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View Montreal, mohawk territory not transferred?

Aboriginal rights and treaty in Montreal

Mayor Denis Coderre begins his speech stating that Montreal is in not transferred Mohawk Territory, a controversial sentence which is not unanimity among historians. The debates section asked four experts to shed light on the issue. Today: Denys Delage

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The Mohawk (Kanien' keháka, Mohawk) were one of the five founding nations of the League of the Hodinohsionni (Iroquois), set up prior to colonial contact. This federation occupied the center of the State of New York from the Albany area to Rochester. The Mohawk were the guardians of the "East Gate".

The League belonged to the large language family and cultural Iroquoian comprising Huron (Wendat), neutral and Petun, etc., southern Ontario, and on the banks of the River, Kingston to Quebec City, the St. Lawrence Iroquoians than Jacques Cartier met between 1534 and 1542. These are probably European source missing 1580 under the combined effect of a climate cooling, wars, and diseases.

The Mohawk claim to an occupation of the island of Montreal because they would, at all times, is part of these communities disappeared. Neither archaeology nor Linguistics will confirm this.

Archaeology shows a distinct material culture of the St. Lawrence Iroquoians for pottery. It is likely that the St. Lawrence Iroquoians have found refuge among their Huron allies and on the other hand, have been made captive by the Iroquois, with whom they were at war. That's what would explain the argument, taken over by the oral tradition of the Huron and the Iroquois, of these returns to the country of origin. According to the linguist-ethnohistorien Roy Wright, Hurons, Mohawks and St. Lawrence Iroquoians spoke languages related because of the same family, but distinct as show this, among other things, their numbers from 1 to 10.

The development of the fur at Tadoussac, at the XVIe century, is based on the grand alliance system of Montagnais (Innu), Cris, Algonquins and Hurons. The French is joined there by treaty in 1603. Excluded, the Iroquois made war. Quebec City was then a territory montagnais and Montreal, algonquin territory.

Overexploitation of fur animals, but especially the excess mortality related to the terrible epidemics and the need to replace the dead by captives fed the fire of long wars.

During the 1660s, the Iroquois came out victorious with however a radical transformation: the captives were now the majority of its population, for the Mohawks, it was two-thirds. Traditional

mechanisms of integration proved now ineffective, as Moreover, the captives were converted to Catholicism.

Iroquois society could then become a slave society, but it was contrary to what she had always been: a society of consensus rather than coercion.

The Council of the League preferred to leave the Christian converts to settle near their french brethren. These migrants speaking 20 languages had in common the iroquois. This is the origin of Kahnawake and Kanasatake and Akwesasne. These Catholic Iroquois defended Montréal during the attack on Lachine, but refused to destroy the Iroquois.

From 1696, they have rediscovered the League Iroquois and played a crucial role for the conclusion of the great peace of Montreal of 1701. The members of these communities have become intermediaries in trade between Montreal and Albany, travellers in the fur and then, in the XIXe century, builders of bridges and skyscrapers. Mainly from the mohawk nation, they have long defined themselves as Iroquois, but since the second half of the XXe century, they overwhelmingly identify themselves as Mohawks.

Aboriginal title is off on the territory of Montreal or on that of all of Quebec with the exception of James Bay. The purchase of the land was not part of the french rituals of possession. The purchase of native American land policy became the norm after the conquest. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 recognized aboriginal title as well as a mechanism of extinction by treaty. First aiming a large not yet colonized Territory, its application was extended to the seigneurial area, including nations from elsewhere: Hurons and Abenakis or Mohawks. The Aboriginal nations in the colony residents also signed treaties of alliance with the British authorities on the occasion of the conquest, the most important being that of Kahnawake on 16 September 1760. These treaties acknowledge the Amerindian allies the quiet possession of their villages, and in the sense of the usufruct of their places of hunting.

The Mohawks have no Aboriginal rights in the territory of the island of Montreal, but rights under treaties in the Montreal area.

The Algonquins hold on the territory of Montreal Aboriginal rights and rights under treaties in the Montreal area.