War on the Coast
The Illegal Formation of 'British Columbia'

British Columbia is unique in Canada in that virtually no treaties were made in the occupation & settlement of the province, contrary to the 1763 Royal Proclamation. This law required the British to make treaties & gain the legal surrender of Native land prior to any settlement or trade.

A Brief History of Illegal Settlement & Occupation

In accordance with the 1763 Royal Proclamation, treaties were made in Britain's westward expansion through Ontario & the prairies, resulting in the Numbered Treaties (i.e., Treaty No. 6). Although made under duress & deception, these treaties fulfilled British law requiring the surrender of Native title to land.

Between 1850-54, James Douglas—governor of the BC colony—made a series of treaties (known as the Douglas Treaties). These were all on Vancouver Island, at Victoria, Nanaimo and Fort Rupert (14 in total), and traded little more than 358 sq. kilometers of land for money & materials.

In 1867, Canada was formed as a state, under the Constitution Act, 1867 (also known as the British North America Act).

In 1871, BC joined the new confederation.

In 1875, the BC provincial government passed the Public Land's Act, designed to open land for settlement & increase European immigration. The federal government issued the 1875 Duty of Disallowance, striking down the BC Land's Act because of the province's failure to make treaties legally surrendering Native land.

In response, BC threatened to withdraw from Canada. The next year, the federal government passed the 1876 Indian Act, asserting government control over all Native peoples, including those in BC. Through this, both Canada & BC illegally assumed jurisdiction over sovereign Indigenous nations across the province.

Aside from a portion of Treaty 8 in the north-east portion of the province (made in 1899), the Douglas Treaties are the only treaties made in the occupation of BC, a violation of the 1763 Royal Proclamation, which was re-affirmed in the 1982 Constitution Act.

This history reveals the illegal nature of the BC and Canadian governments, and their assumed jurisdiction over sovereign Indigenous peoples & lands. For these reasons, these colonial governments have neither the legal nor moral authority to govern.

BC is Occupied Territories-
This Land is Not for Sale!

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IN MAY 1869, A VESSEL WAS SHIPWRECKED. THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS, ALTHOUGH HEADLESS CORPSES WERE LATER FOUND.

THE KIMSHUPT BOMBING WAS THE LAST USE OF ROYAL NAVY FIREPOWER ON THE COAST OF 'BRITISH COLUMBIA'.

IN 1774, A SPANISH EXPEDITION Sailed TO Haida Gwaii. IN 1775, A SPANISH BOAT CREW WAS KILLED BY QUINALT WARRIORS ON 'WASHINGTON'S COAST.'

DUE TO DISEASE, DIVISION, AND COLONIAL FIREPOWER, COAST TRIBES WERE UNABLE TO RESIST. THEY WERE FORCED INTO RESERVES SUBJECT TO ASSIMILATION.

IN 1822, THE THUNBT VILLAGE OF ANGOON WAS DESTROYED BY U.S. NAVAL BOMBARDMENT AFTER A SETTLER WAS KILLED.

IN 1873, OWIKENO WARRIORS ATTACKED + DESTROYED THE GEORGE S. WRIGHT NEAR RIVER'S INLET (IT WAS SHIPWRECKED).

IN 1877, A GUNBOAT WENT TO RIVER'S INLET + TOOK 2 PRISONERS. 2 NUHAIK WERE IDENTIFIED AS TAKING PART...

AT KIMSQUIT, THE NUHAIK REFUSED TO SURRENDER THE SUSPECTS + THEIR VILLAGE WAS DESTROYED BY CANNON...

THE FIRST EUROPEANS ON THE NORTHWEST COAST WAS A 1741 RUSSIAN EXPEDITION THAT SAILED TO SOUTHERN ALASKA...

IN 1763, ALEUTS REVOLTED + DESTROYED 4 OF 5 RUSSIAN SHIPS. IN RETALIATION, MANY ALEUT VILLAGES WERE MASSACRED.

IN 1881, THERE WERE SOME 23,000 SETTLERS IN 'BC', + 25,000 NATIVES (FROM A POPULATION OF 200,000 IN 1780).

IN 1778, A BRITISH NAVAL FORCE UNDER CAPT. COOK ARRIVED AT NOOTKA SOUND ON SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND, CLAIMING THE LANDS FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE.
For several decades the fur trade was the main concern of European + U.S. ships entering the region...

In 1786, the British ship Sea Otter was attacked by Nuu-Chah-Nulth warriors who tried to seize it.

This trade decimated the sea otter population. Ship's crews used force at times to ensure compliance, even taking hostages.

The attack was repelled by the crew with gun-fire. As many as 50 warriors were killed.

Throughout the 1780's + 90's more European + U.S. ships were attacked in 1794, the resolution was captured + destroyed by Haida warriors, who killed the entire crew.

In September 1853, a gunboat was sent to Port Simpson after settlers were killed.

Tsimsian villages were raided and several chiefs taken prisoner. The suspects were surrendered.

