka: A convergence of cultures and the Canadian forces* (2008), *For King and Kanata* (2011), and the latest work entitled *Indigenous peoples of the British dominions and the First World War* (2012).

With Hew Strachan as his supervisor, the author completed his DPhil in History with his thesis entitled *the King's men: Indigenous peoples of the dominions and the First World War*. With this thesis as a foundation for future research, he attended various conferences and published notable articles in this genre.

Since the 1990s, Winegard became involved in studying the indigenous people of the British dominions. In *For King and Kanata* (2011), the author explored the Indian people of Canada and their First World War experiences at both the home and the warfront. In *Oka: A convergence of cultures and the Canadian forces* (2008), he investigated the causes of and analysed the conflict between the

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Oka and the Mohawk peoples in the US. *Indigenous peoples of the British dominions and the First World War* (2012), however, can be seen as an amalgamation of and furthering the research embarked upon in his earlier

works about indigenous people and their experiences during the First World War.

The author starts with the initial encounters with indigenous people from 1660, and then switches to the First World War and the experiences of indigenous peoples on both the warfront and the home front. The role of politics in each of the dominions is examined as well as the way political attitudes and social dynamics had an inevitable impact upon these people and their experiences of the war.

Each chapter flows chronologically and logically and contains an introduction, body, summary and conclusion. The book is accessible reading for both the academic and the non-academic person as well as military practitioners. The author's clear thematic approach allows the reader to follow the general plot without getting lost along the way.

The author spent four years conducting research in order to publish this book and the former *For King and Kanata* (2011). Excellent archival sources have been accessed to support the author's hypotheses and findings. Secondary sources and other scholarly works were also considered and usefully deployed throughout the book, thus making it a well-researched and balanced work. The author's main contribution rests with his thematic comparison of indigenous peoples of the dominions and the fact that this work not only compares their experiences in the First World War, but also looks at the actions and reactions (and consequences) of the different policies and their influences then and later on the indigenous peoples.

The author seeks to fill the void in the historiography of the First World War by providing the first comparative examination of how the war was experienced by the British dominions' indigenous peoples. Whilst many books have already been written that address the British Empire itself, this author incorporates the interaction between the British crown and the dominions as a system of action (even ideology) and reaction and not a closed system.

The book contributes to a growing interest in the historiography of indigenous people during the two world wars and before. What has emerged in the First World War historiography and more so in recent years, is the revival of the "forgotten warriors" of indigenous peoples as Winegard rightfully points out. This book can be seen as a welcome source for the historian and the non-historian who have an interest in either the First World War and the British Empire or the dominions themselves in the early 1900s.

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