

Compare and contrast Sproat's memoir about the decline of the T'seshaht people on the west coast of Vancouver Island after their village was turned into a sawmill settlement and their waterways became controlled by the British Navy with Bruce Alexander's observations of the situation in Fort Ware and report how you would explain any similarities and differences.

Excerpt from Sproat, G.M. (1987). *The Nootka: Scenes and Studies of Savage Life*. Victoria, BC: Sono Nis Press. (Original work published in 1868.)

*They worked occasionally as labourers, and with their wages bought new blankets and planks for their houses ... They acquired a taste for flour, rice, potatoes, and other articles of food that were sold to them at low prices, and thus, on the whole, probably spent the first winter after the arrival of the colonists more comfortably than usual. It was only after a considerable time that symptoms of a change, amongst the Indians living nearest to the white settlement, could be noticed ... that a few sharp-witted young natives had become what I can only call offensively European, and that the mass of the Indians no longer visited the settlement in their former free independent way, but live listlessly in the villages, brooding seemingly over heavy thoughts ...*

*The natives are as careful of their crab-apples as we are of our orchards, and it is a sure sign of their losing heart before intruding whites when, in the neighbourhood of settlements, they sullenly cut down their crab-apple trees, in order to gather the fruit for the last time without trouble, as the tree lies on the ground.*

Excerpt from Alexander, B. (2008). *The Globalisation of Addiction: A Study in Poverty of the Spirit*. New York: Oxford University Press.

*Fort Ware, also known as Kwadacha, is a remote Indian reserve that is home to about 300 Sekani and Kaska people ... Although Fort Ware is remote, it is economically linked at the most fundamental level with metropolitan Vancouver ... The nomadic ancestors of the people who now live in Fort Ware hunted, fished, trapped, camped, and buried their dead in the northern river valleys for uncounted centuries. Far from Vancouver and other European settlements, those who lived in the Finlay and Parsnip River valleys maintained something close to their traditional way of life until ... between 1940 and 1970 when many children were forced to attend residential schools, ... between 1968 and 1971 when a major part of the lands where these native people lived were permanently flooded by Williston Lake Reservoir, the largest hydroelectric reservoir in the world at the time ... The native people who lived in these areas were not consulted ... The inexpensive electricity from the Bennett Dam at the foot of the enormous Williston Lake Reservoir now keeps the electrical gadgets in Vancouver homes humming and whirring, and the city's businesses competitive ... Although large areas of the people's land were not flooded by Williston Lake Reservoir, the remainder has been exploited by extensive clear-cut logging, mining, and commercial big-game hunting. Although the land still holds great symbolic meaning for the formerly nomadic people, they no longer live on it. ... Like other reserves, Fort Ware suffers from chronic alcoholism and domestic violence and the native people are badly demoralised much of the time.*