In 1864, another ship was attacked + its crew killed by Nuu-Chah-Nulth.

Gunboats were sent against the Ahousat, part of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth. 9 Ahousat villages were destroyed + at least 15 killed.

In 1865, a customs official was killed by Nuxalk warriors at Bella Coola.

In early 1866, Oweekeno warriors attacked + destroyed a trade ship.

In 1865, a Kwakiutl village near Ft. Rupert was raided by a gunboat. The Kwakiutl resisted + their houses, canoes were bombed.

In June 1866, Kwakiutl attacked a ship but were repelled by a new repeating rifle. 15 were killed.

In 1869, 2 years after purchasing Alaska from the Russians, U.S. ships bombed Tlingit villages at Kake + Wrangell...

In one attack, 29 houses were destroyed.
In 1858, 2 U.S. Ships were attacked and destroyed at Haida Gwaii, with another the next year by the Nuu-Chah-Nulth.

In 1860, a gunboat was sent to Quadra Island to pacify the Lekwiltok-Kwakiutl. British fire destroyed the people's houses.

In 1862, a smallpox epidemic began in Victoria. Colonial authorities forced hundreds of natives out. Infected, they returned to their villages, spreading the disease. An estimated 1,500 died in 2 years. The epidemic occurred as more settlement and immigration were sought.

In 1865, 2 settlers were killed on Salt Spring Island. A large naval force of 4 ships was sent against the Lekwiltok (part of the Cowichan).

In 1883, the U.S. ship Boston was attacked by Nuu-Chah-Nulth warriors, who killed 25 of 27 crew members.

In 1884, the Russians returned to Sitka with a large naval force.

The survivors were forced to identify the severed heads of the crew. They were enslaved for 2 years.

Relations remained tense between the Tlingit and Russians (until 1867).

For 6 days the Tlingit resisted until they ran low on ammo. Expected reinforcements failed to arrive.

By 1880, the Hudson's Bay Company was the main colonial power in the region.

In 1861, the U.S. ship Tonquin was attacked by Nuu-Chah-Nulth in Clayoquot Sound. A few surviving crew members rigged explosives and escaped. The explosion killed as many as 100 Nuu-Chah-Nulth.

The H.B.C. had numerous forts and ships. In 1828, a Klallam village in Washington was destroyed by a company gunboat and militia.
IN 1843, FORT VICTORIA WAS BUILT BY THE H.B.C. ON VANCOUVER ISLAND, BECOMING A MAIN CENTRE OF TRADE.

IN 1849, VANCOUVER ISLAND WAS NAMED AN OFFICIAL COLONY, WITH THE H.B.C. ACTING AS GOVERNMENT.

IN JULY 1851, A GUNBOAT RETURNED. NEWTITI WARRIORS OPENED FIRE. THE VILLAGE WAS BOMBARDED...

AT THIS TIME, ROYAL NAVY GUNBOATS WERE BASED IN VICTORIA AND PATROLLED ALONG THE COAST TO ENFORCE COLONIAL RULE.

THE GUNBOATS SERVED AS MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES...

THE PEOPLE TOOK COVER IN THE FOREST. MARINES WENT INTO THE LAKE AND BURNED CANOES AND THE HOUSES...

THE NEWTITI TURNED OVER 3 DEAD. CLAIMING THESE WERE THE SUSPECTS.

THEY WERE WELL-ARMED WITH UP TO 50 CANNONS + ROCKETS AS WELL AS ROYAL MARINES.

IN 1850, THE NEWTITI: A KWAKIUTL GROUP WERE ACCUSED OF KILLING SETTLERS, NEAR FORT RUPERT...

THE KWAKIUTL ARE STILL HEAD-HUNTING?

YES, SIR...

IN 1856, GUNBOATS WERE AGAIN SENT AGAINST THE SALISH AT COWICHAN BAY, WHO WERE SEEN AS A THREAT. THE DEATH OF A SETTLER WAS USED TO LAUNCH A MASSIVE RAID...

FOR 30 YEARS, ROYAL NAVY GUNBOATS WERE USED TO IMPOSE BRITISH COLONIALISM + TO BRING THE COAST TRIBES UNDER CONTROL.

A GUNBOAT WENT TO NANAIMO AND ARRESTED THE NEWTITI WARRIORS, THE VILLAGE WAS FORCED TO ASSEMBLE + WITNESS THEIR EXECUTION.

IN THE WINTER OF 1852-53, THE "COWICHAN CRISIS" OCCURRED AFTER A SETTLER WAS KILLED.

A GUNBOAT WAS SENT BUT THE NEWTITI REFUSED TO COOPERATE. MARINES WERE SENT ASHORE; THEY FOUND THE VILLAGE EMPTY + BURNED IT DOWN.

500 MARINES WITH 2 CANNONS WERE DEPLOYED. THE COWICHAN SUBMITTED AND A WARRIOR WAS HUNG THE NEXT DAY IN FRONT OF THE VILLAGE.