Pre-reading Resources: First Nation’s background and history in Canada; The White Paper Background; First Nations Timeline: http://www.fngovernance.org/timeline/timelinewindow
Watch Star Trek the Next Generation Youtube clips of Borg Picard/Locutus.

Read the following stories from Thomas King’s collection.

- A Short History of Indians in Canada
- Tidings of Comfort and Joy
- Coyote and the Enemy Aliens
- Haida Gwaii
- Not Enough Horses
- Where the Borg Are
- Another Great Moment in Canadian Indian History

Post-reading, we’ll have a test to check reading comprehension /20

Next, choose **ONE** of these stories from the collection: Coyote and the Enemy Aliens; Haida Gwaii; Where the Borg Are.

 Assignment

For your chosen story follow this format.

1. Write a 3-5 sentence synopsis. Be succinct! Maximum 100 words. /5
2. Write a character sketch detailing three or more traits of the protagonist. /5
3. Examine how conflicts develop the plot. This is not rehashing the synopsis. Ensure that you are tackling conflicts. Clearly note the five elements as listed below. /10
   - exposition
   - trigger/initiating event
   - obstacles/developments/new conflicts (note: plural! Don’t imagine that mentioning a single obstacle fulfills this category.)
   - climax
   - resolution

Issues - /30 For this section, you must make connections to as many of the stories as possible, not just a single story. You will write this IN CLASS during a single period. You will have access to your notes so come prepared to answer the following.
What issues affecting First Nations Peoples in Canada appear in these stories? You may have to do some research here. Give details and point out specific connections to the stories you’ve read. Refer to three or more stories as you identify three or more issues that affect First Nations Peoples in Canada.
This is a proper essay of at least 500 words so it should have multiple paragraphs and make use of transitions. You will be graded according to the BC Provincial Exam scoring guide of “making connections through reading”.

Total /50
”The White Paper” Background

The 1969 White Paper (formally known as the “Statement of the Government of Canada on Indian Policy, 1969”) was a Canadian policy paper presented to Parliament by Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Jean Chrétien and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. The policy was intended to abolish previous legal documents pertaining to Indigenous peoples in Canada (specifically, the Indian Act), eliminate treaties and assimilate all “Indians” fully into the Canadian state.

By the 1960s, the impact of European settlement had disastrous effects on Aboriginal populations throughout Canada. Many communities had been reduced by as much as 90 per cent due to rampant disease, interruptions to trade and food routes, war and industrialization. These, combined with a litany of oppressive and draconian policies such as the 1876 Indian Act and residential schools, had driven Aboriginal peoples into poverty, strife and alarming death rates. Meanwhile, the Government of Canada had promised, via treaties and other legal documents, to recognize First Nations’ sovereignty and land title and claims.

Alongside a burgeoning civil rights movement and the tremendous impact made by Aboriginal soldiers in the First and Second World Wars, Canadians began to openly question the longstanding and institutional mistreatment and discrimination toward Aboriginal peoples. In 1963, anthropologist Harry B. Hawthorn was commissioned by the federal government to investigate some of the social conditions surrounding Indigenous peoples in Canada. Hawthorn’s report, A Survey of the Contemporary Indians of Canada: Economic, Political, Educational Needs and Policies, labelled Indigenous peoples “citizens minus” – the most marginalized and disadvantaged population in Canada. In response, in 1968, the Trudeau government began a series of consultations with Aboriginal leaders on a new direction. At these meetings, Aboriginal leaders expressed concerns to the government that treaty and special rights had never been recognized nor delivered, historical grievances had emerged or had never been addressed (especially in the case of land claims) and Indigenous peoples were neglected in Canadian policy making.

Contents

Presenting the White Paper in 1969, Chrétien and Trudeau proposed to deal with Indigenous issues definitively. The paper saw policies that pertained to First Nations were exclusionary and discriminatory, as they did not apply to Canadians in general. Trudeau and Chrétien’s White Paper proposed to eliminate “Indian” as a distinct legal status – therefore making First Nations “equal” to other Canadians. They also proposed to dismantle the Department of Indian Affairs within five years, repeal the Indian Act, and eradicate all treaties between First Nations and Canada. The White Paper would convert reserve lands to private property owned by the band or its members, transfer all responsibility for services to provincial governments, appoint a commissioner to settle all land claims and provide funds for economic development. At the same time, Chrétien and Trudeau saw the White Paper as a way of eliminating the rising cost of administering Indian Affairs and treaty responsibilities.

Response

The backlash to the 1969 White Paper was monumental. Major opposition emerged from several organizations, including the National Indian Brotherhood and its provincial chapters. Many felt the document overlooked concerns raised during consultations and appeared to be a final attempt to assimilate Indigenous peoples into the Canadian population. Leaders felt that instead of dealing with First Nations fairly and appropriately, the federal government was absolving itself of historical promises and responsibilities. Instead, provinces – with whom First Nations had no relationship – would be forced to deal with longstanding issues.


Further reading about Canadian residential schools can be found in the Canadian Encyclopedia at www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools/