

Reading Log #3
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History 1120
September 26th, 2016

1. Both Pastore and Holly made strong arguments to support their groundbreaking views on the Beothuk and their mysterious extinction. Holly's article was focused mainly on the fact that the Beothuk were "active players" in the unfolding of their history. For a long time, it was popular belief that the Beothuk were simply a doomed people who had no chance of survival. Pastore's article was fixated more on the history of the Beothuk and the reasons for their decline. A lot of his points were about the Europeans forcing the Natives inland and away from their precious resources. Both articles shed light on an issue that I previously had no knowledge or understanding of.

2. Pastore was focused primarily on the importance of resources in the decline of the Beothuk. In 1915, James P. Howley concluded that the Beothuk were hunted to extinction.¹ This was widely accepted as the truth until James Tuck's findings were published in 1976. As Tuck put it: "An unknown number of natives were actually killed outright by Europeans. But more important to the survival or extinction of the race, the remaining Beothuks were denied access to the coast and forced to try and survive on the resources of the interior".² It's now recognized that most of the Beothuks were not killed directly by the Europeans, but more so by the Europeans' theft of their priceless hunting and fishing resources. Holly stressed the importance of the Beothuks' avoidance of the Europeans and why it was different than most Native Americans of that era. Most First Nations groups sought the priceless goods brought by the Europeans. They established trading relationships in order to acquire knives and axes that could only come from the Europeans. In the case of the Beothuk, they were able to obtain these goods by other means. "The Beothuk did not have to trade since they could easily obtain the products they would have traded for, namely iron, through theft as well as salvaging European goods from abandoned fishing stations, stages, or shipwrecks".³ Without a need for the trade with the Beothuk, the Europeans continued to seize land. Therefore, the Beothuk continuously retreated inland, where the lack of resources would ultimately lead to their decline.

3. These two articles raise some very interesting questions. For instance, how could all this information be uncovered when the Europeans had such little contact with the Beothuk. I am curious about what sort of archaeological findings could've contributed to the information in these articles.

1. Ralph Pastore, "The Collapse of the Beothuk World," *Acadiensis* 19 (1989):56.

2. Ibid.

3. Donald H. Holly Jr., "The Beothuk on the Eve of Their Extinction," 37 (2000):83.